

ing her character, you can readily understand that she only does so *à la princesse*. I have never seen her guide her own toboggan, a feat seemingly easy enough of accomplishment when you see it done by a Canadian girl, but which, after a trial or two, the lately arrived Briton or American is very shy of undertaking.

Lately there has been built a little log-cabin under the tall natural growth of pines, well off to one side of the Hall. It overlooks the skating rink, and is divided into two rooms, into which the skaters can retire for rest, warmth, or preparation. It is very comfortable, and doubtless serves the purpose for which it was designed, if that purpose was not picturesqueness. It is so hopelessly unlike the genuine log-cabin that one expects to see a stage peasant step out from its door and soliloquize upon its platform. On this platform chairs are arranged for the Princess and distinguished guests to rest and watch the skaters when they do not care to be of them.

For the amusement of the Governor-General and his gentlemen friends there is a fine curling rink, where the lovers of "the roarin' game" very often congregate. Likewise there is a foot-ball and cricket ground for them; but as this is a pre-eminently feminine piece of literature, I decline to go outside of my province, and so say nothing about the entertainments intended only for gentlemen.

Balls are not of very frequent occurrence, but I can assure those who are interested upon that point, that when they are given, they are "perfectly lovely." You are bidden to one two weeks in advance by a card of impressive dimensions, bearing the monogram of the house, and which reads as follows:

The Aide-de-Camp in waiting is commanded by
His Excellency
The Governor-General and Her Royal Highness the
Princess Louise

to invite
Mr. and Mrs. ———
to a Ball on ———,
the ———, at 9 o'clock.

An answer is requested to the A.D.C. in waiting.

On the appointed night the road to New Edinburgh is lined with sleighs, and by the time the gate is reached, so dense is the crowd of vehicles that the remainder of your drive is likely to occupy more time than did that part of it from the city out. Once inside the Hall, the scene

which greets you is indeed charming. Up and down the stairs, along the brilliantly lighted corridors, into the leafy shade of the conservatory, in and out of the several handsome rooms thrown open for the occasion, throng the elegantly dressed guests. The ball-room is packed to suffocation, and it is a terrible pilgrimage to make to the further end, where the Governor-General and the Princess Louise are receiving their guests. When the dancing begins, the pilgrimage becomes an impossibility, and the only thing left for you to do is to gaze hopelessly in their direction. The dressing at one of these grand balls is elegant, and, as a rule, graceful, but when compared with that seen upon a similar occasion at the White House, for instance, is inexpensive. There are handsome silks, satins, and velvets, and a few costly laces, but very few diamonds are to be seen. As a rule, the ladies are *décollétées*, but there are amongst them a good many who are dressed in "the American fashion," as the high-necked full dress is here described.

The ball-room is a large and handsome apartment, occupying the wing to the left of the entrance. The walls are tinted in a soft dark shade, which shows off a brilliantly dressed company to the best advantage. The wood is finished in white and gold, and the window drapery is crimson. On ball nights the tennis-court, in the wing to the right of the entrance, is used for a supper-room. Its walls and ceilings are lined with red and white hunting to simulate a tent. It, as well as the ball-room, was added in Lord Dufferin's administration, and at his request. About midnight the piper is heard piping along the corridor, and the supper-room is thrown open. Into it the vice-regal party lead the way, followed by five or six hundred of their guests, as only about that number can conveniently be served at once. The vice-regal party sit, and the rest stand.

Dinners are far fewer than formerly, and the diners are chosen rather more exclusively. Of course these dinners are the most ceremonious entertainments which take place. The guests enter the reception-room with the right hand bare, although they are not received by the Princess before dinner. She enters just as dinner is announced, and is escorted to the table by the gentleman who takes rank amongst the guests, the Marquis of-