## <-----The & Straw-Ride at Frisker's. By Fletcher Cowan.

What an absurd expression that is, by the way. At fever heat in the middle of February, when the general climate is so sterply suggestive of ulsters, arctics, chest protecters and Baltimore heaters. But we use it only in a figurative sense. Racketville was at a perfect fever heat, not according to

the thermometrical pressure, but the pressure of excitement and expectation. What was the cause of this ferment? Why, the following notice, clipped from the "Local Items" column of the village paper:

"It is a well known fact that the annual straw-rides of our esteemed fellow townsman, Farmer Frisker, are the most prominent features of Racketville's winter enjoyments. Tomorrow evening, at half-past seven, the best straw-ride of the season will start from Frisker's house, to travel all the way to Dan Kelly's hotel at Fairview, where quite a surprising sensation is promised to take place. The party will return home in plenty of time for the next day's dinner. Over fifty invitations have been issued."

Is it not likely that such an announcement should cause quite a furore, that everyone in the village who had the least claim to acquaintanceship with the Frisker family should be looking forward to receiving an invitation; and that everyone who had not, should determine on going down to the Frisker cottage to see the party off? for, in the opinion of everyone, the starting off of the annual Frisker straw-ride was a sight not to be missed, or eclipsed either even by the great displays of Christmas and the Fourth of July.

Well, the eventful evening arrived in safety, and a more glorious one for a straw-ride could not have been wished for. The moon and stars were out and shining beautifully, the surrounding country presented the most lovely snow landscape the eye could feast upon, and the road over which the party were to travel was in splen-

Half-past seven came, and the great straw-ride started from the Frisker cottage amid the cheers of half the village populace, who had assembled to see them off, and the crash of a brass band that Farmer Frisker had secured to accompany the party. "Music allers seemed to patch up such a sort o' enchantment around the sene," he said. There were four sleighs full of i

ons, looked quite a pritty sight. The

orses were trimmed up fantastically

y assortment of a New York depart-

too, like a lot of animals in the holi-

cently by the glare of brilliant fire-

works, which had also been provided

Then away the sleighs sped in fine

style over the fleecy road like arrows,

and the crisp snow crackled beneath

and the voices rang out upon ,

frosty air with a far merrier discord-

The night was superb. The glisten

lestial glow over the snow-clad hills

and meadows, and gave the country

fences, trees and mile posts, like loco-

many miles behind. On they dashed

through the hills and valleys, and

ows, past scattered villages and silent

all along the route. Entoying the

ntee it was! Young Simon Lee, for

good water, the broken-down bridge

where he used to fish, the haupter

mill beside Brewster's, where he go

her that pretty pair of pigeons some

were not looking, the conversation

was carried on in the silent language

of the eyes, and made doubly interest

ing by affectionate bouts in hugging

There was one person there who en

how nice it was! How really

scenery and enjoying plenty else.

for the occasion.

The village of Racketville was at | the moonlight as he raised it to his fever heat.
At fever heat in the middle of February. lips and took what he humorously termed his "astronomical observa tions."

Farmer Frisker began to get nervous. He had brought Spriggs out upon the ride for a particular purpose-to make a big speech at Dan Kelly's hotel as the opening feature of the "surprising sensation" he had promised in the notice of the village paper.

He began to fear that Spriggs would be unfit for the delivery of the speech. These fears were considerably heightened by the bachelor suddenly burst ing out into a boisterous song, and as tipsy men's songs are always as long as your arm, he never finished until the sleighs entered Fairview and dashed up before Dan Kelly's door. where fully half the town were gath-

ered to receive them. "Spriggal" crird Frisker seiging the pachelor by the hair so viciously that he yelled like a wild beast. "I didn't think you'd sarve me in this way. Tarnation take your distillery stomach! You're not fit to grace a mud gutter, let alone a grand affair like this here. You're not fit to spout

"Oh. yes, I am. Frisker." said Spriggs, in a quavering voice. "Trust me—trust Spriggs. He's not gone back on you. He'll make a grand sp-speech.

