

and floated down the river to some large town or city. There they are sawn into boards for building purposes, or else they are taken on board of ships and steamers, and sent to other parts of the world, where wood is not found in such abundance as here.

In some places the trains find it very hard to get through the immense piles of snow, which are drifted across the track, and often get snowed up. Then the travellers suffer very much, many having hands or legs frozen before aid can be procured to rescue them from their perilous situation.

Winter in the torrid zones, or in those countries around the equator, is very mild, and, as I said before, consists wholly of storms of rain, which comes down in quantities, that are never seen or thought of in this more temperate climate. Before these showers which occur in what is called "the rainy season," commence, the inhabitants of the countries where they occur take in a large amount of provisions, as it is very hard to procure them while the rain lasts, and it is also very unpleasant, going out of the house at all, as you are sure to come home drenched to the skin. Winter is a great advantage in these climates for, as soon as the rain ceases, vegetation springs forth, and in a week or two you would not believe that winter had so lately visited the country.

In the far north, in what is called the frigid or cold zone, the only people who can face the extremely severe weather, which reigns there for three-quarters of the year, is a race, about five feet in height, called the Esquimaux. They dress altogether in clothes made from the skins of seals and other marine animals, which they capture with a species of harpoon, made altogether of bone. They eat a great deal of fat, that they may be able to endure the excessive cold, and live in huts made of square blocks of ice, which they place so exactly together, that they never fall in until spring. In a week or two after being built, they are entirely covered with snow, and present the appearance of a collection of small hillocks. The Esquimaux children play on the tops of these, and as the ice and snow begin to

melt in spring, when the weather grows milder, they sometimes go through, and are severely chastised by the family, into whose midst they fall, and whose dwelling they destroy.

These huts are very warm inside, as they are entered by a very low gallery, closed at both ends by doors made of furs. The tenants have sometimes to divest themselves of nearly everything, on account of the heat, although the only heating apparatus is a small lamp, fed with oil, obtained from the seal and other animals. This lamp serves the double purpose of lamp and stove, as the cooking is not extensive, and can be performed by it quite easily. The Esquimaux travel entirely on sledges, drawn by dogs, which are the only domestic animal they own.

People living in those parts of Europe where there is very little snow, have very queer ideas of our winter sports. For instance, a London paper informed its readers that snow-shoes were peculiar foot-gear used in Canada, and were made of pliant wood, going off to a point at each end, and covered with the skins of deer and other animals. It gave a picture of the valiant snow-shoer, with his snow-shoes tied on with the front to the back, and fastened in such a way that it would certainly take him a quarter of an hour to untie them. I think that that snow-shoer must have found it rather hard to get over the ground. Another time, a toboggan was represented as being a flat slab of wood, turned up at one end, the tobogganer was intended to sit with his back against this, I think he would find that position somewhat inconvenient, and would not likely keep it long, especially going down an ice hill.

I have now said about as much as I know concerning winter, so I will close with saying that although winter is a very pleasant season, yet we would get on very badly if it also took the place of summer.

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[This neat little composition was written by a young student in the third class of our junior department, and was not intended for publication].—EDITOR.