

fused permission to go. I was still too weak, the doctor said, to venture out, and the excitement would militate against my recovery. So it was thought wisest for me to remain where I was.

On Christmas Day, however, our visitors came again to see us, in company with some other ladies who had just arrived out from England. Christmas cards were distributed by the ladies to all the patients, and with a kind thoughtfulness exceedingly appropriate, I think, her Ladyship had selected one with a snow-clad winter scene for her Canadian protégé. It will, perhaps, be needless to remark that he still retains and prizes that little card very much.

I am proud and delighted to have the opportunity here of proclaiming to my countrymen the kindness of Lady Dufferin and her daughter, not only to myself but to a great many others of Sir Archibald Alison's army. It was so good of her to devote her time and attention to us. Many ladies of culture and high rank would have disdained trooping through hospital wards among common soldiers, or, at most, would have contented themselves with an occasional visit and hurried glance over the rows of beds, escorted most likely by the principal medical officer or some of the chief surgeons or officers, who would, of course, make a point of sparing them the worst cases. Not so Lady Dufferin and her daughter. Every other afternoon her carriage came to the Citadel with its load of books, papers, fruit, cut flowers, roses, &c. They came around and chatted, and, in a quiet, inostentatious, motherly and sisterly way with a kind word here, and enquiry there; and many were the expressions of gratitude sent after them by the rough and ready soldiers of the rank and file, ebbing away their lives for Britain in the ancient land of the Pharaohs.

The Canadians who still recollect Lord and Lady Dufferin's stay among us, this statement of the latter's attention to the sick soldiers of the Expeditionary Force and Army of Occupation will, I feel positive, give much satisfaction. Her Ladyship is not one to do for the purpose of being seen or talked of, and all the more for this reason does the writer feel pleasure in being the poor means of bringing to the notice of his countrymen the attention and kindness of her Ladyship to one of their number when abroad among strangers serving the interests of the Empire.

CHARLES F. WINTER.



Snowshoeing seems to be fast regaining its old-time vigour and there are a great many people who last year did their tramping wrapped up in Buffalo robes who are now donning the shoes. In numbers the old Tuque Blue are at the head of the list and they always manage to have a good representation on the road, even when it is a long tramp to the Back River; thirty-two all up for a Saturday afternoon is a pretty good showing. The St. George men have been having splendid entertainments at their club house, which has always been crowded, but the red cross men have seemed adverse to walking out when sleighs were to be obtained. The veterans' tramp on Saturday afternoon was a decided improvement and the turn-out was as large as could be looked for, both the walking and riding contingent being there in force. It will be remembered that at the annual meeting of the St. George club the organization of a junior club was discussed, and after a good deal of talk was shelved for the time being. The arguments used in favour of the scheme were to the effect that nearly all the red cross men were getting pretty old now and that they wanted some new blood to take part in the active work of tramping and snowshoe racing. In other words, it would be a good thing to uphold the honour of the club in athletics, but a junior body was necessary to provide material from which to draw. It seems as if the idea properly thought out would be a good one; because there would be no reason whatever why the two organizations should clash. One or two evenings or afternoons a week the use of the club house could be had by the juniors, who in this way would not interfere with the fixtures of the elder knights. The matter may be worth consideration and perhaps more would be done if the movers in the matter would elaborate their scheme and have it discussed at some of the meetings.

The other snowshoe clubs are also showing signs of healthy progress, the Argyles being particularly ambitious, while the Hollis, Crescents, Lachine, Garrison, Canadian and Emeralds are well up on the road too. The Montreal men have laid out a big programme for the holidays. On Christmas eve the usual tramp will be made headed by the Indian band, and on the return a visit will be paid to the last resting place of "Old Evergreen." Then on Christmas morning there will be a hockey match, 12 aside, played on the open-air rink. When it is remembered that the ice is three times the area of the Victoria rink, it will immediately be seen what a chance there will be for brilliant runs. It will be hockey as is hockey and the best skater will make the best showing. It will be a good appetizer for a Christmas dinner, too.

