

# G. DWYER, K.W.

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## CHAPTER I.

**T**his February of the year 1887. The long dining room of the Russell House, Ottawa, is gaily decorated with many colored bunting and festoons of flowers. To the right of the entrance is an elevated platform over which several Union Jacks are draped, and at the opposite end of the room is a little balcony occupied at present by about twenty persons, guests of the hotel, who are looking on the brilliant scene below.

About two hundred and fifty of the sons and daughters of fair Canada's young capital have accepted an invitation to an "At Home" extended by the members of "The Taché Hill Tobogganing Club" to their friends, and are chasing care with flying feet. The sweet strains from Magillicuddie's Orchestra, the subdued light glancing down through variously tinted lustres on beautiful women and handsome men, the lovely evening dresses of the ladies contrasting pleasingly with the severe elegance of the gentlemen's full-