



THE UNRIVALLED "MANAGE" ACT.



PRINCE BISMARCK IS PREPARING TO  
RETIRE.—Daily Paper.

## THE RUSTIC AND THE ICICLE.

At this season of the year, when the sun shines clear  
on the snow in the middle of the day,  
Its warmth is felt, and the snow begins to melt, and  
in trickles dribbles away;  
But at night again it freezes in the frigid breeze that  
blow from Manitoulin,  
And it hangs in a lump, pretty heavy at the stump, and  
glitters like a morning star.  
And the point of an icicle  
Is sharper than a serpent's tooth;  
And this poem fell which now I tell,  
Is a tender, yearning truth.

'Two 'agricolae' strolled down a sidewalk in this town  
when the icicles were hanging up above,  
Awaiting for the heat of the sun to warm their feet and  
give 'em a gentle shove;  
For the sun's bright rays, in these February days, are  
genial, you'll allow,  
Well, these country fellows brave walked along upon  
the pave with the gait of a ruminating cow.  
And they talked of cattle and crops,  
An' they gaped at rustics do;  
Making very many stops at the windows of the shops,  
My friend, this story's true.

And as they walked and bucolically talked, on a sudden  
an icicle fell,  
Down, down it went and looked in its descent like Lucifer  
a flying into Tophet;  
It took its mystic track down the nearest rustic's back  
just between his shirt and his skin,  
And rushed down through his clothes, emerging at the  
toes of his pantaloons, like sin.  
"Oh! snakes!" the hawbuck cried,  
'I'm afraid I'm a goin' to be ill;  
For before each attack of the 'ager' down my back  
I feel a kind of a chill;

And I felt one now, I did I swear, 'twas as cold as cold  
could be,  
It run clear down my spine, and I know as it's a sign as  
'ager's a comin' onto me;  
And away he flew to a druggery he knew and bought a  
pound of quinine.  
A blister and some pills, some ginger and some squills,  
and a quart of best benzine.  
For that chill had given him the tip,  
And what was wrong he knew,  
But oh! it was a circus to see the fellow skip,  
My friend, this story's true.

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