Frisker said nothing, but turning to one of his sons who was assisting some of the girls from the sleighs, whis-"Zach, for mercy's sake, keep Spriggs

down in the bar-room, or he'll turn the whole affair into a circus. Don't let him upstairs, or I'll go mad!' "But, father, I can't hang onto his

oattails all the time. I must be present upstairs." "Then tell Dan Kelly to get some

one to do the job. If Springs gets upstairs a cock fight will be nothing to the row he'll raise." Frisker, Jr., promised he would, but

the girl of his heart was waiting to be handed from the sleigh, and as he sprang to do his duty Spriggs fled from his memory.

As the party left the sleighs and filed upstairs into the enug parlor of the hotel, everyone, excepting the members of the Frisker family, and the Darrell family, and a few others, was burning with antiwhat the "sur going to be When all

figure passed into the room unnoticed

In the gloom.

Stophen Darrell was intensely furried by the interruption, and rushed to light the gas himself. But when he got to the jet he found that he had no match as he had supposed, and that it was only a toothpick he had felt in his pocket. Then, desperate with rage, and — simple fellow! — quite frightened, it must be admitted, at the sudden extinguishment of the light, which he superstitiously took to be a bad c ien for his wedding, he rushed out of the room and downstairs to get

a light himself. No one knew who it was that went out, but thought it some one of the

young men gone on the errand.
"Confound the thing!" cried Fris ker. "There ain't much more jobbing to do, is there, parson? Well, then, let the wedding go on in the dark. Darn it! I've heard that it's bad luck to stop in the middle of a marriage and if that's the case, the dark ain't

going to stop my daughter's." "Yes, let it go on in the dark!" cried Farmer Darrell. "I've heard that it's bad luck to stop, too."

The parson attempted to expostulate; but both the farmers ordered the marriage to go on in the dark. So the took her place beside a figure which she supposed to be that of her husband, and the service went on. "Do you accept this woman as your

wedded wife?" No answer was heard. Everyone supposed that the bridegroom had spoken it, but that, owing to nervous ness which sometimes does affect

bridegrooms to a great degree, he had spoken inaudibly. "Do you accept this man for your wedded husband?" "I do," replied the bride, in a firm

voice, "Gracious, Stephen, how you are trembling[" she was then heard to "Then I declare you man and wife!"

said the parson, "and the blessing of God, and of everyone, be upon this union. As he said these words the figure of

the husband bent toward the bride. She thought he wished to kiss her, and presented her ilps for the purpose of being so treated. Her lips met something, but it was

not the lips of her husband. It was something very cold, and a strange, shivering sensation passed over her as she felt its touch. "His-want some-hic?" asked a

quavering voice, and the next instant the young bride felt a cold stream of some liquid poured over her face. Some of it went down her throat and nearly choke it to be whisky. ercing shrick and rms of her father, red the room in aring a lamp. BLACK DIAMONDS IN BRAZIL

Used as Jewelry, But in Demand

for Boring Machines. The black diamond is an important article of commerce, not because it is feminine grace, but because of the fact that it has been widely applied in industry, where it is almost as valuable as its white fellow. The home of the black diamond is Brazil, the classical land of the diamond, the richest beds of the mineral having been found in the Province of Bahia and on banks and in the bed of the Sao Jose river. The stone, which is perfectly opaque, is not beautiful, and if the magical word diamond had never been applied to the substance there is no loubt that to this day the black dianond would be a thing unknown. However, the favor which this mineral enjoys is of very recent date, for 20 years ago its properties were unknown, and the trade in the stone was practically nothing.

The constantly increasing perfec-

tion, of boring instruments brought

out the value of the black diamond,

the use of diamond point drills now having become so general that the price of the mineral has in consequence rapidly increased. Today the diamond has become of prime neces sity in working tempered metals, saw ing of marbles, plercing of tunnels and galleries, and in mines. At the time of the inauguration of the Laboratory of Arts and Trades, July 1. 1903, a circular saw, provided with diamond points produced surprising results, cutting into thin slices the hardest of materials. On the banks of the Sao Jose we find the traces of the first exploitation of the mines by the natives, the Garimperos. The black diamond, however, having no commercial value, did not attract these people, and they were apparently ig-norant of the real character of the mineral. From the report of an engineer who explored the region in 1858 we learn that one day the diamond diggers discovered a black stone in Sao Jose. They took the stone to one of their huts and sought to discover its nature by attempting to crack it. All their efforts were fruitless, the stone resisting the most powerful hammers, and after a time it was thrown back into the river. The

