

## OUR LITERARY AND MUTUAL IMPROVEMENT SOCIETY.

### CANADIAN WINTER AND WINTER SPORTS.

CHARLES COLES. Age 23. Party, June '89.

Canada is blessed with one of the finest climates in the world, and although it goes to extremes, both in summer and winter, it is one of the healthiest and most enjoyable to be found anywhere.

Winter in Canada is a season of ice and snow, when the "North King," with its icy chains and wintry blasts, holds everything bound within its chilly embrace. Among the grandest scenic representations of Canadian winter is mighty Niagara, when it is subdued by the great "Ice King," as in the winter of 1894-5, when artists and tourists from all over the world came to view one of the most imposing and sublime creations of the Master's hand.

The strange shapes assumed by snow and mist are continually changing, and each hour adds to the beauty of the scene. The view from Prospect Park is entrancingly beautiful, and recalls the lines from Lovell:

"Every pine, and fir and hemlock,  
Wore ermine too dear for an earl.  
And the poorest twig on the elm tree,  
Was ridged inch deep with pearl."

Among other remarkable features of Canadian winter is the wonderful transparency of the air, which makes things a great distance away appear far nearer than they really are. The sun shines with a brilliancy which is scarcely surpassed in any other country.

The contrast between two or more succeeding days is sometimes very great. One day the snow will be falling heavily, accompanied by a strong, biting wind, which blows the snow in winding sheets in every direction. To go out on such a day is very uncomfortable; making one wish for the bright warm days of spring. The next day will be one of those exquisite days, which generally come after a storm; when the air is still and frosty, and the sun is shining brilliantly on the pure white, untrodden snow, making it almost painfully dazzling to the eyes.

What can be more enjoyable than to go for a long drive behind a fleet-footed team with the sleigh-bells jingling merrily all the way.

Among winter sports in Canada, in my opinion, tobogganing ranks first. It is the nearest approach to flying one can find. It is a very exciting pastime, and as you glide down the steep incline you have the sensation of going to a smash-up, but before the smash-up comes, the toboggan slackens speed as gently as it started.

Skating is another popular pastime, and can be enjoyed for weeks at a time. It is a very pretty sight, on a clear moonlight night, to watch the graceful movements of the skaters as they glide over the smooth surface of lake or river.

Other sports, such as curling, hockey, ice-boating, and others, might be described, but space will not allow. Suffice it to say, that in no other country under the sun can the winter be more thoroughly enjoyed than in Canada.

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### WINTER AND WINTER SPORTS IN CANADA.

GEO. A. GILDERSON, Age 24. Party, April '90.

The winters of Canada are very cold compared with England. Canada is the home of the Snow King. In no other country do the people—all classes, ages and sexes—engage so extensively in outdoor sports as do the Canadians during this season. With them, winter is the time for amusement, and none know better how to take advantage of it. The people of Montreal surpass all others in their zeal for winter sports.

The first snowfall acts as an intoxicant. Business is neglected and everyone goes mad. The streets are gay with life. The crunching of snow, the jingle of sleigh bells, and shouts and merry peals of laughter fill the air. The whole population seems to be out of doors. Everyone belongs to a snowshoe or toboggan club, and hastens to join his friends in the exhilarating sport. The hills were formerly the tobogganing slides, but as there were too few of these for all, someone introduced the Russian plan of erecting a high wooden structure, up one side of

which the toboggan is dragged, and down the other side the tobogganist shoots with frightful rapidity.

The toboggan is a thin strip of wood, about 2 feet wide, and 6 or 8 feet in length, curled up in front to throw off the snow. Upon this a well-padded cushion or buffalo skin is fastened, and the result is a toboggan of luxury. Some hold but one person, others are long enough for a dozen or more.

Having climbed to the top of the slide, the party prepares to descend. The party are seated one behind the other, the steerer last, ready either with hand or with foot to guide the erratic craft.

Letting go their hold, with the swoop of an eagle, down they rush at the rate of twenty miles an hour. Some of the slides are very steep and look dangerous.

Sometimes there is a spill; the toboggan is ill-balanced; and in a moment the whole party is sent flying in all directions, but not much harm is done. There is a good deal of laughter at this mishap and much brushing off of snow.

At nights the tracks are illuminated. Hundreds of Chinese lanterns dot the trees, or hang in festoons, while the long course is outlined with flaming torches, and a monster bonfire is kept burning near by.

The enlivening strains of a military band make complete charm.

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### OUR WINTER WORK.

LEVI BONE, Age 21. Party, June '88.

Well, here in the south-west of Ontario, Kent County, we have varied work in winter. For instance—January 6, ploughing; January 7, froze so hard we could go anywhere on ploughed land with waggon and load. Tomorrow, all being well, I shall be helping neighbour King threshing, and then cutting wood, with chores intermixed, and an occasional jaunt to town; making corn husk mattresses on stormy days, and in fact we do all kinds of work here in winter. We steal, as they say here, all the ploughing we can in the open weather, so as to help on in spring. Hoping that more of our boys will write, if only short, for UPS AND DOWNS, I conclude with best wishes for our Barnardo Boys.

