And the greasy smoke in an inky cloak went streaking down the sky.

I do not know how long in the snow I wrestled with grisly fear;

But the stars came out and they danced about ere again I ventured near,

I was sick with dread, but I bravely said:
"I'll just take a peep inside.

I guess he's cooked, and it's time I looked,"
then the door I opened wide-

And there sat Sam, looking cool and calml in the heart of the furnace roar;

And he wore a smile you could see a mile, and he said; "Please close that door. It's fine in here, but I greatly fear you'll let in the cold and storm--

Since I left Plumtree, down in Tennessee, it's the first time I've been warm."

There are strange things done in the midnight sun

By the men who moil for gold:
The Arctic trails have their secret tales
That would make your blood run cold;
The Northern Lights have seen queer sights,
But the queerest they ever did see
Was that night on the marge of Lake Lebarge
I cremated Sam McGee.

THE CIVIL SERVICE.

By C. F. Street, M.A.

The title "Civil Service" is applied to the staffs of officers, clerks, and employees in or under the several departments of the Executive Government of Canada.

There are about fourteen departments; and each of them has an Honourable Minister of the Crown presiding as the Head, and a Deputy Minister to direct as the permanent manager.

Each department has charge of an important branch of business relating to the public affairs of the Dominion and to its expenditure and revenue. Thus the civil service has very responsible and intellectual duties entrusted to it, which demand the employment of expert officers, intelligent clerks, and trustworthy employees.

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