The exploitation of the Brazilian diamond mines by the Garimperos, it is unnecessary to say, was not scientific. The crevices of the rock are explored with the hand, the gravel being taken away in little barrels, which are carried on the head. Attempts have been made to lessen the time of the work by diving for the mineral, but the violence of the stream is such the scene, during the rainy season that this plan ttle adopted. The o

stone weighed about 10,000 karats

and at the present price of \$40 a karat

represents a loss of \$400,000.

SOLDIERS USE SKEES.

EFFICIENCY OF NORWEGIAN TROOPS INCREASED. THEREBY.

Both Japanese and Russians Migh Profit by This Experience and introduce the "Foot Sled" in Their Armice During the Manchurlan Cam

It would seem that both the Japan ese and the Russians might profit by the experience of the Norwegians and introduce the skee into their Manchu rian manoeuvres. By so doing they would enable their soldiers to move nearly three times as quickly over the snow; for the skee practically transforms the foot to which it is fastened into a sleigh with a narrow, lithe nine-foot wooden runner, tipped with a sort of toboggan prow.

Norway is the home of the skee, and it is here that its practical use has been best recognized. Not only does the Scandinavian appreciate the "foot sled" in the way the Canadian does for the sport it furnishes in the hun or the coasting carnivals, but he has come to realize that it is a most im portant aid in winter time to the sol dier. He will even tell you that if Napoleon's army had been equipped with skees in its invasion of Russia the French would have triumphed over the Slav and there would have been no such thing as the disastrous retreat

England has become deeply interest ed in the military value of the skee and is considering its introduction into some of the Indian regiments. Ac cording to such British experts as Captain F. J. Jackson, of the Jackson Harmsworth expedition, and Edgar Severs, many of the difficulties experienced by Colonel Younghusband and his men in the recent expedition into Tibet would have been avoided had the troops been equipped with

The Skandinavian infantryman i taught to manouevre on skees the same as he is instructed in the use of the rifle. As soon as winter has covered the earth with snow he is drilled in a regular series of exercises and is expected to "march" and "cour termarch," to "face about" and "mark time" on skees, just as he would without them. Such practices are contin ued until the soldier feels perfectly at home on his nine-foct soles.

To the beginner skees are not onl cumbersome, but painful as well. Should he strap them on an ordinary pair of shoes his legs would feel weighted down like those of a diver and the muscles of his ankles would soon begin to ache, as if they had gone through the "setting up stunt" of military academy. But as soon as the amateur learns how the veterar in equips himself he sees his

stens his feet to the four-inch strips of wood by means of straps fastene into the top of the runner.

regiments contrast strongly with Russian soldiers. They to not wear the high boots, long coats and heavy knapsacks of the Muscovites. matter how far below zero may be the thermometer, they wear no overcosts a grayish green uniform, which fits him tightly and is only heavy enough to keep him warm. Because of the color of his clothes he may almost es cape detection amid a clump of pines, such as are almost everywhere to be found on the Skandinavian peninsula. Besides his rifle, his sole burden is a 3-pound bag, loaded with provisions, a sleeping bag, an Iceland sweater. change of underwear and a pair of

When on the march skee infantry can travel eight miles an hour, going at a speed about equal to that of an average carriage horse on the trot. When necessary such a body of troops can cover 70 miles in a day, or nearly as great a distance as amateur

bicyclists in the same length of time At the command to go into camp the soldier changes his goat hair socks and skees for a stout pair of boots wrapped about with pieces of old military capes to prevent them from getting wet and freezing. If the camping ground is near trees he builds a tent by cutting down fir saplings, trimming their trunks clean and stacking them up against each other so as to form a cone, their tops tied togethe with a wire. This skeleton he covers with canvas walls made of the triangular pieces which each soldie carries and which are quickly fastened together by means of hooks and ever When there are no trees near, the

skees are used to support the tents. If the soldiers are stationed in one skee coasting the best means of breaking the camp's monotony. They choose some smooth hillside, and near the bottom build a mound of pine boughs, upon which they pile a bank of snow. Then they round off this hummock until it looks like a natural knoll left from glacial times. Now all is ready for the fun.

