

Carleton Place

VOL. XXIV.

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NO 12

SKATING WITH A GIRL.

I've sounded each depth in the waters of pleasure,
And found every round in their eddying whirl;
And I'll tell you the truth—there's nothing
Can measure
The run of a winter's night skate with a girl.
That is a, rosy laughing girl,
A spunky, saucy, roguish girl,
A frank, good-natured, jolly, joking,
Mischief-loving, power-poking,
Teasing, winning, careless merry,
Doting, dashing, sprightly cheery,
Lively, mischievous, frisky, witty,
Tasty, trusting, pouty, pretty,
Smiling, jaunty, spicy, girl,
With sparkling eyes and wavy curls,
Baby lips and teeth like pearl,
Who says its cold—and she can't skate—and
hides at the necessity of your putting
your arm round her to keep her from
falling.
Now onward we dash over the icy track flying,
And vanished forever are sorrow and pain,
A fall! but no matter—there's nothing
like trying.
So I take her up gently and onward again,
And she laughs as we glide,
While I whisper at her side—
"You're the gayest, brightest, mischievous girl,
Yes, the very dearest I ever loved;
Oh! the truest, truest, prettiest,
Funniest, fairest, proudest, wittiest,
The very best and truest girl,
The finest girl the world has ever seen."
The girl of all the world for me!
And she says—"Oh! don't talk that way,
but stoop down and tighten my skates,
and don't let me fall again—and—well—Oh,
my! isn't it fun!"
Then give me the ice with a jolly good skate,
With my own darling girl, and I'll whistle
at fate.

FOOTPRINTS IN THE SNOW; OR, THE VILLAGE MYSTERY.

(FROM OUR FRIENDS' FRIENDS.)

HAUNTED BY A BUTTERFLY.
I was once a haunted man.
My ghost was not an ordinary ghost,
it was no combination of bones and grave
clothes, such as people suppose are com-
mon to that class of supernatural beings,
my ghost was a winged, fragile, fluttering
ghost. I was haunted by a butterfly.
Now don't laugh at the seeming absurdity
of such a phantom, for with me my ghost
was of a very solemn and serious
character. It came to me at odd times and
in singular places, and its presence was
invariably the harbinger of welcome tidings.
It was many years ago that my ghost first
appeared. It was before I had taken
my diploma from the university. I was
a young man of twenty-three, of a lively
temperament, and a fearless disposition.
It was one dark December night. In
company with several other medical
students, I had been engaged in dissect-
ing a dead body. The subject was that
of a young girl who, while living, I was
well acquainted with. She had been
possessed of singular beauty.
From the first moment I looked upon
the face of the dead, I was most strangely
affected; not that the face reminded me
of any one I had previously seen, but my
mind was troubled by an unpleasant
superstitious kind of feeling. I could not
banish, and at that particular time,
though perfectly accustomed like my
thoughtless companions to the occupation,
I would not have remained alone in that
room with the subject, for a title in fee
simple to the whole world.

I could not rid my mind of this un-
pleasant feeling even after my work was
done, and I found myself in my room at
home, a couple of hours later.
Time I sat in my easy chair, smoking my
well colored meerschaum, and wondering
if any unpleasant event was about to
transpire. I did not believe in presen-
timents, nor was I either superstitious or
cowardly. Yet I confess to feeling a
degree of nervousness which at that time
was not common to me. In fact, before
going to rest, I took the precaution to
look under the bed, and to assure myself
that the doors of my room were locked
and secured against any outside intrusion
and then I retired.
For some minutes I remained peering
into the profound darkness around me,
for I had extinguished the light, and the
night was a dismal and cloudy one. I
soon fell into a sort of semi-conscious
state. Then the air about me seemed
to be suddenly set in motion, and strange
shapes and fantastic figures seemed to be
circling around my head; for some mo-
ments they remained with me, then fled
away as suddenly as they came and I
saw them no more. Then the room grew
radiant with a soft and subdued light,
and every object in my chamber
became plainly discernible. I could see
the chairs, my books upon the table, the
figures upon the carpet, and my anatomi-
cal plates upon the walls. There was
neither sound to be heard nor odour
to be seen, even the wind without had
died away, and the sounds of the creaking
signs and shutters were still.

