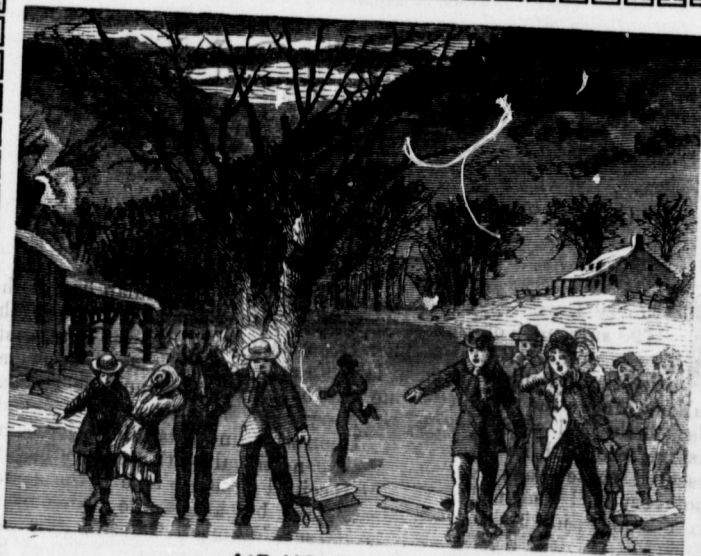




AIR HOLE—Whitney.

JANUARY.

The first month of the year derives its name from Janus, an old Latin divinity with two faces, a characteristic not very uncommon with little gods and men of the present day. This individual was held in great esteem by the early Romans, who invoked his name upon all great occasions, and the more pious prayed to him every morning. In his honor, on New Year's day the people dressed in holiday attire, met each other kindly, and made presents of sweetmeats, honey, cakes and fruits. January was held sacred to his name, and was added to the Calendar by Numa, the second King of Rome, sometime about 251 B. C.

FESTIVALS.

EPIPHANY, OR TWELFTH DAY—6th January—was originally a festival in vogue amongst the heathen Greeks. In the Christian Church it is now held in commemoration of the manifestation of Christ to the Gentiles. Prior to 813 the festival was coupled with the Feast of the Nativity. Twelfth Day is observed as a scarlet day at Oxford and Cambridge, and is a legal holiday in Quebec. In English olden times its character as a festival was only inferior to Christmas, and many old customs were observed in connection therewith—King of the Bean, &c.

WEATHER NOTES.

From observations extending over a period of forty years it is shown that this month is the coldest of the year. Snow also falls oftener, although in less quantity than in February, and the weather changes deviate more widely. Its average temperature for the period named has been about 23°.

BIRD ARRIVALS—The Shore Lark and Hudsonian Chickadee.