Climbing to the top of the hill by crossing their skees at right angles, and bracing themselves against a disastrous descent by means of stout pole, they reach the top of the crest. When ready each skeeman gives him self a strong shove with the pole and starts down. His feet move faster and faster, until they strike the hum mock, when he feels himself shoot up into the air and land with a sudder joit on the anow beyond. He has travelled through the air perchance a hundred feet, and as lightly as a

dishpan, a hammer and a lengt

AN ELOQUENT SENATOR,

Mr. Balley's Speech on a Proposal to Divide Texas.

said in part:

tion in 1845 sufficient to have justi no longer vexes us, but which completely dominated American politics result. I will go further even than now five states there would not be five men in either state who would into one. But, sir. Texas was not di dence of God she will not be divided until the end of time. Her position is exceptional, and excites within the natural pride. She is now the great est of all the states in area, and certain to become the greatest of all With such a primacy assured to her she could not be expected to surrender it even to obtain an increased representation in this body. "But, Mr. President, while from her

upon a future as bright with promisas ever beckoned a people to follow where fate and fortune lead, it is not so much the promise of the future as it is the memory of a glorious pas which appeals to her against division She could partition her fertile valleys and her broad prairies; she could apportion her thriving towns and growing cities; she could distribute her splendid population and her wonder ful resources, but she could not divide the fadeless glory of those days that are past and gone. To which of her daughters could she assign with out irreparable injustice to all the others the priceless inheritance of Goliad, the Alamo and San Jacinto? To which would she bequeath the name of Hous ton, and Austin, and Fannin, and Bowie, and Crockett? Sir, the fame of these men and their less illustrious but not less worthy comrades cannot be severed. They are the common glory of all, and their names are written upon the tables of her grateful memory so that all time shall not efface them. The story of their mighty deeds which rescued Texas from the condition of a despised and oppressed Mexican province and made her free and independent republic still rouses the blood of her men like the sound of a trumpet, and we would not forfeit the right to repeat it to our

patriotism than that which illuminates almost every page in the early history of Texas. Students may know none was ever consecrated by the blood of braver men than those who fell at Goliad. Historians may no record it as one of the great and decisive battles, but the victory of the Texans at San Jacinto is destined to exert a better influence upon the hap piness of the human race than all the conflicts which established or sub verted the petty kingdoms of the an cient world. Poets have not yet immortalized it in their most enduring verse, but the Alamo is more resplend ent with herioc sacrifice than was Thermopylae itself, because Ther mopylae had her messenger of death while the Alamo had none.

mitted to borrow the apostrophe to liberty and union pronounced by a dis tingulahed Senator, I would say of Texas: 'She is one and inseparable

QUAINT AND CURIOUS.

One of the most remarkable opal once lived in Australia, reaching length of forty feet. The specimen 1150 carats.

The idea that roast dog is an ordi nary article of diet among the Chinese is an entirely erroneous one, for the simple reason that the edible dog is too costly to be commonly eaten. It is a luxury enjoyed by the rich alone and that only on state occasions.

Man has been proven by M. Vas chide to be more sensitive than woman to a salt taste, and in less de gree to a bitter taste, while the two sexes are about equally sensitive to developed olfactory sense, however, woman is better able to distinguish

There are several species of fish, reptiles and insects which never sleep in the whole of their existence. Among fish it is positively known that pike, salmon and goldfish never sleep at all

On a certain goose farm in the Mid-dle West there is an incubator with a capacity for ten thousand eggs. These eggs are not, however, placed in the incubator at one time, but are so ar-ranged that one section will hatch each day, being refilled as soon as the goalings are taken out. The geeso are raised on this farm for their feathers alone, which are used in the uphol-stering business.

THE PULPIT.