At the Athletic Club House there are not only the sounds of revelry by night, but there are also the sharp bang of the

shotgun or the crack of the rifle during most of the day. The Club House is gradually becoming more appreciated and it is only necessary that the public should become acquainted with the amusements of the place to make it a genuinely popular resort. Turkey shoots have been the rage for the past week and many excellent scores were made with the rifle. All next week there will be a handicap trap shooting competition at twenty blue rocks and the younger shots are expected to turn out in force. The contest will close on New Year's Day. There is still another feature which the management have had under consideration for some time past and that is to give some sort of a stimulus to snowshoe racing, and, if possible, revive the days when record breakers were doing their work over the mountain and across the country. About the middle of next month a fine gold medal will be offered for a steeplechase, open to all clubs. As it is likewise probable that each club whose members compete will add a prize there ought to be such a turn out as would put one in mind of old times.

On Saturday the Park slide was opened for the season, and although the weather previously had not been the best in the world to get a slide in order, all the difficulties were overcome and the chute was in splendid condition. To judge from the success attending the opening, it would appear that all that is necessary to have the old-time interest taken in this sport is to have just such a hard-working committee as the club at present has.

The Ottawa Bowling team were a little unfortunate in their visit to Montreal, as both their matches were lost; but everybody cannot win, and then Ottawa had things pretty much her own way when the Vics were at the Capital. In the opening competition the M.A.A.A. team had much the best of the play, only one man on the visiting team equaling the lowest figure of the Montreal men, while for steady bowling Higginson carried off the honours with an average of 180%. In the second competition with the Victoria Rifles the defeat was not so marked, but still the home men had a majority of 114 points, the score being: Victoria Rifles 2,938; Ottawa A. C., 2,822. But if the men from the Capital did not carry away the laurel wreath with them they did take away a large lump of pleasant reminiscences, and their drive to the Back River, as the guests of the Montreal Snowshoe Club, will not be among the things to be forgotten.

There is some talk about an open skating meeting in Halifax under the auspices of the Maritime Provinces Athletic Association, and if such a meeting takes place the Haligonians need not expect to have everything their own way. I have just received a letter from a Halifax friend, in which he states that Carroll, of Pictou, N.S., will certainly compete. Gordon, of Montreal, is also expected to be on the ice, and nobody would be surprised to see Eddy Irwin again in the ring, and if proper arrangements could be made Lavasseur might also take part. That would be a pretty strong contingent to represent Montreal. Patterson, of Dartmouth, is also among the list of probable competitors, and these men would altogether make the contest a decidedly interesting one. It is to be hoped that the Maritime A. A. A. will stick to its first good resolution and give the meeting, because amateur skating can stand a great deal of improvement in Canada just now. Among the professionals the talk is confined to the coming races of Laidlaw and McCormick, three having been so far arranged. The first takes place in St. John, N.B., on December 26 and the second in Halifax on January 2. But the public are not taking much stock in professional races just now, last season's work in Minnesota having put a very effectual damper on any over-exuberant admiration there was lying about loose. In the meantime, the Canadian Amateur Skating Association can find plenty to do, especially if it is desired to take not merely a passive legislative interest but an active one in the sport.

Notwithstanding the amalgamation, or rather the absorption, of the Manhattan Club into the A. A. U., there is still no love lost between the two rival associations of New York, and recent events go to prove that when the athletics of either organization are to be hauled over the coals there will always be found some willing in the other club to stir up the fire and make things as pleasant as possible. One instance of this sort happened recently and culminated in charges of professionalism against Queckberner, Copeland and Mitchell. And these charges were made, too, on the strength of an anonymous letter which the accusing club has not been able to substantiate. There is very little doubt in the minds of those who pay attention to athletes that the true spirit of amateurism is very much sinned against by both clubs, and while Mr. McKinley's bill has not put a prohibition duty on imported amateur athletic talent, it is to be supposed that they will still travel in the old groove, and the mote will be plainly perceptible, while the beam is out of sight.

