

# SUNBEAM

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## SNOW-SHOEING IN CANADA.

For travelling in deep snow, the snow-shoe, either as manufactured by the Indian or as made in some foreign countries, has become with its owner almost a necessity, and its use in snow-shoeing sports, even in our own country, is gaining in popularity every year. It

may be that some of our readers have never seen so much as the picture of snow-shoes, while others have sported with them many an hour over the drifted fields. In either case, we think you will be interested in some things about them, reprinted from *Harper's Young People*. The writer says:

"Three things have the 'red children of the forest' given to the white children of the cities, which are so perfect in their way that it is hardly possible there will ever be an invention filed in the pigeon-holes of the Patent Office at Washington that will surpass them. The canoe for shallow water and what might be called cross-country navigation, the toboggan, and the snow-shoe for deep snow, seem to be the very crown of human ingenuity, even though they are only the devices of ignorant Indians. One cannot help a feeling of hearty admiration when looking at them, and noting how perfectly they fulfil the purpose for which they were designed, and are at the same time as light, graceful, and artistic in form and fashion as the most fin-

ished work of highly-civilized folk. To the Indian the canoe, the snow-shoe, and the toboggan were as important implements as the spade, the plough, and the rake are to the farmer. Without them he could not in winter-time have roamed the snow-buried forests, whose recesses sup-

plied his table, or voyaged in the summertime upon the broad rivers and swift-running streams, whose bountiful waters furnished him their ready toll of fish. His white brother has, in adopting them, put them to a different use. He had no particular need for them in his work, but

he was quick to see how they would help him in his play, and ere long they had all three become favourite means of sport and recreation.

"In the States and in Canada the shoes are made in many shapes and of many sizes, ranging from two to six feet in

length, and from ten to twenty inches in breadth. This is how they make a shoe of three feet six inches, which is a fair average size: A piece of light ash about half an inch thick, and at least ninety inches in length, is bent to a long oval until the two ends touch, when they are lashed strongly together with catgut. Two strips of tough wood about an inch broad are then fitted across this frame, one placed about five inches from the curving top, the other some twenty inches from the tapering end. The object of these strips is to give both strength and spring to the shoe. The three sections into which the interior of the frame has thus been divided are then woven across with catgut, each having a different degree of fineness in the mesh, the top section being



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very fine, the middle section, upon which almost the whole strain comes, coarse and strong, and the end section a medium grade between the other two. The gut in the middle section is wound right around the framework for the sake of greater strength, but in the other two is threaded

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