BRILLIANT SUNDAY SERMON BY THE REV. DR. H. C. SWENTZEL

Subject: The Divinity of Christianity. Brooklyn, N. Y .- For the first of t series of sermons on "The Religion of Jesus Christ," the Rev. Dr. Henry C. Swentzel, rector of St. Luke's Church, Ollaton avenue, near Fulton street, preached Sunday on "The Divinity of Christianity." The text was from I Timothy 1:11: "The Glorious Gospel of the Blessed God." Dr. Swentzel

said in the course of his sermon: Christianity shows the credentials of divinity. It is not a set of doctrines and principles which men or even the best of them have invented, but it professes to come directly from the infinite Jehovah Himself. It is not simply one among the world's religions. It stands alone and is unique in the manner and method of its origin. It was not whispered into the ear of a seer by the Almighty; it is not the result of visions; it is not the product of learning and piety. It comes direct ly from the infinite God, who actually dopted human nature in order that He It is immeasurably more divine than the religion of Moses and the prophets because it was delivered personally by the incarnate Lord Himself. The themes of which He treats are of such tremendous moment that any solution of them ought to be carefully sized. Who and what is God?

and what is man? What is the true ideal for the present? What is the outlook for the future? What of imortality and heaven? To these inperrogatories the Lord speaks with topes of infallibility which popes and synods have not dared to initiate or even to claim. The author of the Sermon on the Mount was the eternal Son of God and His religion is nothing less than "the glorious gospel of the blessed To say that Jesus of Nazareth is a

divine Being is not synonymous with the error which calls Him a divine man. There have been many divine men-men who had a mission and a were called to lead humanity to better and nobler things; sons of men who of the oldest inhabitant. It was owing were filled with God's spirit, and to the unusually long and severe wincounted not their life dear if it were spent in His service, prophets of reform, prophets of liberty, prophets of or literature or art. philosophy or literature or art. in the hall of fame stand the images of the vast army of divine souls who have been the champions of God's cause and the captains of His hosts in a literal sense which warrants no jugglery of words and no legerdemai of metaphysics, was Jesus Christ, God's Son, His only Son. The Christian Scriptures propose this sublime truth which should be halled with universal acclaim. It is constantly assumed in the four gospels, even as it was by Himself, that, though He was born of the Virgin Mary, He was still, in the later language of the Nicene Creed, "God of God, Light of Light, Yery God of Very God."

In one was or another Our Lord de-clased Him divinity time and again. He made Himself God's equal with such plainness that even His enemi could not mistake it. They accused Him of sacrilege so strongly that they wrung from Him the well-remembered reply: "Say ye to Him whom the Fa-Thou blasphemer, because said I am the Son of God?' It is tru that He loved to speak of Himself as "the Son of Man," but that title really was His assertion of deity. have been a son of man without being divine personage, but He could no be truly the son of man unless He were, more than all, the Son of God. It is no wonder than when the people beheld His moral perfection and whis works and listened to the truth as they seemed to come from the mouth of God, they asked, "Who is this Son of Man?" The record of the memorable interview, which has often been conspicuous in the church's regard, should not lightly be put aside. The Lord said to His disciples, #Whom do men say that I, the Son of Man, am? Whom say ye that I am?' Then it was that Simon Peter made the great His birth the archangel gave this as-surance to the Virgin Mother, "That holy thing which shall be born of the shall be called the Son of God." breathed out His life on the Calvary

confession, "Thou are the Christ, the son of the living God." In advance of when the end came and Jesus had cross, the words of the Roman Centurion were a fitting finale for the record of His mortal career, "Truly this man was the Son of God."

The divinity of the Founder of Chris-

ter would not put shackles on the human intellect. He does not dis-

late thought and investigation. Bet-ter than ourselves did He know that the real advancement of the multi-

tudes is in harmony with His plans and that the period of the finest piety will be a time of the greatest enlight-enment. The divinity of Christ should not be treated as a brutum filmen.

Rather is it a truth—a fact—which should steady and hold Christian peo-ple amid the growth of ideas and the struggle of theories. Whatever truths

may be discovered, whatever titukers may say or pript, whatever conclusions may ensue in the intellectual world, the Christian religion is forever true, because it is nothing less than "the glorious gospel of the blessed God."

