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take centuries to stamp out this power ful national individuality. At Helsingfors, for example, a stranger might imagine himself to be in Germany or Austria, or even Switzerland, but not within many hundred miles of St. Petersburg, of which there is nothing reminiscent except the uniform of the soldiery. The Finns, indeed, exclude Russians in

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Helsingfors as far as possible from all their social entertainments. "It is even whispered," adds the author, "that at a ball recently given by the Governor of Finland, General Bobrikoff, on the occasion of his daughter's birthday, that young lady was compelled to sit out the whole evening, and eventually retired in tears from the ballroom." That was, perhaps, carrying racial hatred a little too far. On the other hand, the author notes that not once in all his travels through Finland did he hear a disparaging comment on Nicholas II.

Winter, it seems, is the time to enjoy a visit to the Frenchmen of the North. Helsingfors is then at its best, and sledge parties, ski contests, skating competitions, trotting races on the ice, occupy the day, while the evenings are devoted to dances and supper parties, music, and the theatre. "In Finland," writes the author, "skating is a national pastime, although you may travel in winter throughout Russia in every direction, and never see a pair of skates. The Helsingfors rink is the finest in the world, and, according to M---, when a night's fete is held, and thousands of people meet under the stars to skate in a blaze of electric light, to exhilarating dance music, the scene must indeed be novel and enchanting." Ice-boating, too, is a favorite winter sport of the Finns.

Women in Finland, as in France, take an important part in the life-work of their country, and are frequently employed in the Government service: "Go into a bank or railway station, and your cheque is generally cashed or ticket handed you by a female clerk. In the agricultural districts, women work quite as hard as men in the fields, and in the towns are often seen sweeping the streets. Many are even employed as stonemasons and carpenters. Indeed, there is hardly any kind of manual labour that a Finnish woman will not turn her hand to, or any profession from which she is debarred, save, perhaps, the Army and the Church. And, in Finland, at least, she generally succeeds admirably in her business undertakings, from the keeping of a ledger to the roofing of a house." The author is careful to add that, in spite of the variety of her services, the Finnish woman preserves all the refinement and charm of her sex.

Energy seems to be the predominant characteristic of men and women alike. The author was sitting down to a very early lunch with an aged professor, when he suddenly exclaimed, "Hango is a place you ought to see. We will go to Hango." Even Mr. Harry De Windt was mildly astonished: "It was precisely as though a friend in London had suggested a little dinner at Richmond, and abruptly abandoned it in favor of a trip to York!" In this one respect-indifference to time and distance—the Finlander resembles the Russian. In both Russia and Finland the virility of the aged is astonishing: "Here, for instance, was this portly Professor, a man well on in the sixties, eager to embark on a long and fatiguing journey at a moment's notice (and without luggage), with all the exuberance of a boy of sixteen, and I have met Siberian octogenarians who thought nothing of three or four days in a sleigh, in an Arctic temperature, with nothing to subsist upon but some gritty black bread and a few glasses of

The Finlander is a great reader, and booksellers abound in his country. Translations of English novels appear to be popular: "I gleaned that translations of the works of Mr. Anthony Hope had the readiest sale, but that those of Mr. Kipling were not appreciated by the reading public. Perhaps 'Pro-Boerism' had something to do with this. At any rate, the immortal Dickens always holds his own, and of American authors Mark Twain is the most popular." The literature of the Finns is still undeveloped, and the author of this book admits that .. would be difficult to name a great prose-writer born and bred in Finland. The poet Runeberg, however, is famous all over the world. Mr. De Windt concludes his stimulating appreciation of this little-known country by urging Englishmen who are looking for health or sport, or other forms of pleasure, at a moderate cost, to visit the Frenchmen of the North .- [T. P.'s Weekly.