The curlers are just getting into shape for the hard work of the season, and soon all the rinks will be busy with the friendly and other matches. The Montreal Club has already been challenged for the Quebec cup by the Thistles, and the Ottawa Club will also be heard from shortly after, no matter whom victory in the first match attends. That was an exciting match, too, between the

Golfers and Thistles at the Thistle rink, when the latter were victorious by a majority of 9 points.

Professional championships of the world are always difficult things to get around, especially when a claimant for any of them is looking for some free advertising, which he generally manages to get with the aid of a sensational daily press, to whose news mill everything is grist that comes along. The sculling championship is a case in point, and, since the untimely death of Searle, has been a most convenient vehicle for ambitious scullers to air their views and their claims in. The Canadian champion went to the Antipodes in search of that title and some Australian shekels, and returned home without either of them, sadder maybe and wiser, but not satisfied. Peter Kemp still stood in his way, and as there was no probability of any more Canadians or Americans crossing the Pacific in the near future, the astute oarsmen from the Kangaroo country thought they would come to America and give O'Connor a race for the championship on this side of the Pacific. This was all very well as far as it went, and deposits were placed to bind the match; but an unlooked for emergency arose. Kemp had a race, presumably for the championship, with Mr. McLean, and the former was beaten. This left Kemp out in the cold, as far as his match with the Canadian was concerned, and without making any disagreeable remarks he forfeited his deposit to O'Connor; but this forfeiture does not carry with it any title to the championship. In the meantime, one John Teemer, of McKeesport, Penn., who always has an eye for the main chance, discovers a way of turning an honest penny by disappearing from his usual haunts and attempting to be on hand when the steamer carrying Kemp gets into San Francisco. But the best laid plans of oarsmen and others sometimes fall a little short. A man with Teemer's appetite for notoriety had to discover himself, and his attempt to be a little previous to O'Connor was its own undoing. It would have been very pretty, indeed, if by any chance Teemer beat Kemp in a first match; he would then have bobbed up serenely and claimed a championship. But as it is now, Mr. Teemer can do a little more hide-and-go-seek. He likes it, and it amuses the public, and, of course, there is no harm done.

There is such rivalry among the crack billiardists just now that before long many extra attractions may be looked for. One of the latest moves is an idea of Slosson's, and the "student" is at present in negotiation with one of the Parisian marvels, Lucien Piot, who will probably soon be astonishing the frequenters of Slosson's palatial billiard rooms. The proposed big handicap in France has fallen through, as far as the Americans were concerned. There was not enough money in it for them.

There promises to be an unusually lively time on the trotting tracks this winter, and Montreal will have her full share as well as Ottawa. About the middle of January the Montreal Driving Park at Point St. Charles will give a three-days' meeting, and purses to the amount of \$1,500 will be hung out. This meeting will be followed by one on the river track, which has just been laid out, and then Ottawa and Hull will come in for their share of attention. Four such meetings as these will keep trotting men busy and help pay the winter's feed. The Driving Park management intends to have a race meeting every week, and will begin on Christmas day.

R. O. X.

The First Christmas.

Et incarnatus est de spiritu sancto ex Mariâ Virgine, et Homo factus est.

The sun has sunk behind the hills,
The birds and beasts have gone to rest,
The murmur of the ocean trills
A lullaby to heaven addressed.

The solemn midnight hour creeps on,
The world is hushed in slumber sweet,
When lo! a heavenly radiance shone
Upon the shepherds with their sheep.

Ten thousand harps of music bright
Are touched as by the hand of one,
A quivering thrill of pure delight
Steals o'er the earth, as doth the sun.

What means this pure ecstatic theme
That from the lips of angels flow?
Why thus their glorious faces beam
With brilliance of celestial glow?

It is a message strange they sing,
These spotless souls in garments white,
The message that the Heavenly King
In Bethlehem is born to-night.

Hush! softly tread, and peep within
The cot where yonder sweetly lies
The Blessed Babe, the Saviour King,
The Ruler of the Earth and Skies.

O blessed calm to rest beneath
The roof where heaven and earth are one.
Come, let us with the angels wreathe
A garland for the Virgin's Son.

Dec. 1890.

A. G. DOUGHTY.