

## The Rockwood Review.

came to an end. I regret that I cannot give the exact date of the abolition of the bull-running, but it happened on this wise. Certain of the reforming and philanthropic tribe of people decided that the bull-running was barbarous and disgraceful, and began an agitation to have it stopped. However, it proved that magistrates and police were not sufficient to put down a practice of such old standing, as the citizens would not submit to their authority. Probably the charter had to be abrogated in some way. At all events, it was necessary to appeal to the British Government, and a regiment of dragoons had to be sent to Stamford before the bull-running could be stopped; and in this way I believe this curious old animal festival came to an end.

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### A BURFORD PANTOMIME OF OLD TIMES.

A number of years ago, our next neighbor built a new frame house at the remote end of his 100-acre farm, and the pioneer log house was used as a hay barn; and the sashes of the windows were taken out. The neighbor owned a big yoke of oxen, one of which was an ILL THRIVER team and was gaunt, jeeringly spoken of as "old poverty," by the neighbors as the ox was "breachy," and a trespassing poacher. One day, "old poverty" found the door of the old log house "on the swing," and went in to have a blow out of the hay store; it so happened that a heifer had found an entrance to the hay store antecedent to the ox DEBUT. The immediate result was that the heifer got a violent eviction through the window, which gave merriment to an outside human spectator—who saw an illustration of the proverb, "that when POVERTY gets in at the door Cupid is fired out at the window!"

### MARCH AND FEBRUARY HAPPENINGS AND OLDER DATED OBSERVATIONS

A curious enlargement on one of the lower large branches of a beech tree in full foliage was carefully probed and looked into on one occasion on a summer ramble in the woods, the excrescence seemed mainly made up of fibrous substances resembling dried moss, and contained great numbers of minute moving animate objects having a whitish downy covering. These were supposed to be the larvæ of some small species of moth, as they seemed to have eroded the bark of the beech branch deeply enough to cause exudation of the liquid sap of the tree, a portion of which exuded sap seemed to be hardening into woody excrescences. Upon making enquiries of an observant backwoodsman we were told that the bird-nest-like growth were the niduses whence emerged myriads of the dark coloured insects known as Snow Fleas!

Upon examining one of these curious growths the following summer, signs of active life were no longer visible, only a mass of dingy moss-like debris remained resting on the somewhat denuded branch of the tree, and black lumpy excrescences that seemed like hardened fungous growths. Whether in this way the Snow Fleas originates is a matter of uncertainty, as the first sign of the black jumping Snow Fleas is usually found in or about the moss growing about the base of forest trees on the outbreak of a wintry thaw, when their name is legion.

The annexed comments have just been penned in elucidation of incidents occurring near here during the past 12 or 14 days.

A rather moderate atmospheric cyclone was heralded by the almost infallible indications afforded by the rising or falling of the water level in natural springs. These seem as reliable annunciations of the varying pressure of the air as is