

KLONDIKE'S REINDEER MAIL.

Quaint Feature of the Star Route Service of the Postoffice Department.

TRAIN'D LAPLANDERS TO THE RESCUE.

Dr. Jackson Relates How Uncle Sam's New Mail Carriers Will Work in the Arctic Northwest—A Journey of 8,000 Miles.

All sorts of queer expeditions have traveled to the Klondike since the first news of the gold discoveries was brought back, but the oddest of them all is the one now on its way to Skagway. It consists of Laplanders, Finns and Norwegians and reindeer, on their way to establish a mail and supply service from Talpa and Skagway to Dawson City. On its arrival in Alaska the party will have journeyed over 8,000 miles, having come from Helsingfors, Arctic Lapland. It will add to the other facilities of the United States Postoffice department the primitive service of the reindeer and long-bound sledges, made familiar to us by the pictures of Arctic life in our school geography. More important, it will establish a line of communication between the Klondike and the outside world that can be kept in operation the whole year round.

The herd of reindeer and the picturesque

will be supplied with tents, in which they can live until they get to the feeding grounds, on which they will settle. Then they will probably build for themselves huts like those to which they have been accustomed. They are a simple-minded folk, very domestic in their habits, and family ties are strong among them. There are six reindeer in the party, who were united by the native minister just before they sailed.

In their long journey the reindeer made little trouble and required no extraordinary care. They were used from New York to Seattle in ordinary cattle cars, which were, however, divided into small compartments, each large enough for eight or ten of the animals. If a large number of them are shipped together, as is done in the case of beef cattle, they will crowd together and are apt to injure one another. They were fed on the moss brought from Lapland for the purpose, which was packed in bags in separate cars. They required no water, as the moss itself contains sufficient moisture to satisfy their thirst.

BREAKING REINDEER TO HARNESS.

The manner in which a reindeer is broken to harness was interestingly described by one of the Laplanders. The young carter first taught to lead with a long halter about his head. When he has become accustomed to this a pair of leather lines are attached to his horns, or, if, as in this case, the horns have been removed, to a halter about his head. At the end of the reins is a small bone handle, which keeps them from slipping through the driver's fingers. The Laplander then sits behind and urges the reindeer forward with a short whip and with guttural words of command. When the deer has learned to obey orders, the harness is driven forward with a strap of hide is passed about his neck and back to the sledge. This is

the harness he ever wears. The weight on the animal's neck at first confuses him, and he wobbles from side to side, but under the urging of the whip and his master's voice he soon learns to move straight ahead, and the weight on the sledge is gradually increased until he can draw a full load. The strap by which the reindeer is hitched to the sledge passes between his forelegs and outside his hind legs, so that he learns to travel with a sort of sidewise motion. This is done to keep him from stepping in the tracks of his forefeet, and prevents him from sinking as deep in the snow as he otherwise would.

OLD HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Amusing Stories Told by a Habitué of the Lobby.

Mr. Frederick Gale, who was a habitué of the lobby of the House of Commons for forty years, narrates in *Fortnightly Review* some of his curious experiences. Referring to Bellamy's kitchen, he vividly described by Charles Dickens, and to the members who were wont to frequent it, he says: "You got the best chop and steak and cold meat and salad in the world, and the parrot who called 'Order!' and 'Choir!' and the immortal 'Jame' who chaffed every one—as described by Dickens—were still there; and members of the government might be seen eating their dinner at a real old kitchen table. 'Give you a kiss?' Jane asked of a young member, who was chaffing her, 'you, my younger son, and only a borough member! Why I boxed a duke's ears for asking such an impertinent question yesterday.' There was a very different House of Commons from the present one in those days. An amusing story is told of Lord Palmerston, who had just had a stormy interview with a deputation which came to memorialize him on the subject of the Chinese duties. Just as he was leaving the room a sudden thought struck him, and he called them back and said: 'Perhaps, gentlemen, a recollection of my boyhood may help you. When I was a boy, my grandfather took me with him to stay at Lord Pembroke's. After dinner, his lordship said, 'I hope you liked my wine. I did my best to please you. As a member of the government I ought not to tell you that I get my claret and champagne direct through a smuggler. I am unwavering for the port, as I made it myself.' Old Pam had hit the bull's-eye, and the deputation retired, with much laughter."

