

VOLUME 4.

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A FLOAT UPON THE ICE.

A TALE OF THE ST. LAWRENCE.

It was one day last February, when the noble St. Lawrence was covered with ice as bright as crystal and as smooth as a mirror...

The river is about two miles in width where we were skating, and in the distance were to be seen the several islands that lie a short distance above the Gallop Rapids...

There were a considerable number of skaters out with us; but we struck out boldly for the centre of the river and soon were at a distance from them.

I pointed it out to Lettie, and said, "We may yet be saved, if I can only attract their attention. Have courage and I will attempt it."

I left her and proceeded to the extreme edge of the ice nearest to the island, and then gathering all my breath for an effort, called to them.

Lettie must have noticed the expression of my countenance, for she clung to me and said: "Do not fear to alarm me by telling me the worst. Are we not in very great danger?"

"I am afraid that we are," I replied; "but keep up your courage and we will hope for the best."

Eagerly I scanned the surrounding land, hoping to observe some one whose attention I might attract. I skated round the edges of the ice and hailed as loudly as possible, but the wind made it impossible for me to be heard at any great distance, and we were unnoticed.

"Be as firm and brave as possible," said I, addressing her: "for unless there is a special intervention in our behalf, I do not see what can save us from rushing into the rapids. The ice will be dashed to pieces, and we must perish."

"I had feared that she would be overcome at hearing this; but, although as pale as the ice that we were standing upon, and hardly able to stand without support, she bore it bravely.

"Is there no hope?" she faintly inquired, her tone indicating that she did not expect an affirmative answer.

"I see no possible chance of escape," I replied; and our speed continued to increase and louder grew the roar of the rapids as we neared them.

"We cannot have but a few minutes longer to spend upon earth," I replied.

"Lettie," said I, "we shall soon be at the rapids; but I cannot die without telling you how dear you are to me. I would quickly sacrifice my life to save yours; but that is denied me. If we were spared I would offer you the homage of a lifetime. Will you now accept it for all eternity?"

A faint flush overspread her cheeks as I ceased speaking, the last time I thought that they would ever be crimsoned before they were cold in death.

"I noticed that her tears were flowing, and the sight of them almost caused me to lose my self-possession. We had already passed several of the islands that stud the river immediately above the rapids, and our rate of speed was constantly increasing.

"Hilloo, hilloo, young woman, what is it you're doing?" said the dandy. Why don't you put the coin in my hand, eh?"

The gentleman dismounted, picked up "his coppers," and was off at full speed, impatient to get out of sight and hearing. If he should ever happen in that country again, he will take care how he makes change with Yankee girls.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.—The following notices are selected from a humorous cotemporary:—"No notice will be taken from this date, hereafterwards, of letters that hint at a postage stamp onto them."

"ISAC.—Your article on 'frogs' is received. It makes us laugh like lightning. Your idea that frogs was discovered by Christopher Columbus, in the year 1492, has slipped our memory."

"NOAH.—We very humbly decline your essay on the flood. Your remarks might possibly lead one more man to think as you do, and we don't want our columns to be held responsible for increasing the number of phoofs. The world has already got more phoofs than there is any need of."

A GERMAN CUSTOM.—A letter from Weimar says they have two very pretty customs there connected with the erection of houses. One is that a young child always drives the first nail into one of the timbers, and an inscription is placed upon the wood, bearing the name and age of the child, date of erection, &c.

"I'll be around this way in a minute," as the secondhand said to the pendulum.

A WARNING TO MOTHERS.

BY JOHN QUILL.

The following account of the latest nitro-glycerine accident is too funny to be withheld:—This horrible tale was related to me by Archibald Haggerty, the young gentleman who blacks boots.

Lettie and I will soon be joined in wedlock; and I hope that our voyage down the stream of life may be more pleasant than was our excursion down the St. Lawrence.

Your Change, Sir.—One of the most nondescript specimens of humanity called dandies, traveling through Connecticut a few days since in his own or borrowed conveyance, was brought up with a "round turn" at a toll-gate, which he designed to pass without paying the usual fee.

"Three cents, sir, is the charge for single wagons," replied the young lady. "Three cents is a three pence, the half of a six pence; one of the smallest bits of silver in use, eh? young woman am I right?" said the dandy, feeling his pockets for the change.

"In your office of highwayman, young woman, you will subtract the amount of your demand from this piece, and return me the balance as conveniently quick as your ordinary locomotion will allow," said the dandy gentleman, at the same time purposely dropping a shilling piece into the mud beneath his wagon.

"Hilloo, hilloo, young woman, what is it you're doing?" said the dandy. Why don't you put the coin in my hand, eh?"

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A Pleasant Incident.

BY JOHN QUILL.

One of the pleasant things we saw on our late journey was a glimpse of two little sisters of charity. Somewhere above Fitchburg, as we stopped for twenty minutes at a station, I amused myself by looking out of a window at a pretty waterfall which came tumbling over the rocks, and spread into a wide pool that flowed up to the railway.

I hesitated two little girls appeared, and did the good deed much better than I could have done it. I couldn't bear what they said; but their friendly little faces grew quite lovely to me, in spite of the tan, the old hats, the bare feet and shabby gowns, as they worked away so heartily.

THE WONDERS.—This world of ours is filled with wonders. The microscope reveals them not less than the telescope, each at either extreme of creation. In the insect creation, particularly, there is so much to know that has never been dreamed of—wheels within wheels, without computation or number.

REMARKABLE LAKES.—The most remarkable lake perhaps in the world is the Dead Sea, the waters of which contain bitumen as well as salt; this bitumen, which is called the "bitumen of India," is no other than the asphaltum, which has caused some authors to call this sea Lake Asphaltum.

Such, indeed, is the specific gravity of the water from the fluid holding in solution nearly one-fourth of its weight of its various salts that it would be difficult for a man to sink in it.

A PETRIFYING LAKE in Ireland is also mentioned as remarkable, and the Lake Neagh has also the same property of apparently turning wood into stone. But these petrifications are no other than incrustations like the water of Arctwell, near Paris.

SMART.—Who is the shortest man mentioned in the Bible? Kneesh-high-miah Bedford (Ind.) Independent.

How about Bilhad, the Shubite (shoo-height) —Owybe Wave.

Why, man, Toi (too-high) knucks the socks from your Shubite, and certainly Loummi (low am I) stood the shortest of all —Idaho World.

THE BEST CURE for dirt is the water cure.

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