While wondering what next would
happen, the door of my chamber was
swung noiselessly open, and the ender-
some corpse of the subject we had been
dissecting in the University, strode
rigidly into the room, and pointing its
cold, bony finger at me, glared at
me with a horrible grin, and fixed itself upon
the very edge of the bed at my feet.
I was so completely overcome with
fright and terror, that I could not move
a limb. I lay upon my back, fixedly
gazing into the dull, leaden-like eyes of
my supernatural intruder, unable to stir
or cry out for assistance. I cannot re-
call how long I remained in this state of
mind and body—it seemed many minutes.
The room lighted the room grew brighter
and brighter. I could see that my
midnight visitor, was a shadowy,
transparent being. In fact, as the light
grew brighter it became more indistinct
and unsubstantial, until it seemed likely
to fade away into the atmosphere alto-
gether. Instead of this, however, it be-
gan to shrivel and shrink up as if it were
being consumed by fire. The object
grew smaller and lost its original out-
lines entirely, until it bore no resemblance
to its former shape whatever. It finally
lay upon the white counterpane of the
bed, a motionless remnant of what it was,
—no larger than my thumb, with noth-
ing left but a faint, blue, and a flut-
tering, moving reality, and as recollections
passed lightning-like through the mind of
a drowning man, so the memories of my
night of terror many months before, came
suddenly back to me, filling my soul with

all of its former terrors. My first impulse
was to hurry away from the place as fast
as my legs could carry me, but curiosity
partially overcame my fright, and I con-
cluded to remain.
The shadow was gone. It might have
been caused by the passing of another
object before the light. With a great
mental effort I partially regained my
calmness, and bending forward breathed
against one of the panes until the frost
within was melted by the warmth, and
through the glass I had an unobstructed
view of the whole room.
The old man lay dying upon the floor,
bleeding profusely from a number of
fractured gashes about his throat and
breast. His long silver hair was stained
with blood, and the unpainted floor was
dyed with pools of the same sanguinary
color, the furniture was overturned and
broken, and there were signs of a fearful
struggle; a large smoky oil lamp flick-
ered and flared upon a low shelf near the
overturned table, and its red rays illu-
minated the whole room.
The old man struggled, gasped and
died.
I started with the intention of imme-
diately alarming the neighborhood, yet
the door was so locked, and the sound of a
low impression that seemed to come
from the small attic room above.
The wind and the snow howl and beat about
me, but I was too much excited to think
of them. Again I looked through the
window; some one was moving about in
the upper part of the house, possibly
the ghost, as I had heard the sound of
plunder, and the robber or robbers were
looking about in the room overhead for
the old man's concealed treasure. I
could see the loose boards bend and
move as if subjected to heavy pressure. Small
particles of dirt and dust, evidently dis-
turbed by shuffling feet, floated down,
and fell through the cracks and crevices
upon the floor below. Whoever was
there would soon come down the short
ladder, which was the only means of
communication between the upper and
lower parts of the cottage, and in the light
of the flaring lamp, I would be able to
identify him.

My mind was by this time perfectly
clear and singularly calm for the occasion.
I reasoned thus: that if I hurried
away the murderer might escape before
I could give the alarm, and return with
help to effect his capture. If I remained
where I was I might be able to identify
him when he appeared. The only ap-
proach to the cottage was the door near
at hand, and in passing out he would be
sure to come that way. The only weapon
of defence I carried was a short, heavily
loaded walking stick. I was a powerful
man, and one not to be easily overcome
in a hand to hand struggle, unless
taken wholly by surprise, or at a great
disadvantage.

