

## GEORGE CRUIKSHANK.

This celebrated caricaturist, who recently died in London, at the age of eighty-six, was a man of most vigorous and versatile genius. He could be playful, tender, graceful, bitterly sarcastic, or terribly in earnest, with his pencil. Throughout his long life, says one who knew him well, his genius "has been a lash to scourge vice; a passionate appeal for the oppressed and ignorant; a merry and kindly reprimand for folly in dress, manners, and customs; and a hearty, good-natured pat on the back—worth a good deal of less honest praise—for well-doing or amendment, while many of the books that have been a joy and delight to our fathers and ourselves owe no little of their charm to the same skilful, never-failing pencil."

Among the many works for which he furnished designs were Grimm's *German Popular Stories*, *Mornings at Bow Street*, *Peter Schlemihl*, *Italian Tales*, *Hans of Iceland*, *Tales of Irish Life*, *Punch and Judy*, *Tom Thumb*, *John Gilpin*, *The Epping Hunt*, *Three Courses and a Dessert*, etc., in all of which the humour is irresistibly attractive and charming. In the delineation of swell-mobsmen, co-kneys, and other subjects of London life he was unequalled. Some of his works possessed great tragic force. As specimens of this class may be mentioned several of his illustrations in *Oliver Twist*, and especially "Fagin in the Condemned Cell," "Sykes Calling his Dog," and "Sykes Escaping to the Roof."

Cruikshank was also greatly interested in the temperance movement, and many years ago began to employ his pencil in promoting the cause among the people. "The Bottle" was a series of etchings of a very powerful character, illustrating the drunkard's progress from moderate drinking to mortal excess, and this was followed by a series exhibiting the downward career of the drunkard's children.

This series of sketches pointed out the absolute facts of the drunkard's course and its awful effects, and drew attention most powerfully to one of the greatest evils of the day. Many shuddered at the unexpected and awful spectacle presented to them, while others redoubled their efforts to rescue or save their neighbours from their wretched thralldom. While the world will lavish praise on the Hogarth of his age, some will gladly give the second father of



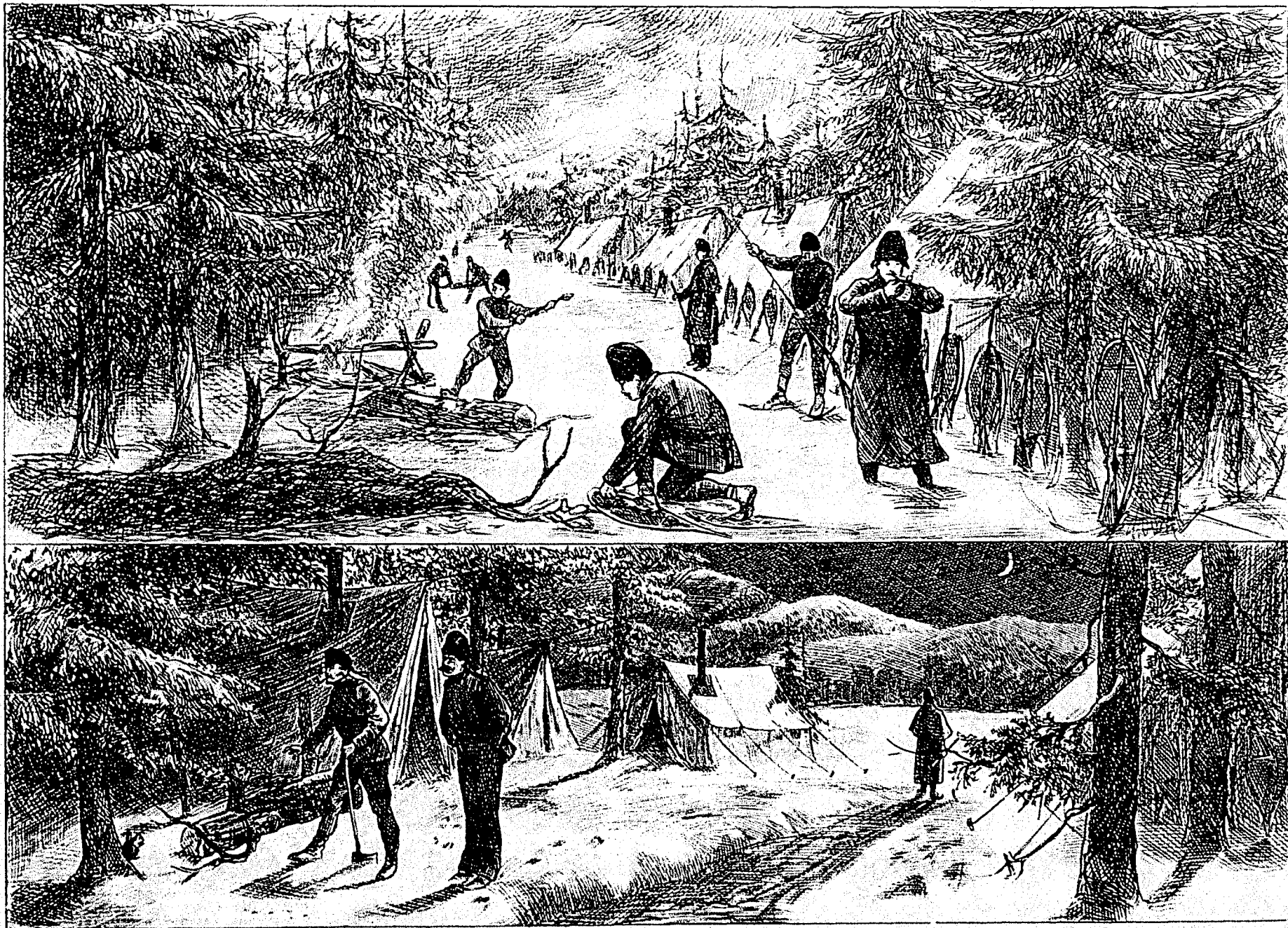
THE LATE GEORGE CRUIKSHANK.

