

wrap ourselves in our warm, woollen coats, and donning our buffalo coats, fur caps, and gloves, we prepare for a drive into the country. The fat, sleek horse, just from his warm stable, harnessed to the tasteful cutter, well furnished with furry robes, is driven to the door, where he stands, arching his fair neck, tossing his head, jingling his bells, and pawing to be off. We step in, and off we are with a dash. We pass out into one of the main streets of the city, and all is activity around us. Numerous sleighs are gliding past us in all directions; while busy pedestrians are hurrying along, croneching the snow beneath their feet. "Which way do you drive?" Our route lies through a fine agricultural settlement; but our journey will be extended, ere it ends, quite into the "bush." See, by turning this corner we clear the city, and after passing through this scattered suburb, we gain the country. Fortunately for us, we are travelling south, for the first two or three hours, we have the sun to warm our noses. We may well dispense with the noxious cigar, as we shall with the strong potations for which it creates a thirst. How spotless the snow that covers both field and forest, and almost buries house and hovel, and makes the fences a sort of Chinese wall around each farm and field. Its whole surface sparkles like a pavement of diamonds, while the crystals that depend from every twig of these ornamental and shade trees far out-rival every exhibition of art. How ornamental the icicles which droop from the eaves of those cozy pent-houses to form the front of so many of the country homesteads. That ridge of highlands to the right of us, assuming almost mountainous proportions in some parts of the chain, forms a noble object for the eye to rest upon, while it breaks off the north-westerly wind, which we would otherwise find very cutting. The frozen surface of yonder placid river to our left, widening in some places to the dimensions of a lake, forms a pretty example of quiet beauty. These undulations of the road give that agreeable diversity of gliding movement, which constitute one of the peculiar charms of sleigh-riding beside diversifying the scene.

"That was a kind reception we received from that picus family with whom we stopped to dinner." Yes, their's is a hearty hospitality; and their tasteful and well-crowned table is an example of the abundance in which our well-to-do Canadian farmers luxuriate. "But since we came out, I perceive we have lost sight of the sun—the sky is quite overcast." Yes, we shall have a fall of snow before very long; yesterday and the day before so very fine, were what the people call "weather-breeders." Indeed, it begins to snow already. See, how noiselessly and uniformly it sifts down! It has been snowing faster the last half hour. The flakes are getting much larger. They are assuming the appearance of round,