The reminiscences that center in John Bright are equally amusing. "I call to mind hearing him, in 1848, in the House of Commons, on the appointment of a new bishop of Manchester. Quoting from memory (as I do throughout), he said: 'You wanted a new bishop of Jerusalem a short time ago. How did that holy man go out? With his staff and his scrip, like one of the apostles? Not a bit of it. He went out in a coach, with a steam engine, a horse-drawn carriage, and landed under a salute of eighteen guns, not far from the spot where Simon lodged with the tanner.'"

HE ATE 228 OYSTERS.

Afterward Mr. Greene ate dinner at the Eastern hotel, near South Ferry. Mr. Greene had some lemons cut for quaffers and ordered five dozen oysters for a starter. The waiter brought them and the consumer got to work. A squeeze of lemon over each specimen was the only preparation. In eight minutes the shells were empty.

"Bring some more," said Greene to the amazed waiter. "About six dozen." "Twenty-nine minutes," said the waiter. "A short pause followed, owing to the oyster opener's collapse from overwork. It had taken only a little while to get the first dozen of oysters to the table. "Hurry up, hurry up!" cried Greene, looking at his watch. "I'm hungry." "Hurry up," said the waiter, his astonishment getting the better of his training. "Your legs must be hollow like a couple of kegs." The next consequence was to be seen. It took eleven minutes to consume them.

"More," said Greene placidly. "Always room at the top." Still another four dozen arrived. The champion ate three dozen and four of the last dozen. Then he called for time. "Twenty-nine minutes," said the waiter. "Well, I'll just finish this dozen," said he, and he did, making 228 oysters in all. After this he ate a dinner paid for by Mr. Coe at the Eastern hotel, where the Sun reporter saw him. He said he was feeling first rate. Mr. Greene is a tall man with a head of deer there, which they were able to sell for a little money, they are greatly pleased with their prospects. In their native land they are nomads and have no settled homes. When they get to Alaska they

FINE WORK WITH THE NEEDLE.

Three Designs Capable of Simple or Elaborate Treatment.

ARTISTIC TIPS FOR NIMBLE FINGERS.

The Chrysanthemum in Outline, Bee and Cracker on the Side, and Strawberry for the Eyes Alone to Feast On.

The patterns given in the accompanying cuts are capable of either the simplest or most elaborate methods of embroidery according to the taste or ability of the worker, and in either case may be most satisfactory in effect.

No. 1 shows a bold and free treatment of a chrysanthemum, especially adapted to outline work, although if the petals have a few long and short stitches at the ends and the leaves are likewise worked in this manner, the design gains much in richness. The whole pattern can be only outlined if desired, or the design may be made entirely separate, of white silk or linen, lined with cotton, or wool wadding, and then the embroidered piece being cut to the correct size. It may be either finished with a fine cord around the edge or button holed with a series of worked eyelet holes at regular intervals.

In the first instance it can be basted on the cozy, and in the second faced over the edges, so that in either case it may be easily removed for cleaning purposes. Another pretty way of working it is to apply white cord with a pale yellow, or any delicate shade of twisted embroidery silk. Of course there must be two sides worked, although but one pattern is shown in the design.

FOR BEER AND CRACKERS.

No. 2 is unique in treatment, and the purpose with which it is intended, namely, as an adjunct to a rarebit party or refreshments of beer and crackers. The round design is for the dolly on which to rest the stem on the polished table, while the remainder shows half of the pattern for the oblong tray cloth for the rest of the service. This may be made as long as desired, the pattern to be placed at each end, and a little skill will readily admit of one continuing the design along the side so as to leave an unbroken border.

The hop vine chosen for the motive of the design is peculiarly appropriate for this service. Only green silks are needed, but in shades differing slightly, so that the tendrils are to be worked in dull, rather bronzy green, while the blossoms are in light shades of lilac or pale green. The whole pattern can be worked in a single color, but will more than repay the labor of working the blossoms solid in at least three shades, and doing the leaves in long and short. A heavy quality of old bleach linen, or even linen crash, is most appropriate for this

purpose, and may be either fringed or hem-stitched with a rather wide hem, the former method being the best, however, as the round dolly could only be hemmed, rather hem-stitched, while the circular fringes are not difficult. Mark a pencil circle around the design, stitch it about on the machine, cut the linen around the circle the depth required for the fringe, then unravel out the edges, cutting off the fringe where it joins the machine stitching.

FOR STRAWBERRY TIME.