the temperance movement the loving tribute of thanks which he would have still more highly valued in his later years, for the salutary lesson taught by "The Bottle."

Cruikshank was also largely instrumental in doing away with the barbarous punishment of hanging for forgery. One morning many years ago, while taking an early walk, his steps were arrested by seeing a vast crowd collected. On asking the cause of the excitement, he was told, "Oh! five or six women have just been hung." "What was their crime?" "They had issued forged one-pound notes." Poor, miserable, half-starved, untaught wretches, whose days had been spent in "stitch, stitch, stitch," till the moral eyes were blinded in the bitter struggle to live, whatever might be the case with the bodily ones. For them the brave outspoken denunciation, the urgent petition, and the bitterly indignant satire of the wonder-working pencil came too late. But happily these protests had good work to do, and by the efforts of man the law of death for forgery of these notes was abolished.

**A WHALE STORY.**—We have a story from Oakland, Me., that out there on the banks of Newfoundland a whale got entangled in the anchor cable of a schooner in the afternoon, and towed it at the rate of twelve to fifteen knots an hour until nearly midnight, and then broke the cable. The crews of other vessels were astonished to see the schooner moving swiftly past them with no sails and no visible means of propulsion. To find a parallel to this, read Coleridge's "Ancient Mariner."

**A SEVERE PUNISHMENT.**—The following paragraph is going the round of the German papers: "Russian Civilization—An atrocious punishment has been inflicted by the Governor of Kieff, Prince Dundukoff-Korsakoff, on five Polish ladies, for expressing sympathy with the Turks. While the Turkish prisoners were being conveyed through the town, these ladies distributed among the Turkish officers baskets containing wine, cigars and other refreshments. The Russian Governor, under the pretext that nothing had been given to the Russian soldiers forming the escort, ordered these ladies to be taken to a madhouse five versts from Kieff. They were liberated only three days after, and had to perform the journey home on foot. Such is Russian civilization!"



QUEBEC.—WINTER ENCAMPMENT OF "B" BATTERY.—FROM A SKETCH BY GUNNER MORIN.