



RIGHT REV. DR. FULLER, FIRST BISHOP OF NIAGARA.—FROM A PHOTOGRAPH BY NOTMAN & FRASER, TORONTO.

SKATING ON WHEELS.

It is only a few years ago that in a moment of inspiration there was born the design which has made "Prince's" a club apart, and has crowned it with the extraordinary measure of success it now enjoys. It was the introduction of the skating and the concurrent circumstance of the admission of ladies as members. The opening of the skating rink revolutionised the club. Of course skating on wheels, was not accepted by the fashionable world with instant readiness. But the mere fact of its having been introduced at "Prince's" was much in its favour, and there were among the members certain ladies and gentlemen whose high privilege it is in some measure to set the fashions for society. When Lord A—— was seen coursing over an asphalt pavement on eight wooden rollers, and when Lady B—— and the Hon. Miss C—— were observed gliding to and fro by the aid of the same contrivance, no one could doubt that, however dangerous and inconvenient the mode of transgression might be, it certainly was "quite the thing." The next discovery made was that skating on wheels is in no way dangerous, and is a healthful and graceful exercise. In a week a lady will be able to get about on her skates with confidence, and in a month she may with fair practice hope to be proficient. Many of the ladies who now appear on the rink have been skating for several

seasons, and have, with the natural aptitude for acquiring graceful habits which distinguishes their sex, become as much at home on the asphalt as they are in the ball-room. Wonderful things may be done on the skates, indeed an ordinary skater can do all that may be done on the ice, with the exception, perhaps, of encompassing "the inside edge." A considerable proportion of the skaters, particularly in the early part of the day, are young ladies who are still at school, for there is no limit to the age of skating members, the only stipulation being that "boys" shall not have access to the rink. A little girl on skates is well enough. But it is intuitively felt that a schoolboy similarly equipped would be undesirable company, and accordingly boys are relegated to an outhouse to the right of the entrance gate. All the skates in use at the club come from America, and are of very simple and and, apparently, inexpensive construction. The great popularity of the exercise has given rise to a series of efforts in the direction of making skates suitable for use on ordinary macadamised roads and flag pavements. The leading characteristics of one such design just patented are thus tersely and clearly described by its inventor:—"Two driving wheels, each outside of the stock, on an axle suspended under the arch of the instep, in brackets, depending from the lower side of the stock or foot-rest, so that the upper parts of the peripheries of the wheels may

be on a plane lower than the upper surface of the stock in combination with one smaller roller under the toe, and another under the heel." The skate in use at "Prince's" is a much simpler article to look at than this, being nothing more than a sock of wool, leather-bound, and brass-tipped at heel and toe, and carried upon four small wheels of rosewood, attached by an india-rubber spring, that allows of the motion by which "the outer edge" can be accomplished, curves made, and, to quote the expressive summing up of an enthusiastic Admiral who is one of the heaviest skaters on the rink, "You can skate out the picture on a willow pattern dinner-plate."

BALZAC'S STIMULANT.

A writer in the *Home Journal* says: "Balzac who had the disease of creative genius in its most outrageous form, 'preached to us,' says Théophile Gautier, 'the strangest hygiene ever propounded among laymen.' If we desired to hand down our names to posterity as authors, it was indispensable that we should immerse ourselves absolutely for two or three years; that we should drink nothing but water and eat soaked beans, like Protegenes; that we should go to bed at sunset and rise at midnight to work hard till morning; that we should spend the whole

day in revising, amending, extending, pruning, perfecting, and polishing our night's work, in correcting proofs or taking notes, or in other necessary study." If the author happened to be in love, he was only to see the lady of his heart for one half hour a year, but he might write to her for the cold-blooded reason that letter writing improves the style. Leon Gorlan's account of the daily life of the author of the "Comédie Humaine" has often been quoted. He began his day with dinner at six in the afternoon, at which, while he fed his friends generously, he himself ate little besides fruit and drank nothing but water. At seven o'clock he wished his friends good night and went to bed. At midnight he rose and worked till dinner-time the next day; and so the world went round. George Sand calls him, "Drunk on water, intemperate in work, and sober in all other passions." When he sat down to his desk his servant used to place coffee within reach, and upon this he worked till his full brain would drive his starved and almost sleepless body into such self-forgetfulness that he often found himself at daybreak, bare-headed and in dressing-gown and slippers, in the Place du Carrousel, not knowing how he came there, and miles away from home. Now, coffee acts upon some temperaments like laudanum upon others, and many of the manners and customs of Balzac were those of a confirmed opium-eater."