

sied unto death." Great ships have gone over the waters with less of hope and happiness than that rude craft has borne over the billows of winter; swan-like shapes now glance along the arrowy way, but give us, for its sweet memories of Yesterday, the old red sleigh.

Then, the days when we were "coasting;" and down the big hill by the maple wood, through the little patches, far into the valley, we came with merry shout, each the solitary Palinurus of his own small craft. How like a flock of swallows we were, dashing down the declivity, in among a group of sleds, side by side with a rival, shooting by like an arrow, steering in gallantry ahead, like a jockey, and on our way up with a sled in tow, ere the party had reached the valley below. And then it was, when the wind had swept away the snow from pond and stream, and the ice was glare, that we put on the "rackers," and darted hither and thither, and cut sixes and eights, and curves without number, and drew the girls that we loved, and hurled them like leaves over the highway of cristal.

And the schools where we pelted each other down, and the schools where we sang Wyndham and Mear, and the schools where we ciphered and wrote, and "went up;" gone, all gone, teacher and taught, like the melting snows under the rainbows of April. And when, sometimes, after the great snow, the winds came out of the north for a frolic, what wreathings and carvings of the cold alabaster there were. What Corinthian adornings surmounted the fence posts; what mouldings were fashioned beside the way; what fairy-like caves in the drifts, what flowers of rare finish and pendants of pearls on the trees.

Have you quite forgotten the footprints we used to find in the damp snow; as delicate, some of them, as a love letter, the mysterious paths down to the brook or the old hollow tree, that we used to wonder over and set "figure fours" by, if perchance, we might catch the makers thereof? Have you quite forgotten how sorry you were for the snow birds that fluttered among the flakes, and seemed tossing and lost in the storm? And there, in the midst of that winter, Christmas was set, that made the Thanksgiving last all through the night of the year, and what wonder the stars and the fires burned more brightly therefor! Christmas, with its gifts and its cheer; its carol and charm; its evergreen branch and its bright morning dreams. Christmas, when there were prints upon the chimney tops if we

were only there to see them, where Santa Claus set his foot as the clock struck twelve. Christmas, when stockings were suspended by hearth and by pillow all over the land, stockings silken and white; stockings homely and blue, and even the little red sock with a hole in the toe.—Blessed forever be Bethlehem's star.

## ASTRONOMICAL.

(From the Scientific American.)

MR. EDITOR.—Permit me to ask you and others a question relative to the ultimate destiny of all the suns, planets and satellites in this our stellar system (which is no doubt a distinct and independent creation). First, is there any known law that will ultimately dissolve the planets and smaller bodies in their sun or center? Second, are the sun's now revolving around Aleyone, their supposed center, tending inward to, or outward from the Milkyway? Third, can it be demonstrated upon scientific principles that, as the bodies, called planets, cool and become more dense, their attraction for the sun becomes greater and greater without increasing their outward tendency, called centrifugal force—so much so as to finally land them in the sun? We now find the most dense bodies are nearest the sun.—Now, is it because they are more dense and the sun's attraction greater? Or did it so happen by mere chance that the least dense bodies are most remote from the sun?

If it can be demonstrated that, as the bodies grow cool, that their tendency is toward their center, so as to keep up an equal temperature for a much longer time than could be possible under any other known principle, then, when Neptune comes to have the density of our earth, he may also move in the Earth's present orbit, and so with all the planets, until Neptune moves in the orbit of the body planet and completes his revolution in but three weeks, instead one hundred and sixty-four years. But long before that time all the planets within the orbit of Neptune will rest upon the bosom of the Sun; and, finally, Neptune will rest, with all his brethren and sisters upon the bosom of their father. Can this be demonstrated? Then the same law will ultimately not only bring our sun into the central sun, but the last, and furthest, star in the Milkyway will also join the many million suns upon the bosom of their father, Aleyone. Then this creation will be in a great measure spiritualized; all things combus-

tible and subject to change from the effects of heat, will return to their constituent elements; and all oceans, seas and waters within our creation, will unite with the atmosphere, which would be vast indeed.

Now, the question is, can such a result be demonstrated from any known law or facts discovered? It is my opinion that this will be the ultimate result, though I solicit scientific evidence. For the law that can be demonstrated within our little creation, will have to be taken as a universal law for all those other creations far, far beyond the Milkyway, two thousand five hundred of which have already been discovered—whose light of to-day may sweep through that dark intervening space for many thousands or perhaps millions of years, with a velocity of 12,000,000 of miles per minute before it reaches this creation of ours within the Milkyway.—These are thoughts for reflection, and he that hath an ear to hear, let him answer.

G. NEWCOMER.

Meadville, Pa., Sept. 18, 1861.

[The condensation of the mass of a planet would cause it to revolve more rapidly on its own axis, but would have no tendency to carry it nearer to the sun.

If there is a resisting medium in which the planets revolve, then they will be drawn gradually inward till they end their circling course in the sun. The latest discoveries render it probable that there is such a medium, but the question is not settled. If this medium extends throughout the interstellar spaces, and if the stars of our stellar system are revolving around a common center, then they also will finally be all drawn together into a common mass. It is difficult to conceive of any observations by which the centripetal motion of the stars can ever be determined; but since it has been positively ascertained that iron, sodium, &c., enter into the composition of the sun, it would be irrational to affirm that any knowledge is necessarily beyond the reach of the human intellect.—Ed.

THERE be three degrees of this hiding and veiling of a man's self, the first, closeness, reservation, and secrecy, when a man leaveth himself without observation, or without hold to be taken, what he is; the second, dissimulation in the negative, when a man lets fall signs and arguments that he is not that he is; and the third, simulation in the affirmative, when a man industriously and expressly feigns and pretends to be that he is not.