I watched the ladder with breath-
less anxiety. I saw it tremble and bend.
Instinctively I tightened my grasp upon
my heavy cane. A moving object became
visible, and slowly and firmly began to
descend the quivering ladder. It was the
figure of a woman, young,
radiant and beautiful.
She reached the floor, then started
back in sudden fright, and with a look
of indescribable terror upon her white
features, as she saw the fallen form upon
the floor.
Was it a fancy? No! I was in the
full possession of all my senses. That
being was the living, moving, and tangi-
ble counterpart of the dead woman in
the dissecting room of the University!

FOOTPRINTS IN THE SNOW.
There are times when things come to
pass so much out of the ordinary course
of human events, that men are apt to
disbelieve the evidence of their own
senses.
There are rare periods when sudden
terror so magnifies the object of alarm
as to make it appear an earthly impos-
sibility, when in sober afterthought, men
seek to satisfy themselves by sound
reason of its reality.

I was of a believing in ghost, nor
was I a superstitious man. I had thought
myself a stranger to physical fear. I
had often faced death; I had sat by
many a death-bed, and had watched the
wasting form until I could feel the
presence of the invisible winged mon-
sters in the boisterous breezes that blow
by.
I am not a constitutional coward, nor
was I then and there either bewildered
or apprehensive of any coming danger.
I merely fell into a train of rapid and
thoughtful ideas, and I was in a state
of the mind and which passed from my
mind as suddenly as they came when I
heard, or fancied that I heard, a cry of distress,
faintly sounding out upon the winds.
I hurried along, wondering greatly from
when it came, thinking that possibly
some being had become bewildered and
lost in the darkness, and calling for aid.
The light from an adjoining cottage
just gleamed out upon the night
through the clouds of flying snow. It
was the house of an old man who had
inhabited it for many years. He lived
alone, a sort of hermit, and the lower floor
was seldom visited. Some said that he
was very wealthy, and others that there
was an unfathomable mystery about his
past career and his present mode of
existence. Yet he lived a quiet sort of
life, attending peacefully to his own
affairs, and other people he had no con-
nection with. It was nothing strange that he should
still be up and about his dwelling, and I
should have passed on, fancying the
sound that I had just heard but the echo
of the wind, had it not been suddenly
repeated in a louder tone and with an
expression of such genuine human agony,
that I could no longer doubt the evidence
of my own senses.

It came from the interior of the cot-
tage, where I instinctively felt some sort
of foul play was going on. For a mo-
ment I paused, hardly knowing what
the first to do, but soon gaining my self-
control, I sprang over the low fence
that divided the yard from the highway,
—the gate was drifted in, and made
my way to the small front window. The
panes were so frosted over that I could
not look through them. I hesitated,
hardly knowing whether to break in the
window of the door, to ascertain the
matter, but I should have immediately
proceeded to do either the one or the
other had not a small shadow suddenly
flitted across the window.
It was the shadow of a butterfly, that
insignificant as the object was that caused
it, to my excited imagination it was the
forbidding of some great calamity, and
now that it was so dim, and a flut-
tering, moving reality, and as recollections
passed lightning-like through the mind of
a drowning man, so the memories of my
night of terror many months before, came
suddenly back to me, filling my soul with

struggle, and of the work of strong hands,
and the presence of no other human
being was visible there.
What was the shadow that flitted
across the frosty panes of the window?
A reality? No, it was a physical impos-
sibility. There was then such a mixture
of possible and impossible things in my
late adventure that I began to fear that
I was losing my mind.
I was a physician. I had made the
subject of insanity my special study, and
I was perfectly aware that in the first
stages of mental disease persons are
often deluged with a mixture of possible
and impossible things in the natural
order of human events. And the more
I reasoned with myself, the more fully
did I become aware that I was troubled
with an aberration of mind. I reasoned
with myself in this manner until I be-
came comparatively calm. I resolved
that I would wait until morning before
taking any further action.
I speak particularly of these things
in order that you may perfectly under-
stand the condition of mind that I was
in, and the singular yet pardonable
manner in which I proceeded. I was
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D. A. GORTON, M. D.

are at it again in Texas, murdering and plundering. From San Antonio it is reported that in a late raid the Nueces River they killed twenty persons, mostly sheep herders; that Nell's ranch a band of thirty of the Indians succeeded in running off thirty horses; that at one place they came two Mexicans, one of whom to himself jumped into a well, and the factious savages, thinking it a joke, threw the other one in, and on their way; that at another ranch the thirteen herders were driving the Indians killed seven of the and hung them up in the trees to and for the other six men, they andising.

