

SKATING.

Bright the silvery star rays glisten Over the meads, asleep in snow...

Clinging beech leaves, growing crispier With each clear-skied frosty night, Gossip now, in laughing whisper...

Backward blow her tiny tippet's Tassels as we dash along, And her happy heart lets slip its Joy in cadence of song...

HEAD OF OXEN RUN.

It was a day fitted by the gods for an exploration. There was a sharp, wild tinge in the December wind; there was an alluring haze on the distant hill...

An hour's walk across the Anacostia bridge, past the little village of Good Hope, and thence along the Ridge road, brought us to a rough and rustic bridge...

It was perhaps a good omen that in a few moments we found some persimmons. If, as Thoreau says, raspberries are the best food for ascending a mountain, surely persimmons are the proper sustenance on a winter's walk...

There is considerable color to be noted in the landscape as we follow the meandering of the stream. The hillsides are warm and brown, the sumach is still red and the snailsh berries are blue...

A mile further on the stream is not so wide or deep. Here, for the first time since we left the road, we meet a human being—a boy. He looks at us in mute surprise...

bit could be a ghost? We did not. The field was not so positive. Over in yonder field a rabbit was frequently started by the dogs.

What a chase that stream led us! Sometimes it would leave its narrow, gravelly bed and spread itself out over several square yards of swamp. They would we think that we had pinned on game and congratulate ourselves upon the capture.

Emerging at last from a clump of woods we came upon a clearing with a settlement and a road beyond. The stream, now dwindled to a mere ditch, led us to the road and across into a hollow, marshy and overgrown with thickets.

But the little collection of houses had for me an interest for me of which the old man could know nothing. Other had I read in John Burroughs' "Winter Sunshine of a walk wherein Pumpkin town largely figured.

A Shoeless and Stockingless People. The 10,000,000 inhabitants of Mexico use almost entirely home made boots, shoes, gaiters, slippers and sandals so far as they wear any foot-covering at all.

In proof of this, the infantry regiments of the Mexican army, armed and equipped otherwise without regard to expense, still wear the leather sandal in preference to shoes, not solely for the sake of economy, but because it is considered generally healthier, keeps the feet in better condition, is more easily repaired or replaced, and makes easier marching.

Modern Vampires. Vampires are not wholly fabulous. Modern society shelters malignant beings who live by sucking the blood of the dead. During the past week they have even found sustenance in the double bereavement of an honored statesman.

ENGLISH POLITICS.

Henry George on the Situation in Ireland and the Prospects—His Belief in Gladstone's Sincerity.

Few men have given as much thought to the Irish problem as Mr. Henry George. He was asked what he thought of the intimation that the land question would be brought forward in the hope that it would take the place of the home rule agitation.

"I think the position of things is the other way," responded Mr. George. "The land question is more important than the political question. The English government in Ireland has from the first had for its purpose the maintenance of the landlords. That has been the reason of all its tyranny."

"What about the land movement in England and Scotland?" "It is already much stronger than can be understood from the English press, and is rapidly increasing every day. Not only are Scottish crofters and English agricultural laborers awakening to the truth that God made the land for the whole people and not for a few landlords, but the masses of the cities and towns are also beginning to realize that the land question is at the bottom of the social injustice from which they suffer."

"Do you join in the suspicion that is apparently entertained by the Irish members of parliament that Mr. Gladstone is not sincere in his alleged desire to give Ireland home rule, and do you think his sincerity is evidenced by the cabinet appointments he has made?" "I think Mr. Gladstone is entirely sincere, though I think him the sort of man who can do the most contradictory thing with equal sincerity, and I believe it is not merely his wish, but his ambition now, to give Ireland the home rule which, in his opinion, ought to satisfy her, but whether he can go or will go as far as the Irish people want is another question."

"You think, then, that Mr. Gladstone has a real ambition to settle the question?" "Yes, I do. But although he is today the most powerful man in Great Britain, and, with perhaps the exception of Bismarck, the most powerful individual in the world, this is a task that in my opinion transcends even his great powers."

