

ering, with the hearty welcome and bright cheer awaiting the guests in the frank hospitality of a Canadian home. The remainder of the series deal with the fascinating subjects of Canadian winter sports, a snow-shoe tramp, tobogganing, and skating. These are bright, picturesque compositions, well grouped, and fairly harmonious in colour. The series as a whole is exceedingly good, and indicates gratifying progress in Canadian enterprise. Of the figure drawing a word may be said, viz., that Canadians are not giants, nor are our people accustomed, to any great extent, to appear in the many-coloured blanket costumes depicted, no doubt for effect, by the fancy of the artists. It is time that people abroad should get the notion that our country is not an Arctic one, and that the everyday costume, in country and town, of Canadians does not differ much from that of old country people.

A series of larger designs, also exceedingly well executed, and produced in gold and colours, appears from the lithographic establishment of Messrs. Rolph, Smith & Co., of Toronto. In some respects the designs are more ambitious than those we have above dealt with, one of the cards introducing a grouping of the national emblems in a pretty and effective, though perhaps over-crowded, picture. The two we

like best are those representing the 'Crossing of the St. Lawrence at Quebec' in winter, with the little drawing, entitled 'Snowed up,' imposed in the setting of maple leaves in the corner; and the other represents a forest scene, also in winter, with a portion of a snake fence, some fir trees, and the gable end of a log house in the centre of the picture, and imposed on the side the figure of a woodman on snow-shoes, with his gun on his shoulder, making off no doubt for deer. The others we have seen of the series deal with tobogganing, snow-shoe tramping, and skating. These are bright, animated pictures, and have a pretty setting of leaves and evergreens. Of the host of imported Christmas cards, it is not our purpose here to speak, though the variety and richness of some of the designs might well be dwelt upon. Perhaps the finest series we have seen, of those from abroad, are the productions of Messrs. Thomas De La Rue & Co., of London and Paris, imported by the Canada Publishing Company of Toronto, and no doubt for sale by all booksellers. To our readers, let us quote, in this the closing issue of THE MONTHLY for 1881, the motto and wish inscribed on each of these pretty compositions of the Canadian artists—'A Merry Christmas to you all!'

## BRIC-A-BRAC.

### DR. HOLLAND'S LAST POEM.

[The recent death of Dr. J. G. Holland gives a new interest to his last poem.]

If life awake and will never cease  
On the future's distant shore,  
And the rose of love and the lily of peace  
Shall bloom there forevermore,—

Let the world go round and round,  
And the sun sink into the sea;  
For, whether I'm on or under the ground,  
Oh, what will it matter to me.

If old wine is good, is elder wine better?—*Vanity Fair*.

It is the clean tablecloth that catches the early grease spots.

The maiden of thirty who paints and puffs herself to look like twenty is merely making up for lost time.

The farmer that 'ran rapidly through his property' wore a red shirt and had his brindled bull behind him.