

LOCAL BICYCLING.

A GREAT WINTER WARRIOR ABOUT HIS BICYCLING SPORTS.

Captain Samuel B. Downey, of the Lancaster Cycle Sporting Club, tells an "Intelligencer" reporter many interesting facts about bicycling in this city.

One of the most enthusiastic and skillful bicyclists of this section of the State is Mr. S. B. Downey, the genial captain of the Lancaster Cycle Touring Club.

"The first wheel ever seen in Lancaster," said Mr. Downey, "passed through in September, 1878, from the West. Two unknown riders traveled West King, out East King and down the Lancaster pike to Philadelphia.

"In the fall of 1879, Prof. Lippitt gave a grand bicycle and tricycle tournament at the driveway here, which was a most successful affair.

"George Levy, working in the watch factory machine shop, took drawings of this machine, and during the winter of 1879 built himself a ride-offer at No. 2 cotton mill.

"But was not this movement more or less individual in character?" queried the reporter. "Yes," was the reply. "Cycling in Lancaster never got a good foothold until the spring of 1880.

"We have already been called upon to mention accidents which result from horses being frightened at bicycles in this city, again called to chronicle another case, and deem it high time that this instance was noted.

"There was quite an impulse given to it incidentally by the Lancaster watch factory. Many of its employees were from the New England States, where cycling was further advanced.

"The Lancaster Cycle Touring club was organized by D. S. Smith and myself in March, 1881, and has had ever since a prosperous career. Dr. H. R. Underwood was the first president and I was first captain.

"Mr. Downey's modesty did not permit him to state that he is a member of the local bicycling club, but he has been seen on a single day's road record, being 128 miles, from Lancaster to Philadelphia and return in 6 h. and 12 m.

Considerable interest was taken in the present race here by the Southern members of the League of American Wheelmen.

DRIFT.

Some time ago I noted the fact in these columns I think, of Nathaniel Hawthorne's expressed preference for cremation as a mode of disposing of the bodies of the dead.

It is not known that the poet Longfellow had the same feeling, and indeed had recorded the position in the poem which is alluded to after death. Yet such is the case.

Although it was a new discovery for me to find this wish of my dearest poet recorded in a note to his poem "God's Acres," it was scarcely surprising to me.

Everything in this matter is so thoughtful and so beautiful in its manner, that it is not surprising to hear of any true poet preferring the beautiful and poetical suggestion of cremation to the altogether more prosaic and indeed abhorrent mode of earth burial.

This is, however, only one of a hundred new and important facts concerning American literature, thought, sentiment, and disposition, which are given to us in this grand edition of his complete works.

In the first place, though not professing to be an edition de luxe, or as a friend of mine insists on pronouncing it, edition for looks—it is one of the most perfect specimens of book-making as a fine art ever produced in our country.

The first two volumes contain his prose works, complete. The second volume contains "Drift-Wood," besides in the Appendix, a List of Miscellaneous Papers, and The Blank Book of a Country Schoolmaster, and Notes to "Outre-Mer" and "Drift Wood; Vol. II." "Hyperion" and "Avalon." A re-statement of the facts in the life of the poet is also given.

Take but one instance of his service to American literature, his essay on "Anglo-Saxon Literature," in Drift-Wood, written in 1838. At that time, scholars regarded Anglo-Saxon literature as a thing of the past, and of the present day.

"I have to say, that in a work of such magnitude, it is not surprising to find that the poet Longfellow had the same feeling, and indeed had recorded the position in the poem which is alluded to after death.

"I used to think that I was tolerably familiar with Longfellow's poetry. But I now know that I did not rightly understand quite a number of his poems, and did not know them from the inside as it were, as I do since I have read them in the light of the head-notes.

How true this is may be seen, for example, in the case of that much-abused poem, murdered generation after generation by success after success, the "Rascal." After reading the full history of its composition, traced through its numerous passages and corrections, in the appendix to Vol. I of the "Poetical Works," I find myself reading it over again, and enjoying it as never before.

RILINGS.

The world undoubtedly is moving and the stream of humanity constantly drawing closer toward the light.

There are various factors entering necessarily into a country's normal growth, such as physical resources, young and pure blood, means and opportunities, etc.

This idea is already having a firm hold on the American mind. The interest for good, readable literature is increasing from day to day, and as the result of all this, not only are the old libraries kept well supplied with books, but also new ones are being established.

I remember when I first started reading I used to be a bit of a glib talker with almost anything only so it was a book, thinking that all of them contained at least some good.

"But," you will say, "I want more books than this. How do I select them?" I should like to see a man who has not been so unfortunate as to get a bad book, or worse, a disease-breeding book, or rather, a book that elevates and strengthens the soul.

For several weeks past Dame Nature has been actively engaged in preparing for the introduction of her daughter, Spring, into god society, and at last the great event which has set the heart of the daughter astir and engrossed the attention of the madam is about to transpire.

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It is true there are some few authors whose works we would like to have complete, but it is still a very good thing to have them in fragments. It is very amusing to read all the good books, both ancient and modern, and to know that they are so many.

The Eccentricities of Women's Fashions From the Cincinnati Enquirer. It is quite fashionable for one hip to be a couple of inches higher than the other, and when you look at a woman from the rear it's to see how different is the scooping out on each side.

My lady sleeps. Rhythmic ebb and flow of airy pillow. Her cheek, two roses, and her hair the burnished sweep of her hair, a tangled mass of burnished gold.

SPRINGS.

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