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### PREFACE.

In presenting this little work upon tobogganing we do so in the belief that it will not only be of interest but of practical value to those desirous of participating in this most exhilarating and enjoyable of all winter sports throughout the North. Until within the past two or three years tobogganing has been in vogue only in Canada and in a few New England States where the hilly character of the country afforded many natural slides to lovers of the sport. In Russia, however, tobogganing had long been a popular pastime, notwithstanding the fact that a large part of that country is as flat and unbroken as are the prairie lands of Illinois. This inconsiderate omission upon the part of nature the Russians overcome by building artificial slides, and the example was soon followed in several Canadian cities, it being found that the artificial slides were superior to the natural in many respects. Since the winter of 1884, when a now celebrated slide was erected at Saratoga, tobogganing over artificial slides has rapidly grown in popularity in the United States, and the gaily costumed tobogganer at the Ice Palace Carnival in St. Paul last winter was among the most conspicuous and numerous of the revelers there. Last winter