

THE MOUNTAIN SNOWS

Companion)

Rocky Mountains gives me many ex. siderable mass of snow, had fallen fine snow was falling and it was dark citing experiences, but a three-day upon a narrow ledge and caught and cold. I had been exercising for trip, made last winter, was the most there. More of the snow came tumb- twelve hours without rist, and had thrilling and adventurous that has ling after me, and it was a matter of eater nothing since the previous day. ever entertained me on the trail. One some minutes before I succeeded in as I never take breakfast. I started a February morning I set off alone on extricating myself. snow-snoes to cross the "range," for When I thrust my head out of the In half an hour I started on again. the purpose af making some snow snow mass and looked about me, I Rocky and forest-covered ridges lay measurements. The nature of my was first appalled by a glance out- between me and Grand Lake. In the work for the state requires the closest ward, which revealed the terrible darkness I certainly took the worst height of the precipice on the face of way. I met with too much resistance observation of the character and extent of the snow in the mountains. I which I was hanging. Then I was in the thickets and too little on the tent of the snow in the mountains. I relieved by a glance upward, which slippery places, so that when, at hoped to get to Grand Lake for the glowed by a glance upward, which sleven o'clock that night, I entered algorithms but I was on the east side of showed me that I was only some a Grand Lake hotel, my appearance the west. Along the twenty-five miles return thither would not be very dif. The next day, after a few snow the range, and Grand Lake was on of trail there was only wilderness,

have fallen a quarter of a mile. The trail was steep and the snow very soft. Five hours were spent to gain timber-line, which was only six miles from my starting place, but and used it as a scoop to uncover the The cabin did not have any door, four thousand feet above it. Rising in bold grandeur above me was the summit of Long's Peak, and this, of I sank chestdeep in the show, it wisht I spent chopping wood, and I our age is essentially an irreverent with the great hills of drifted snow. I ventured too near the edge of the did not sleep at all. But I had a one. A rapid age is not a reverent one out of which here and there a dwarfed and distorted tree thrust its top. made timber-line seem weird and lonely.

From this point the trail wound for covered. six miles across bleak heights before sky looked stormy. I must not only must also skirt the icy edges of sev-could mount to the top over some the top of the range through the eral precipices in order to gain the jagged rocks. As soon as I recovered reserve, among some of the noblest reverence among youth. True, much summit. My friends had warned me

the trail. The tempest came on with deadly cold and almost blin ling violence. erags. The clouds dashed and seethed sloped steeply down into the woods. possible undertaking. crags. The clouds dashed and seethed sloped steeply down into the woods. But as I did not have courage The Rev. George Duncan is one of along the surface, shutting out all The snow was soft, and I sat down in enough to retreat, I threw off my the prominent divines of Scotland's fear of slipping or being blown over blue overalls recording the streak, for there was nothing to hold to, and a most influential followings in the old a precipice, but there was no shelter; a quarter of a mile and then came to slip meant a fatal slide. I was on the roof of the continent, a sudden and confusing stop; one of twelve thousand five hundred feet my webs had caught on a spine of wind did its best to freeze or overbitter cold meant death.

depths beneath.

odor from a bear.

All went well until I came to a rapid

I scrambled to my feet, with the ice

flying like broken glass. The water

came only a little above my knes,

enthusiastic moves toward the tank.

urrent among the bounders.

safety

It was still three miles to timber When I had travelled a short dispossible to keep the trail. Fearing to crashing caused me to turn; I was in the last ice and stood upon the snow. perish if I tried to follow even the time to see fragments of snow flying general course of the trail. I aban- in all directions, and snow-dust boildoned it altogether and started for ing up in a great geyser column. A pering up. the head of a gorge, down which I snowslide had swept down and struck Near the top of the range a ledge thought it would be possible to climb a granite cliff. to the nearest timber.

Nothing definite could be seen. The started on the heights above timber, ledge, I paused to breathe. light electrified air gave the eye only awful magnificence, with a comet-like optical illusions. The outline of every tail of snow dust. Just at timberobject was topsyturvy and dim. The line it struck a ledge and glanced to I had started a snowslide! large stones that I thought to step one side, and at the same time shot on were not there; and when appar- up into the air so high that for an ently passing others, I bumped into instant I saw the treetop beneath it. ing a depression.

realization of my danger until I felt swept before it.

fragment of the snow cornice with surprise me. But I was prepared for where I was either spilled off or fell me. I could see nothing and I was what occurred soon afterward. entirely helpless. Then, just as the Noticing a steamy vapor rising full comprehension of the awful thing from a hole in the show by the tro-



among boulders. I found this out thoroughly after they had several times tripped me, sprawling, into the liquid cold. Finally I sat down in the water, took them off, and came out gracefully. I gained the bank with chattering

for walking either in swift water or

teeth and an icy armor. My pocket thermometer showed two degrees below zero. Another storm was bearing down upon me from the range, and the sun was going down. But the worst of it all was that there were several miles of rough and strange country between me and Grand Lale that would have to be made in the

the snow falling beneath me suddenly I did not care to take any more stopped. I plunged into it, completely chances on the ice, so I spent a hard burying myself. Then I, too, no hour climbing out of the canon that (By Enos A. Mills in the Youth's longer moved downward. My mind the stream was in. The climb warmed gradually admitted the knowledge me and set my clothes steaming.

