

that sort of thing. The snow fell thick and fast, and all nature was shrouded with a white mantle—all verdure disappearing from view for several months. I had never liked the winter season, even in England, and therefore felt that the severity of the climate was a death-blow to all pleasure—for Quebec, at that season of the year, is completely ice-bound. Of course, to those born in the country, the ice and snow afford considerable amusement. Sleighing and tobogganing parties are much enjoyed by the Canadians generally. I was fond of skating, and there was a great field for that healthy exercise, although not then entered into so generally, or with such spirit as at the present day. Few of the fair sex ever donned the skate—the weather on the St. Lawrence being so intensely cold—and covered rinks not having yet come into fashion. Since that day I have seen beautifully illuminated rinks, crowded with from fifteen hundred to two thousand persons, of all ages—emperors, mailed knights, queens, sultanas, Turks, fairies, demons, and every conceivable character, in gorgeous and grotesque apparel, gliding smoothly and gracefully about on the polished ice, in a seemingly confused mass, to the soul-inspiring strains of some two or three regimental bands,—the fair ladies waltzing, and the gentlemen tracing strange figures and devices. These carnivals certainly remind us of what we have read concerning “Fairy Land.”

My education, for the past four years, had been somewhat neglected, so I made a virtue of necessity, and during the long winter evenings resumed my studies under the direction of my father, who was an excellent scholar, and whose penmanship was the best I have ever seen, before or since. At length this, to me, gloomy season passed; smiling Spring unfolded her generous presence of sunshine and tears; the snow disappeared, the floating ice was carried from the rivers by their rapid currents, to the far away north, and the harbour was soon alive with shipping. I had obtained an appointment in my father's office,