No. 3 is especially appropriate in design, as even now fresh strawberries greet our eyes in the markets at fairly reasonable prices, and remind us that before long they will be plentiful. Could anything be fresher or more dainty for the breakfast or luncheon table than an overlay worked in the graceful design of blossoms and fruit given here?

It may be worked in outline, as the simple treatment of the drawing indicates, but

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HOPVINE DESIGN FOR TRAY CLOTH AND DOLLY.

Miss Hofmann had retired, his first act was to pull a handsome cigarette case from his pocket. I accepted the paper roll and volunteered the remark that I never knew he was a cigarette fiend.

"Oh, yes," was the laughing reply. "I have smoked now for four years, never less than fifteen a day, and some days a great many more. I have my own cigarettes made for me in Russia. And I have quite a collection of cases, too. Four of them are gold and I have six silver ones. One of the gold cases was given to me by Grand Duke Alexis in Moscow. It has forget-me-nots on it and I use it when I go to the States. Why it's because I have always smoked the others."

I asked him if he remembered very much about his former visit to America.

"Oh, yes. When I go about I see things I remember having seen then, and it all comes back to me like a dream. I speak no English then. Who do you suppose gave me

my first English lessons?"

I acknowledged that I couldn't even venture a guess.

"Miss Ellen Terry. You see, I went back in the same steamer with Henry Irving and Miss Terry. She seemed to take a fancy to me, but she couldn't speak German and I couldn't speak English, so she used to point to things and tell me the English names. I don't know whether she learned much German or not, but at least she did take me to Berlin twice a week, and it took a whole day."

"With whom else did you study after that?" I asked.

With Mr. Josef Hofmann, who was a very good teacher, was the laughing reply. There wasn't a suspicion of egotism in the tone. The twinkling brown eyes showed a boyish exuberance. He explained that I studied with his father—first as a little boy. Then for a period of five years he studied alone. Hofmann devoted the last two years of his life to him, and since then he

has been his own master.

I remarked on his physique and asked him what sort of a teacher he took. I saw that I had touched upon a boyish vanity. Where is the boy, he or sluggard or genius, who doesn't like to have attention called to his muscular development? He doubled up

strawberry plants suggest this coloring better than any other description.

The berries should be solid, of course, in varying shades of red, tipped at the base of same with light green, to simulate the young fruit; and stitches or which knots of yellow give the seed effects on the berry itself. The green stem and calyx should be pale to shade down the foliage generally. The blossoms are white and may be worked in either long and short or solid stitch, the turnovers of the petals being worked over and over solid in lighter or creamer shades of white, according to that used in the main portion of the petals. The centers have pale green stamens and pistils tipped with yellow french knots.

JOSEF HOFMANN AS HE IS.

The Boy Pianist An Athlete and Fond of Sports.

There are always two classes of persons who go to hear a famous musician. One class is composed of music lovers, the other of lion lovers. Padrevski can raise more dust in the breasts of some women with his eyes and his hair than he can with his music. Will young Josef Hofmann, now that he is nearly a man, receive the same homage? He doesn't care for it. He is too much of a boy. There is nothing of the pouter about him. He doesn't even wear long hair. At Carnegie hall last Thursday afternoon, relates the New York Herald critic, I sat directly behind two girls who were very much interested in the young pianist. Hofmann thrilled every lover of music in the hall by the witchery of beautiful variations on an original theme. And what do you suppose these girls said after the thunder of applause had died away?

"He isn't at all romantic looking," whispered one.

"No," said the other, "and he can't be such a great artist, or he wouldn't wear his hair so short."

Then I got up and moved into another seat.

The next day I called on the young pianist in his apartments at the Vendome. I was curious to know just what change, aside from those of a purely musical nature, had taken place in a little chap who caused us such great wonderment ten years ago. At that time he could speak no English. Now he talks English fluently, as well as French, Russian, German and Polish. In response to my ring a cliché voice, almost bass in tone, commanded me to come in.

I entered a secret room and was confronted by a sturdily built youth, rather below the medium height, but with the build of an athlete. One would scarcely recognize in him the delicate-looking little boy of ten years ago, overworked and querulous. His father and an elder sister, who accompany him on his tour, were in the room. As we sat and chatted I had ample opportunity of studying the boy, and the things that impressed me most was his perfect ingenuity. Aside from a little shyness, which, however, wore off when we got to talking about athletic sports, he seemed quite at ease, and yet without any of the self-consciousness which is almost invariably a part of the young man who has had opportunity of studying the boy, and the things that impressed me most was his perfect ingenuity. 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