

The Democratic Watchman.

BELLEFONTE, PA.

BOB WHITE.

BY N. D. STEPHENSON.

Half-way ripe is the way wheat,
Abroad in the fields where it stands breast high;

Hotter each day grows the warm June sun,
A shade more pure the sky's deep blue;

There it is calling again and again,
Sweet and clear from the amber grain,

What does the little bird say, my son?
The father asks of his fair-haired boy,

One shrill note and a whirr of wings,
Away in a moment, flying low,

A soft, sleek coat of a darkish brown,
And a speckled waistcoat of lighter shade,

This is he whom we hear repeat,
All day long to the ripening wheat,

Two half circles around the throat,
One pale streak on his forehead's crown,

A famous Mormon is he, I'm told;
Full of love for the softer sex,

A few dried leaves and some bits of hay
Under a tuft of sheltering grass,

Yellowish white the brittle shell,
Speckled with brown like his own little breast,

A smart young fellow his son and heir,
Ready at once from his nest to stir,

There in the grass where the dew hangs damp,
Ever watchful of any harm,

By-and-by when the summer is dead,
And the glowing hand of the autumn weaves

THE MAD SKATER.

The broad boom of one of our
northern rivers was covered with a
smooth sheet of ice; and, at a point
where the stream widens, after passing
through scenes rich in historical interest,

It was, in truth, a grand sight to observe
hundreds of both sexes dressed in
various costumes, and gliding rapidly
over the smooth, translucent surface,

Who are they? was the question
asked by many among the spectators.
"Kate Clinton and Frank Hill,"

Observing this, and not appearing to
like such a public exhibition, the young
lady whispered some words in the ear
of her companion, who, suddenly
wheeling, and carrying her round along
with him, by a few forcible strokes, shot
clear of the crowd, and skated rapidly
away from it.

Could this be the explanation of the
disappearance? Was the mania now
in the act of carrying out the menace
he had made—some terrible mode of
vengeance under the wild promptings of
insanity?

The thought came quick, for this
series of surprise and conjectures did
not occupy three seconds of time. And
with the last of these Frank Hill threw
all his strength into a propulsive effort,

was your performance that gave them
pleasure. And now I think of it, it
wasn't very graceful in me to have been
the cause of disappointing them. Suppose
you go back and show them a little
more of your skill. Do, Frank; I
can stay here all you return.

More than five minutes were thus
spent, during which time the accomplished
skater was repeatedly cheered and
greeted with complimentary speeches.

With all speed he skated back again,
and quartered the crowd in every direction,
scanning the faces and figures.

It now occurred to him that he might
discover where she was gone, by getting
upon the track of her skates, and
following it up. With this intent, he
hastened to the spot where he had left
her standing.

At a glance Frank Hill recognized
the thin tiny score, left by the slender
blade on the feet of Miss Clinton. But
the man who had gone skating so close
by her side—who was he?

With hands and teeth tightly clenched,
with eyes fixed upon one point, and
though concentrated into one great purpose,
he passed over the smooth surface,

It was a fearful reflection for Frank
Hill; but, fortunately, it did not long
endure. It passed like a spasm; another,
nearly as painful taking its place.

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not occupy three seconds of time. And
with the last of these Frank Hill threw
all his strength into a propulsive effort,
and shot off like an arrow down the
river.

On, past rock, and tree, and hill,
and farm-houses sleeping in silence;
on, in long sweeping strides, his eyes
flashing, but fixed upon the forms,

It was not needed. That was face,
seen under the moonlight, appealing to
Frank Hill for protection, was enough
to nerve him to the last exertion of his
strength, and he kept on, without speaking
a word, his whole thought and soul
absorbed by the one great desire to
overtake and rescue her.

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THE DAY'S THAT WERE.

Down by the shore of the grand old river—
Where I have played with the shining pebbles,
And bathed in the water my heated brow,

Many a time have I curled into ringlets
The dandelion's hollow stem;
Or blow it seed into airy spheres;

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The National Debt of England.

The National Debt of England began
with the relinquishment of the old custom
of extorting money from the people
and substituting borrowing therefor;

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All Sorts of Paragraphs.

A desirable domestic bird—a duck
of a wife.
Foot races between girls are attractions
at Iowa cattle shows.

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A SHORT STORY.

By the side of a murmuring stream,
An elderly gentleman sat.
On the top of his head was his wig,

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