

VILLAGE LIFE IN NORWAY.

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SLIDING ON SKEES IN NORWAY.



THE sense of the picturesque is an entirely modern sentiment. Norway, which is, by common consent, the most picturesque country in Europe, if not in the world, was by travelers in the eighteenth century described as an ugly country, full of steep black rocks, of wild aspect, and intersected by sombre fiords and

icy rivers. We should probably quarrel with such a description now. From the individual point of view it may be perfectly true. And yet the man who should, in the present century, indulge in such language would write himself down a callous and prosy dullard. To the utilitarian eighteenth century, only that which was useful was beautiful; and picturesqueness in a landscape was held to be synonymous with fertility. Therefore