My work as snow observer on the that my body, together with a con- My watch indicated six o'clock. A fire and lay down on a rock by it to twenty feet from the top and that a was not prepossessing.

ficult. But if I had wal ed from the the range. In order to avoid warm top a few steps farther back I should bear dens and cold streams, I took a different route. It was a much longer One of my snowshoes came off as I way than the one I had come by, so struggled out, so I took off the other for the night.

lost web. But it proved very slow and I could see the stars through the Hall Hill, yesterday. and dangerous work. With both shoes roof The old sheet-iron stove was off I sank chestdeep in the snow; it badly rusted and broken. Most of the ledge, the snow would probably s'ip good rest by the stove, where I read neither is an inquiring age. Although off and carry me to the bottom of the a little from a musty pamphlet on precipice. It was only after two palmistry that I found between the logs of the cabin.

hours of effort that the shoe was re-I always carry candles with me. When I must struggled to the surface damp and fingers numb, they are of of the snow on the ledge, I looked inestimable value in kindling a fire. it came down to timber on the other at once to ful a way back to the top side of the range. I set forward as of the precipice. I quickly saw that rapidly as possible, for the northern by following the leader of the range. I wished he were mentioned that there was another by following the ledge a few yards somewhere else. beneath the unbroken snow cornice I

Daylight found me climbing toward the shoe, I started round the ledge. evergreens in Colorado.

When I had almost reached the jagged When the sun came over the range, even on a clear, calm day, but 1 rocks the snow cornice caved upon the silent forest vistas became mageven on a clear, calm day, but 1 rocks to show cornice cated upon nificent with bright lights and deep former years when innocent pleasure hated to receive the fury of a storm me, and not only buried me, but came shadows. At timber-line the bald was choked off, yet there was today while on the most broken portion of perilously near knocking me into the summit of the range rose a thousand no apparent attempt to put aside rounded feet, like a gigantic white flippancy and grapple with life's proturtle. The slope was suep and very blems in a more reverent and seriou icy; a gusty wind whirled me about. manner. In this the church might Climbing to the top would te like go- also serve its function better, a The wind came with awful surges, A short walk from the top brought ing up a steep, ice-covered hors: roof, church at once bright and deep, true and roared and boomed among the me out upon a high hill of snow that It would be a dangerous and barely to the busy present as well as to the

landmarks. I was each moment in it and slid "a blue streak", my wet snow-shoes and started up. I cut a capital city and in

With rushes from every quarter, the above sea-level and to stop in the one of the dwarfed and almost buried turn me, My ears fro e and my fingers grew so cold that they could harily hold the ice-ax. But after an hour of constant peril and ever on the west slope, and I found it in tance below timber-line, a fearful increasing exhaustion, I got above

The snow was solidly packed, and leaving my snow-shoes strapped across my shoulders, I went scam-

of granite outcropped through the snow, and toward this I hurried. Be-As I stood there, another slide fore making a final spurt to the clouds on the snowy surface and the and with a far-off roar swept down in stopped I was startled by sounds like the creaking of wheels on a cold, snowy street. The snow beneath me was slipping!

Almost instantly the slide started down the slope with me on it. The direction in which it was going and the speed it was making would in a them. Several times I fell headlong But it came back to earth with few seconds carry it down two thouby stepping out of a drift and find- awful force, and I felt the ground sand feet of slope, where it would tremble as it crushed a wide way leap over a precipice into the woods. I was on the very upper edge of In the midst of these illusions I through the woods. It finally brought the snow that started, and this was walked out on a snow cornice that up at the bottom of a gulch with a the tail end of the slide. I tried to wreckage of hundreds of noble spruce stand up in the rushing snow, but Unable to see clearly, I had no trees that it had crushed down and its speed knocked my feet from under me, and in an instant I was rolled beneath the surface. Beneath the snow the snow giving way beneath me. I As I had left the trail on the I went tumbling on with it for had seen this precipice in summer, heights, I was now far from it and seemingly long time, but I know, of and knew it was more than a thou- in a rugged and wholly unfrequented course, that it was for only a sec section, so that coming upon the ond or two; then my feet struck against something solid. I was instantly flung to the surface again, through the end of the slide, and came

that was happening swept over me, truding roots of an overturned tree, I I leaped to my feet and saw the walked to the hole to learn the cause slide sweep on in most impressive magnificence. At the front end of the slide the snow piled higher and One whiff of the vapor stiffened my higher, while following in its wale hair and limbered my legs. I shot were splendid streamers and scrolls

to a stop on the scraped and frozen

down a steep slope, dodging trees and of snow-dust. I lost no time getting to the top, rocks. The vapor was rank with the and set off southward, where, after Pints, Quarts and Two Quarts six miles, I would come to the trail At the bottom of the stope I found that led to my starting place on the the frozen surface of a stream much east side of the range. easier walking than the soft snow.

I was twelve thousand five hundred feet above sea-level when the clouds broke up, and from this great height where, with no warning whatever, I looked down upon what seemed to the thin ice dropped me into the cold, be the margin of the polar world. It was intensely cold, but the sun shone with dazzling glare, and the wilderness of snowy peaks came out like a grand and jagged icefield in the far

south but as I had gone under the surface, After five hours on these silent but and was completely drenched, I made imposing heights I struck my first day's trail, and began a wild and merry coast down among the rocks Now snow-shoes are not adapted and trees to my starting place.

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CONDEMNS THE F IPPANCY

Scottish Pastor Talks to Parents Children-Smartness is not Wisdom.

Montreal Star, 29th,-Cynicism, 1rreverence, flippancy, these were the objects of an attack made by the Rev. George Duncan, B. D., in St. Andrew's Presbyterian church, Beaver

"No one will deny," he said "that children today are taught that which their parents did not learn, it is not remembered that head knowledge is When the wind is blowing, the wood not wisdom, and that to be smart is

The parents, however, did not get side to the question, that the parents. of today must partly answer for the prevailing temper of frivolity and irof this could be explained in the reaction against the stern repression of former years when innocent pleasure venerable past.

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