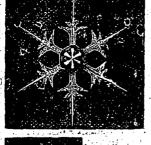
MARCH 15, 1880.

## NORTHERN MESSENGER.

VOL. XV., No. 6.













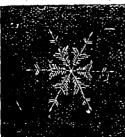












below the freezing point, and a strong magnifier, have plenty an observer will of opportunity of examining things of beauty, provided there is a show there is a snow shower at the time, and the temperature is below the freezing point.

or the crown of a black hat, previously cooled

We say snow shower because there is a differ-

ence between a snow shower and a snow storm. In the snow shower the air is filled with light, fleecy flakes, which descend gently and noiselessly through it, and made up of either melt away and disappear as fast as they itesimal cryalight, or else, when the temperature is below cles. the point of freezing, slowly accumulate

upon every surface where they can gain a lodgement, until the fields are everywhere covered with a downy fleece of spotless purity,

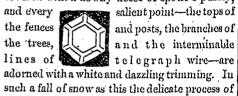
and posts, the branches of

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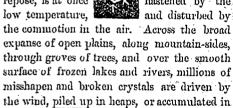


crystallization is not disturbed by any agitations in the air. The feathery needles from each little nucleus extend themselves in every direction as far as they will, and combining by gentle contacts with others floating near them, form large and fleecy flakes, involving the nicest complications of structure, and filling the air with a

kind of heauty in which the expression of softness and gracefulness is com-6.1.3 bined with that of mathematical symmetery and precision.

In a snow storm the force of the wind and the intensity of the cold usually change all this. The progress of the crystallization, which to be





confused masses under the lee of every obstruction, having been subjected on the way to such violence of agitation and collision that the characteristic beauty and symmetry of the material is entirely destroyed.

While the snow is falling gently, then, let us sit at an open window and catch the feathery flakes on our piece and thus keeps all at covers warm ; it is of black cloth, and examine them through the microscope. It will be



Armed with a piece of dark fur, black cloth, | freezing assumes the form of hexagonal (with six sides and angles) grains. These in turn combine in the light falling snow in similar shapes and angles, the six-rayed stars being three elongated hexagonal prisms, crossed at the centre. Rarely

SNOW-FLAKES AND HOW TO SEE THEM.

this arrangement is doubled, making twelve points in the circles, and this is sometimes again increased. It should be remembered also that

the snow stars from oneone-third of meter, and

almost infinstallized parti-It will not require much perseverance to

catch enough to make a good selection of beautiful forms, which will be usually similar in character during the same shower, owing to Losing all their star-like semblance, the fact that all have been subject to the same one style of flake to takes place before crystallizing influences ; but, sometimes, a change from another 🖪 shower or storm is ended and during the period of transition both varieties fall together from the air, while each different snow fall seems to have its own special conformation.

Drawings of the different forms of flakes may easily be made with a pen, and a curious collection will soon accumulate. The most striking of the methods adopted for the inspection of ice crystals is one discovered by Professor Tyndall, and consists of melting the ice from within. This is done by means of a lens, by which the sun's transformer brought to a focus within as to liquify a porinterior without disturbing that at the surface.

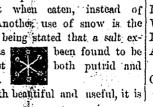
While considering the beauties of the snow flakes, it is impossible to neglect their uses when combined. "Snow like wool," says the Psalmist, and is it not strange that this snow which covers the more northern countries in winter time is used as woolwhich it resembles in whiteness. "fleeciness " and softness-to keep warm and protect the roots of the trees, bushes and plants from being killed by the biting frost. It is a strange fact that snow, which, of itself,

Arctic regions the Esquimaux 0 rubbed with snow to bring the heat back to it

again. It is stated by naturalists that the secret of this warmth is that there is a saline spirit, which is hot, in the snow, the same saline spirit that makes the snow a cause thirst when caten, instead of

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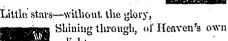


no wonder that it should be a favorite subject for poets. We will give but one selection, which is by an anonymous writer\*:

## WHITER THAN SNOW.

Gently falling from their cloud-home, Singly to our earth they come-The feathery snow-flakes-

range only Softly resting—whether cresting thirtieth 'to Lofty pines or lowly brakes. these seem



light, But all its purity-Singly falling-quick uniting, Drifting to obscurity !

into each-As each mingles 📕 ly they spread, Most tenderdowny, soft and Coverings

Over every flower-bed.

So they fall-and I sit watching, Till my eyes grow dim with tears-Fast coming from a thought,

On their noiseless way, have brought

Giv'n to every loving heart, That comfort in our woe ! Though your sins be red like scarlet,



Oh, the tender, touching, "Come, now," Spoken by the Lord Himself, Spoken as low and soft As the falling of a snow-

> flake--(And he speaketh it full oft.)

But the world's gay music drowns it, Though no cadence half so sweet, Or melting, can be heard-

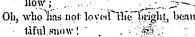
And the heedless heart forgets it-Loves it not-the Father's word.

For my heart, so often From the Lord, who, calls---

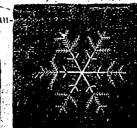
Oh, bitter tears, still flowhealing Till within the fount of Christ shall wash it white as snow.

The silvery snow ! the silvery snow !. Like a glory it falls on the field below ; And the trees with their diamond branches. appear

Like the fairy growth of some magical sphere ; While soft as music, and wild and white, common to them all. They consist of a star of medicinal one, it being stated that a salt ex- It glitters and floats in the pale moonlight,





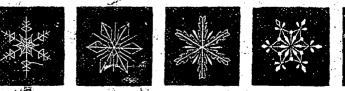


is cold, is one of the best protections from cold. Thus in the

lives in a snow hut in wifter; and when a limb begins to freeze it is

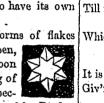
observed that there is a marked peculiarity [quenching it. Another use of snow is the

Alson -

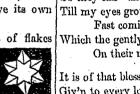


GALLION QUE

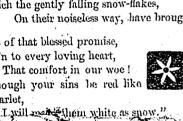
AUBURT .



an inch in dia-



Which the gently falling snow-flakes, It is of that blessed promise,



[fleecy,













straying;

loving,

