THE ENGLISHMAN CALCUTTA, WEST BENGAL, INDIA 21 OCTOBER 1909 (page 1)

THE WEEK.

If a place could bring an action for defamation, Darjeeling might fairly embark one against Mr. Crowley for his statements and innuendoes in "Vanity Fair" of 29th September. Sitting as he was 'a melancholy owl, in the desolate halls of Darjeeling' he wrote a retrospect of his expedition to K2, otherwise known as Chogo Ri. 28,250 ft. high, somewhere in Baltistan in 1902, and he moralised on the gloomy prospects of some proposed expedition to his slopes of Kangchenjanga (commonly spelt Kinchinjunga). Every visitor knows how it can rain at Darjiling, but the following can hardly regarded as a fair character to give it:-"Darjeeling has in fact so far as I have been able to observe, three distinct climates. The first is characterised by hard and persistent rain; the second by rain heavier and more persistent; the third by rain so heavy and persistent that I prefer to leave the necessary epithets to the imagination of my readers." Mr. Crowley must have been singularly unfortunate if his whole experience of Darjeeling is to be summed up in these few lines. Others could tell him of the cloudless skies and the glorious views of the snowy range, obtainable in the springs and autumn; also of the many days when, even after heavy rain, Darjeeling is very enjoyable: a blue pill might have saved him from such gloomy reflections as those in which he indulged.