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### MY WINTER WORK IN CANADA.

ALFRED JOLLEY. Age 20. Party, June, '90.

I have worked on the farm this last few winters. My work is as follows:

We generally rise about six o'clock; go to the stables feed the stock, and clean out the stables. This takes about an hour. We then come in to breakfast, and when over, we go and water the horses and harness them, if we are going to use them. If we are not going to use the horses, we either split wood at the house or clean grain for chop or sale, or go to the bush and saw wood or logs till about a quarter to twelve, and then come home and have dinner.

After dinner we feed the horses and pigs and water and feed the cattle, and away to work again. It takes about an hour to do the chores at noon. We work till about dark and then come home and have supper.

After supper the women go and milk; after they are done, we go and feed for the night. We are generally done about half-past seven or eight o'clock.

If we are working the horses, it is for to take grain to the mill for chop or sale, or to draw wood to the house or town, or to cut straw or draw logs. One of us work the horses and the other do the chores and fill the spare time splitting wood and putting it in the shed.

We go through this routine of work from the last of November till about the middle of March, except when the snow gets too deep.

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### MY OPINION OF WINTER AND WINTER SPORTS IN CANADA.

HARRY BOBBINS. Age 14. Party, July, '94.

Winter is the coldest season of the year. This winter so far has not been so severe as it has been in former years since I have been in Canada. The winter will seem very short after such a long spell of mild weather. In the winter there is not so much work to do. My

favourite winter game is football. It is a very exciting game. I have seen a game played in England between two counties. It is very interesting to watch a football match. The men get in their position and play in order. Skating is another winter pastime. When you go to town you can see groups of boys with skates in their hands going to the river to skate. Small as well as big enjoy this sport; it is a game you will not get cold while playing. I have never learned to skate yet. Sleigh riding is good fun in the winter time. There is a fine hill here at Port Albert, on which the boys get their sleighs and go from top to bottom.

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### EARNING A CAPITAL.

SELECTION CONTRIBUTED BY

ALFRED HODGES. Age 14. Party, July '94.

"Young men amongst us generally have to earn their capital, if they ever have any. It is not governed by the amount of wages or profit, but by the difference between earnings and spendings. The principle of savings has first to be established, and its beginning often tests the grit of a young man more than temptations to do wrong. He should have learned that money is only safely and surely gotten by work at least, by toil often, by drudgery frequently, and his life will turn for worth or worthlessness, as he regards the days of small things. Our country is accumulating capital fast, and the good, competent boys of correct habits, who have learned the value of a dollar by saving a penny, will get the use of what they need of it. Too many, however, despise work, shirk from toil, and in no emergency would be the drudge when these are the crucibles that try the gold in a fellow. Ownership of land in future does not promise enhanced values at such rapid rates as in the past, while good farming promises abundantly. With the young person everything turns on the habits of industry. I am not considering anything but this one distinction, for no matter how pleasant, temperate, or honest a boy may be, if he shuns labour, he is not worth the powder to blow him up. The struggle for the front will be greater; the fortune will favour the frugal. But he who accomplishes most will learn soonest to save a dollar if he has to sweat for it, and he who fails will keep the sidewalk. Wealth in the future will come from scientific knowledge of some industrial pursuit begun in early life and pursued with all the energy of careful men. The biography faithfully pictured of our unfortunates who fail would be quite salutary and suggestive, and why a man went to the poor-house would be quite as valuable family reading as how another man went to the Senate."

### "DR. BARNARDO'S BOYS' HOME,"

STEPNEY CAUSEWAY.

### MID-WINTER CONCERT

By Boys of the Band, Choir, and Evening School,  
held 14th December, 1896.

Mr. Fowler presided.

#### PART I.

1. Selection... Marche aux Flambeaux... String Band.
2. Recitation... "Baby's Cry"... Wm. Bowden.
3. Part Song... "Let the Hills Resound"... Choir.
4. Duet... {Trombone and Cornet}... E. Penfold.  
"The Song you Sang"... A. Cheesman.
5. Song... "Jumbo and Jimbo"... John Bowles.
6. Recitation... "Wives of Brixham"... Chas. Hall.
7. Song... "The Little Hero"... D. Nicol Smith.
8. Gavotte... "La Marquise"... String Band.
9. Song... "Waves of Sound"...
10. Recitation... "Dear Mother England"... Tom Duffy.

#### PART II.

1. Selection... "Marche Bohemienne"... String Band.
2. Song... "The Minstrel Boy"... {G. Tepper.  
E. Graham.
3. Recitation... "The Combat"... Alf. Cheesman.
4. Duet... {Euphonium and cornet...} B. Hartican.  
"Love's Old, Sweet Song"... A. Cheesman.
5. Part Song... "Out in the Frosty Air"... Choir.
6. Recitation... "John Maynard"... Tom Sanders.
7. Song... "Dear Mother England"...  
A. E. Allen, G. Tepper, A. Bowen.
8. Duet... {Flute and Clarinet...} S. Adams.  
"Lo! Here the Gentle Lark"... W. C. Jones.
9. Part Song... "Whistling Farmer Boy"... Choir.
10. National Anthem...