

A blacksmith had a prentice boy,
Who lagged at work the last;
But when it came to dinner time
He hurried precious fast.
The first to greet the smoking meat,
The last to come away,
There was no one to equal him
At that work any day.

Look here, my boy, the master cried,
I cannot understand
How you can eat so very fast
Who are so slow a hand.
As men do work, so men should eat,
But you no rule pursue;
For never man ate half so fast
Or toiled so slow as you.

That's right enough, the boy replied;
The measure I'll display;
The dinner takes but half an hour—
The work takes all the day.
If you'll give me ten hours to eat,
The bargain I'll not shirk,
But wait as much time on my meat
As now I waste at work.

Methodist District Meeting.

The ministers of this district, assembled for the regular May district meeting in the Wall street church on Tuesday morning. Rev. T. G. Williams, presided, and Rev. D. C. Sanderson and A. G. Robertson, acted as secretary and asst.-secretary respectively. Besides these gentlemen there were present Revs. S. Card, S. Might, G. Forsey, T. Chisholm, G. A. Gifford, M. A.; C. A. Bland, B. A.; W. Blair, B. A.; W. Craig, W. G. Henderson, W. Smith, W. Service, J. Simpson, W. Raney, S. D. Chown, H. Krupp, W. Barnett, A. Short and J. H. Andrews.

During the afternoon and evening a great deal of business pertaining to church matters was transacted. With regard to probation the following was done: The Rev. W. G. Henderson was recommended for full ordination. Rev. C. A. Bland received a first-class certificate with honors on second year's course of examination, and was continued on trial. Messrs. D. T. Cummings, of Augusta, and Harper Coates were received as candidates for the ministry. The ministers recommended for superannuation are Revs. S. Might, Henry Shaler, Henry Lane, and N. H. Howard.

On Monday morning the lay representatives from the circuits assembled with the ministers at ten o'clock. Returns of membership, and connexional and circuit finances, were reviewed and found to be very satisfactory.

Wednesday afternoon, the annual spring meeting of the ministers and lay delegates of the Brockville district closed. At the meeting of that day and the day before, business of considerable importance was transacted, and the labor performed has been by no means little. In a few days, the Montreal Conference of the Methodist church will assemble at Kingston. Much of the work done at the district meeting will come up before the conference in the shape of reports, compiled statistics, &c. The district meeting is to a great extent, a means of lessening the work to be done at the conference.

A number of changes will doubtless be made at the coming session of conference in the location of the ministers now

stationed within the confines of the Brockville district. Methodist ministers are, in a way, nomadic. The rules of the church allow a minister to remain no longer than three years on a circuit, and often, the term is shortened. This year, the esteemed district superintendent and pastor of the Wall street church, Rev. T. G. Williams, will have to remove to another station, much to the regret of his congregation. Wednesday afternoon the assembled ministers and laymen after many expressions of admiration and regret, unanimously passed the following resolution:—

Moved by Rev. S. D. Chown and seconded by Rev. H. Service, "That this district meeting expresses its hearty appreciation of the extremely urbane and efficient manner with which the Rev. T. G. Williams, district superintendent of the Brockville district, has filled the chair during the last five years."

All the ministers stationed within the district are entitled to attend the meeting of the conference, and the following have been appointed lay delegates:—

- Brockville, Dr. Vaux, M. White, T. Cook,
- Prescott, J. E. Coates, R. W. Hill-yard.
- Spencerville, W. J. Bennett.
- Farmersville, R. Arnold.
- Mallorytown, E. Purvis, J. Avery.
- Augusta, J. N. Bass.
- North Augusta, Chas. Johnston.
- Maitland, James Bissell.
- Lyn, W. Shipman, J. Gilroy.
- Delta, W. Bell, A. Coleman.]
- Elgin, N. A. Kennedy, W. Topping.
- Bishop's Mills, R. Keegan.
- Addison, C. Stowell.
- Toledo, R. Crummy.
- Lansdowne, John Redmond, R. McCullough.
- Kemptville, H. A. Liffiton.
- Oxford Mills, Jno. Johnston.
- Rev. Mr. Blair, was appointed to represent Brockville District on the Stationing Committee, and Rev. S. D. Chown, on the Sunday School Committee. Jas. Bissell, Esq., was elected a member of the Conference Missionary Board.

Sing Instead of Smoke.

[Free Press.]

Among those who want men to stop poisoning the air around them is Professor Blackie, who recommends Scotch songs as a substitute for tobacco. This somewhat alarming suggestion was made in the course of a "concert lecture" at Manchester. "How people," he said, "can get through their idle hours I don't know. In railway coaches and other places I see a number smoking what they call tobacco. Well, whatever may be said about it, it is not an intellectual or moral stimulant, and the flavor of it is not at all like the rose or any poetic thing I know. It is essentially a vulgar sort of amusement. My amusement is to sing songs. At home I am always singing Scotch songs; and abroad when those wretches are smoking I hum to myself 'Scots Wha Hae,' 'A Man's a Man for a That,' and I songs of that kind." Professor Blackie then advised his audience "to do the same." Their souls, he informed them, would by this means become "singing birds, and the devil won't get near them."

STRIDING ON SNOW-SHOES.

A Useful Invention Borrowed from the Indians—Its Art and Mystery.

[Montreal Cor. Philadelphia Record.]

