LITERARY.

SNOW.

Not in the city, in the crowded street,
Not 'mong the haunts of men,
Where the ceaseless tramp of countless feet
Would crush thee out again,
Fall thou, fair snow.

Not on our grimy roofs and miry ways,
Where soot-flakes rest and cling;
Not through the vaporous fog, whose murky haze
Would smirch a cherub's wing,
Fall thou, pure snow.

Out on the mountain, on the upland moor
Over the fertile vale,
O'er park and woodland, hall, and cottage poor,
Shake out thy pinions pale,
Angel of snow.

Where country children greet the with a shout,
And catches thee in their play,
The fur-clad darling, and the ragged lout,
Rejoicing on their way,
Fall thou, fair snow.

Spread the white mantle out o'er mother earth,
Keep warm her naked breast;
Broad fields will thank thee with prolific birth,
And man through thee be blest,
Thou guardian snow.

Give to the wintry woods a crown of grace
And from the spreading plain
Look at the sky with pure, unsullied face,
Where is no fear of rain,
Thou spotless snow.

But far from the loud city's crowded way
Wing thy unwhispering flight;
Soil not thy virgin whiteness in its maze,
Mammon has no delight
In falling snow.

Hush! the swift snow is drifting to the ground
In eloquent rebuke!
I seem to hear a sermon without sound,
And listen as I look,
Where falls the snow,

Yes! in the city, in the crowded street,
Among the haunts of men
Though the rough tramp of countless busy feet
May crush thee out again,
Should fall the snow.

In the dark alleys in the falling lanes,
Preaching with no creed,
It leaves a lesson on the frozen panes,
In language all may read—
"*Be pure as snow.*"

The matchless loveliness of every flake
Informs the dullest eye:
Rough walls, coarse garbage, shapes of beauty take
The poorest may see why
Where falls the snow.

The gutter children hail the with a shout,
Thou cheapest of all toys;
They roll thee up, they toss thy ball about,
A very joy of joys,
Benignant snow!

So shed o'er all the city—fresh from God
Thy pure and holy calm;
Only the mammonite or senseless clod
Will find no blessed balm
In winter's snow.

MRS. G. L. BANKS.

Wit and Humor.

A maiden, like a fish, is often hooked by the lip.

What wine is most extensively used by sailors? Tar-twine.

'Love is blind,' and this is how they manage to keep right on with the gas turned out.

Why is a washerwoman like a fool? Because she sets out the tubs to catch soft water when it is raining hard.

A country boy who had read of sailors heaving up anchors, wanted to know if it was sea-sickness that made them do it.

A gentleman was dining at the Crystal Palace the other day, and as some venison was on the table, he remarked so *far* gone that it ought to be a *pastx*.

A poor woman was asked how she became so much attached to a certain neighbor and replied that she was bound to him by several cords of wood which he had sent her during the hard winter.

me who are going to church, and whether they have on anything new.'

When you offer oats to a horse he may say *neigh*, but he don't mean it.

A Government official in Edinburgh complained that the Income Tax Commissioners had 'assassinated' [assessed] him for £150.

A friend from the country called upon an old acquaintance in town, who was a confirmed anti-teetotaler, and on inquiring after his friends health, was informed that he was in his usual health and *spirits*.

The editor who wrote his editorials with stolen chalk on the soles of his shoes, and went barefoot while his copy was being set up, has purchased a ream of used-up envelopes, and engaged a girl to turn them inside out.

Host—'Now that wine cost me a guinea a bottle nearly twenty years ago. Now, apart from the prime cost look look what the yearly interest comes to.' Guest—'Well, let's have another bottle, and get rid of the interest on *that*, at all events.'

'I do not miss my church as much as you suppose,' said a lady to her minister, who had called upon her during her illness, 'for I make Betsy sit at the window as soon as the bells begin to chime and tell who is going and if they have on anything new'

A shoemaker the other day was fitting a customer with a pair of boots when the buyer observed that he had but one objection to them, which was that the soles were a little too thick. 'If that is all,' said Crispin, 'put on the boots, and the objection will gradually wear away.'

A Frenchman on coming to England, and finding himself utterly unobserved, no official asking his passport, no policeman dogging his steps, no mayor demanding his business, felt sad and lonely, and exclaimed that he was taken no more notice of than if he was a little dog.

He was just home from dancing-school 'Did you have a good time, my little man?' asked his father. 'Yes, sir; a real good time. I danced every time except the last.' 'And why not then?' asked the father. 'Because Mr. Papanti would not let me; and it was real mean, for there were two or three empty girls.'

During the examination of a witness as to the locality of the stairs in a house, the counsel asked him, 'Which way did the stairs run?' The witness, who, by the way, was a noted wag, replied that 'one way they ran up and the other way they ran down.' The learned counsel winked both eyes and then took a look at the ceiling.

To ascertain if your gun is loaded, put your foot on the hammer and blow into the muzzle, letting the hammer slip from under the foot and descend with smart force on the nipple. If the gun is loaded you will be notified of the fact.

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