The *Free Press* complains that we read something from its columns. We the charge. We never cut anything that paper for the simple reason we do not see anything in its columns worth transferring to the *Herald*. It is remarked by everybody that newspapers printed at the Capital are the best productions in Canada. The *Press* is the worst. It is utterly devoid of thought or originality. Anything in it, that is worth reading, is copied from the *Herald* and other newspapers. Talk about your original ideas. Faugh! You never wrote an article that was worth reading, much less writing. We once had an apprentice ed Tom Jones who could beat you, hollow," writing original articles, never got stuck for material.

Unless the English police have grown so strict than they formerly were, the lawlessness has alarmingly increased in England of late. No less than 39,619 arrests for drunkenness were made in 1871-72 than were made in 1867-68, constituting an increase of 36 per cent. Offences of this nature within four years. In the number of arrests during the same years for offences against the summary proceedings are permitted and which include breaches of the peace, nuisances, vagrancy, and other misdemeanors, there was an increase of 3693. This is rather alarming, and really does not speak very highly for the advance of civilization and religion in England.

We would direct the attention of our readers to the several notices in our columns, calling meetings of electors in several municipalities to choose Reeves and Councilors for the ensuing year. It is an annual duty of the rate-payers is a very important one, and we think they should enter upon its performance utterly untrammelled by party feeling. In most cases a number of candidates are brought forward many of whom are totally uneducated by education or habits for the positions to which they aspire. Such candidates should be rejected and those most eligible should be chosen no matter from what party of politics they may hail.

The announcement was made at the meeting of the Royal Geographical Society in London that a stanch steamer had been purchased to go on a missionary expedition to New Guinea at the expense of Miss Baxter, sister of the late Sir David Baxter. The intimation was received with cheers. Sir Bartle Frere, President, stated that very little was known of New Guinea, and this enterprising venture would, while proving a benefit to the natives, serve to add to our knowledge of this comparatively remote but unexplored island.

REPAIR OF HONOR.—Who would have thought that in our usually quiet, calm, church-going community anything so odd would show that the days of anarchy are not yet past. A slight affair, however, occurred on the surface of the week, which, but for the caution of the principals and the intervention of friends, might have led to serious if not fatal results. "Pistols and coffee for a day" is a serious matter. Happily there was no blood split.

M. S. "NIOBE."—The New York says "one of the first acts of Congress should have been to pass a vote of thanks to the commander of the British ship-of-war 'Niobe' for saving the lives of the passengers of the 'Virginus;' by obliging the Spaniards to raise the American flag from the dust in which they had trampled it."

Our rates of advertising are the same as those of the other county papers. The only difference is that the circulation of the *HERALD* is so large and general that advertisers get more than double the value for their money. No charge for notices! The Secretary-Treasurer cut this out and paste it in his pocket. It would help to fill the vacuum.

An eminent physician in Danbury has discovered that it is not healthy for men to rise before eight o'clock. Wives may rise at seven and start the fire as usual before the dawn. Some of our liege lords or her home allow their wives to chop wood and carry water for the breakfast.

It is reported that the Great Powers informed President Castelar that they will recognize the Republic when insurrection at Cartagena is suppressed; the bombardment of that town is vigorously proceeding.

The Cubans seem determined to secure the independence of the island. The proposition to enroll all citizens between the ages of eighteen and forty-five is usually finding more favour.

We understand that the Hon. George Brown has been appointed to the Senate and all the vacancy caused by the decease of the late Hon. Oliver Blake.

