

HAPPY DAYS

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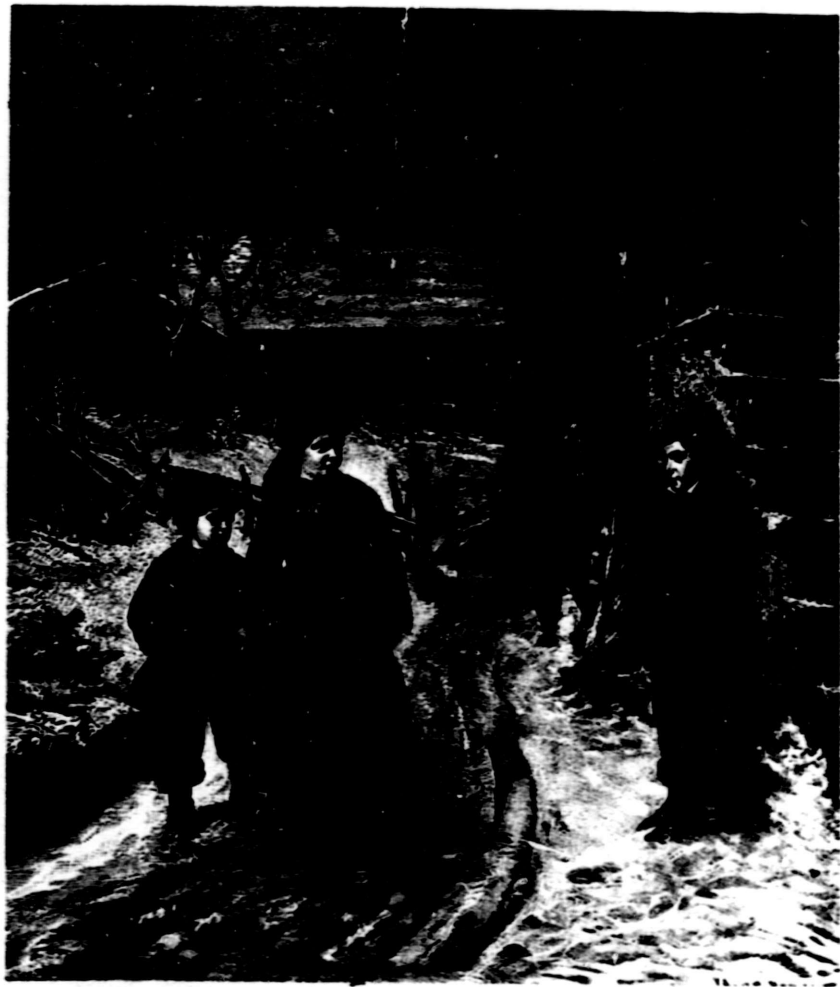
WINTER IN SWITZERLAND.

Switzerland is a most delightful country to visit in summer time—the valleys are so green, the mountains are so sublime, and the sky, as seen against the snow-crowned peaks, is so intensely blue. Then the sunrise and sunset light on the mountains produces an effect of unearthly loveliness. But in the winter it must be rather dreary. The snow falls to a great depth, and the paths from village to village are often completely blocked up.

But Swiss boys and girls are, I suppose, like boys and girls the world over, and get great fun out of snowballing and other winter sports. The picture shows us a characteristic Swiss scene. The suspicious-looking boy standing by the steps is trying to hide the snowballs in his hand till the young "madchen," or schoolgirl, and her brother get past, when he and the urchin behind them intend to give them the benefit of a snowball salute.

The queer overhanging roofs of the houses will be noticed, and outside stairways and galleries. Sometimes the houses are covered all over with shingles, nicely rounded at the end, which look like the scales of huge fish, and frequently the timber fronts are carved and painted with texts of Scripture. Very often the lower story of the house is used as a stable for cows or goats, and the people live in the second story.

The Swiss are a very kind-hearted and hospitable people, and in the Protestant cantons, notwithstanding the general poverty of the country, they are very thrifty and comfortable.



AN AMBUSCADE.

MAKING CALLS IN JAPAN.

A missionary of the Episcopal Church, now at work in Japan, gives the following amusing account of "society calls," as made in that country. She says:

"When a Japanese caller comes to see me we both kneel down on the floor, leaning back on our heels, and I say, 'O-ko-ki-

na-sai,' which literally translated, means, 'Hang your honorable hips;' or in our words, 'Please be seated.' Then we each bow twice very low, so low that our foreheads nearly touch the floor. Then the Japanese says, 'Thank you,' and I say, 'No trouble at all;' and then we both touch our foreheads to the floor again,