The Indian snow-shoe is a very different thing from the long, thin, wooden skate on which the natives of Scandinavia slide over the drifts and down the hills, and which, I believe, has been introduced into the mountain regions of the far west. Take a fish-shaped frame of tough wood two and a half or three feet long, and ten or twelve inches across at its widest part—ten inches is the regulation racing width—and put in two light cross-pieces near the head and tail. Fill the compartments thus formed with a netting of fine strips of deer-skin, leaving near the upper bar an open space as large as the palm of your hand, curve the wooden frame a little forward, and you have the snow-shoe. It weighs only a few ounces, but its supporting power is immense. The theory is simple enough—that of the expansion of the sole of the foot, so that a broad surface is obtained and the weight so distributed that the shoe scarcely sinks an inch in the snow.

The moccasin is "the only wear" with the belle raquette. A stout "toe-strap" of deerskin crosses the snow-shoes just aft of the upper cross-bar, and under this the snow-shoer slips his toe, lashing the snow-shoe to the foot with fine strings of hide. Only the toe is fastened, as the contrivance of wood and netting is to be dragged or scuffed along, not lifted bodily. Its width, which at first seems formidable, is in reality no impediment, as the expert slips one foot over the other as he takes his stride. Of course, the shoes worn by woodsmen and lumberers, who carry heavy burdens and have to make their way through unbroken drifts, are much broader and stronger than those employed in racing or tramping, but the principle throughout is the same.

The stranger who experiments with the snow-shoe is apt to pronounce it an embodiment of total depravity. Having arrayed himself in blanket coat, sash, tunique, mittens, knickerbocker, leggings and moccasins and fastened on his snow-shoes, his—literally—first step is to move off and set the toe of one shoe firmly on the tail of the other; then, when he undertakes to lift the latter foot he makes a frantic and undignified effort to stand on his head, and tumbles gloriously on his face, driving his aris into the snow up to his shoulders—the insinuating capacity of snow under such circumstances is incredible—and anchoring his feet by entangling his snow-shoes.

But when once the art and mystery have been mastered he will be convinced that he has acquired the very poetry of motion. A long stride is necessary to clear the shoes; there is no backward slip; the frosty air makes activity indispensable, and the whole frame glows and tingles gloriously. The exertion is so slight that one no more feels his snow-shoes than a bird its wings—though there is a mal de raquette resulting from overwork, especially with heavy shoes in wet snow, which makes the sufferer feel at every step as if the bones of his instep had been broken, and the fractured edges were grinding on each other—and he goes striding over the drifts, leaving behind him a trail as of some gigantic preadamite bird with cane-seat chairbottoms for feet, proudly pitying the pedestrians who struggle through the snowy paths, and the sleighers who savor under their buffalo robes.

How Marie Antoinette Was Absolved.

[New Orleans Times-Democrat.]

In the dairy of Charles Henri Sanson, the executioner of Marie Antoinette, is found the following incident relative to the last moments of the unhappy queen: "Marie Antoinette stood erect in the cart, the Abbe Lothringer (a constitu-

tional priest or one who had taken the oath to support the constitution) was speaking to her, but she did not answer or even seem to hear him. When the Palais Egalite was passed she began to manifest some uneasiness. She looked at the numbers of the house with more than commonplace curiosity.

The queen had foreseen that no priest of her religion would be allowed to accompany her, and a proscribed ecclesiastic, with whom she had communicated, had promised to be in a house of the Rue St. Honore of the day of the execution, and to give her from a window a solution in extremis. The number of the house had been designated to Marie Antoinette, and she was looking for that. She discovered it; and then, at a sign which she alone understood, having recognized the priest, she bent her head and prayed. After this she breathed more freely and a smile came to her lips."

The Great Factory at Sevres.

[Chicago Herald.]

The manufacture of china in France is like that of tobacco, and, as is pretty generally known, a government monopoly. The great factory at Sevres, which was formerly at Vincennes, and removed to its present site by a woman, Mme. de Pomadour, has been steadily retrograding in artistic excellence ever since the advent of French political troubles under Napoleon III. It is fortunate, however, in having a superintendent who is said to have discovered, after ten years of patient study, a process by which Sevres china may be greatly improved. It comes of a new way of mixing the clay.

Testing the Purity of Water.

To test the purity of water there has been found no better nor simpler way than to fill a clean pint bottle three-fourths full of the water to be tested, and dissolve in the water half a teaspoonful of the purest sugar—loaf or granulated will answer—cork the bottle, and place it in a warm place for two days. If in twenty-four to forty-eight hours the water be only cloudy or milky it is unfit for domestic use.

How to Get Rid of Rats.

[Boston Globe.]

You ask for a way to get rid of rats. I would say get a white rat and let him loose in your store and he will find out where the rat holes are and when he enters the hole the other rats will become frightened at his color and seek a new home.

Novels in England.

Novels constitute nine-tenths of the books read in England, and nineteen-twentieths of the books read in the whole world.

The Smiths Falls Independent says:—It is with regret that we record the death of Private Johnny Code, (of the 90th battalion), son of Wm. Code, formerly a resident of Smith's Falls, and grandson of our townsman, Mr. John B. Davis. It will be remembered by our readers that he was wounded in the legs at the battle of Fish Creek and was afterwards taken to the hospital at Saskatoon. On Monday his friend here received a despatch stating that he had died on Saturday, and that his remains would be brought to Winnipeg for burial. On Tuesday evening Mr. John B. Davis and wife left for that place, hoping to arrive in time for the funeral. Deceased was well-known in this locality, Smith's Falls being his birthplace, and where he attended school in his earlier days. He was about 21 years old at the time of his death, and the only child. We extend our sympathy to the bereaved friends.