NATURE'S BEST BEVERAGE.

Flash of Eloquence from a Man of Genius—A Gem from the Late Emory A. Storrs.

Few men have had the wonderful capacity to sway popular audiences with their eloquence possessed by the late Emory Storrs. As a public speaker he had few equals, and thousands have been thrilled by his burning words. His personal appearance was not prepossessing, being small in stature, but he was a man of genius, and when he was aroused his imagery, his earnestness, and his remarkable command of language was irresistible.

In the celebrated whisky trials of 1876 he was chief counsel for Gen. Babcock. He was thoroughly enlisted in behalf of his client as he always was. He had the faculty of impressing those with whom he came in contact with in the courts with the enthusiasm he felt for his clients. He made an earnest and eloquent appeal to the jury, and obtained the verdict of "not guilty" about which so much was said at the time.

How a Dog Should be Fed.

The puppy, when just weaned, should be fed four, five, or even six times a day, and from two months to four months of age, four times; after that three times, to the age of nine to twelve months, according to the breed—the smaller varieties reaching maturity sooner; after that twice a day is enough, a full meal being given each time, until maturity is reached.

The composition and quality of the food is the next point claiming consideration. In reference to the first point, I think it necessary to refer to theories propounded by Dr. Billings, V. S., of Boston, Massachusetts, in two lectures delivered in that city, and reproduced with apparent approval by that section of the American press which specially deals with canine matters.

In regard to pet dogs kept by ladies, the great mistake often made is to over-feed and feed too richly. It is a mistaken kindness to feed dogs on rich, fattening diet; and to give sugar and sweet cakes and puddings is to certainly destroy the powers of the digestive and assimilative organs; and anything that produces excessive fatness will bring on asthma, to which disease pugs and other short-faced pets are especially prone.

A few days ago, says The Rockland (Me.) Opinion, Mr. A. L. Vaughan was watching a flock of small, dark-gray snow-birds. Those who have seen them know how diminutive they are. The little brood had lighted on the snow and was flitting from one place to another, pecking at the stray seeds that lay scattered about.

OTHERWISE AND PERSONAL.

CONGRESSMAN LITTLE, of Ohio, is one of the biggest men in the house.

PRIVATE SECRETARY LAMONT has been summoned to his home, in New York, by the serious illness of his mother. GEN. BINGHAM wanted to have the honor of introducing the bill to pension Mrs. Hancock, but New York was reached before Pennsylvania in the call of states, and Editor Pulitzer got ahead of him.

LOUISE MICHEL is writing a new book, "Les Microbes," a novel in which the scientist, the revolutionist, and the capitalist of to-day are traced. In the plot of the story, "each one dies for the idea for which he lived," except the capitalist; and he lives on in order to supply "the where-withal" to a coming and new generation.

Mrs. JAY GOULD is rather short in stature, though plump and comely. Her face denotes intelligence, and was doubtless very pretty when she was young. She is thoroughly domestic in her tastes, and has devoted her time to her home and children.

LOVALL FARRAGUT, a son of the late Admiral Farragut, was written to Capt. James D. Johnson, offering to return to him the sword he surrendered to his father on the 5th of August, 1864, when the confederate ship, Tennessee, was captured in Mobile bay.

Miss MARY THOMPSON, an English authoress, who came to America in December, 1881, with letters from Earl Granville, John Bright, and others, to John Sherman, Justice Field, ex-Secretary Lincoln, and the British representatives, has begun suit for \$15,000 damages against a Catskill hotel-keeper.

THE recent visit to Connecticut of St. John, the temperance apostle, has been productive of some ugly eruptions of republican temper. When he visited Hartford the president of the senate snubbed him, and the speaker of the house declared he much preferred "to give a reception to Judas Iscariot or Satan."

Major Poore's Wedding.

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