It is on this basis that the honest than the basis that the honest than the blessed God."

doubter may take his stand. Dou are not necessarily sinful. Peo who never think will never do It could scarcely be expected to Christianity would not cause intelli-ual disturbances. It has to do large

tianity justifies the certitude of His disciples. This absolute certitude should be appreciated. We should willingly take the Lord at His word. And ciples shall enslave themselves—He who came to make them free, to give them "the liberty of the glory of the children of God." That liberty is surely not a dead letter. The Divine Mas-

H. Hollenback, of Boulder Creek courage the conservatism which dis-dains to consider the present or to look for a golden age in the future. If He be heard aright He will stimupice by his mule, but fifty feet down fell into a large woodrat's nest in a redwood tree, 150 feet from the ground. There he stayed until a party

also that there are several others in the fish family that never sleep more than a few minutes a month. There are dozens of species of files which never indulge in slumber.

much for them to consent to accept the Gospel of Bethlehem and Calvary, the Holy Sepulchre and the Mount of Olives. Of course they deny our platform—they say that Jesus was not the Son of God. To us who believe in the Lord's divinity there is this sure refuge, this safe hiding place from the storms. When doubts arise, although we should do our best to dispose of them, we should remember every mowe should do our best to dispose them, we should remember every moment in the face of mysteries and contradictions and of alleged offenses against the intellect that the Founder of Christianity could have made no mistake because He was the Son of

Christianity is divine because of the divinity of the Founder, and it is because of this divinity that Christianity has endured thus long and all changes and connections and progress shall survive until the end of time. One of the many tokens of its heavenly character is that it has confronted all the powers of darkness and has carried the day in every struggle and on every, field. From the outset an effort has been made to banish it from the face of the earth. More than once has it appeared that "the glorious Gospel of the Blessed God" might possibly be obliterated; but somehow after each battle the banners of the cross have waved in triumph and God's truth has

Does any one inquire respecting the outcome? does any one cry out "Watchman, what of the night?" The inswer is Victory, a better Christendom, a nobler Church, a purer religion. Let the winds blow and the waves roar: let the powers of evil and error do their worst; let the advance and achievements of the future surpass a thousandfold the knowledge and con quests of the past. Christianity will abide with ever increasing glor it is founded on a rock, and that rock is the incarnate Son of God.

WIRES SUSPENDED IN AIR. Peculiar Happening Followed Washing

Away of Bridge. Last March occurred the highest and lost dangerous floods of water containing ice, snow and wreckage on the various rivers of the middle west that has happened within the memory ter, which brought misery and suffer ing to thousands throughout the various central and northern states and in the spring brought havoc and dang to the people along the river bottoms The Maumee river, in Ohio, crossed by the Detroit and Cincinnati line at Waterville, in that state, some six miles south of the town of Maumee,



was a scene of unprecedented destruction, the swift running stream carry ng all before it, even the strong iron bridge of the most modern pattern which makes four spans across the water and over which, with the poles strongly secured to the iron structure itself, run forty strands of No. 8 copper wire. Anticipating that the bridge would go down, a wrecking party was sent with cable ready to re pair the break, but great was the sur prise of all interested in the phenome non when the crash finally came and the ponderous weight of irem down as if made of yellow pine; the huge poles, dragging at the forty wires above and drawing tons on tons as the -four of them-leaving every wire intact and the upper stumps suspend

FASTEST BIRDS THE BEST.

Purchase of Ostriches Always P ed by a Race. "Iiave you ever seen an ostrich arm?" the sailor asked.

"No," said the druggist. "Then, of course, you've never seen an ostrich sale. I'll tell you a strange thing about that. When a dealer comes to buy an ostrich he always has two or three birds he likes best run

"The ostriches are ranged in a line A bunch of figs is shown to them. The man with the figs walks away about a quarter of a mile. Then the os-

triches are let off. "I tell you, the big birds run. Those long, bony legs of theirs put the ground behind them in a way that astoundin'. In the root I saw there were three estriches and one left the others far behind him. As he ran he kept lookin' behind him, like a hu racer, and when he saw that there was no chance for the others, he down and he reached the figs on a walk. He, bein' the winner, was, of course, the bird that the

"Why are these birds always raced and the fastest one purchased?" the druggist,
"Because," replied the sailor, "the
fastest is always the atrongest and

bealthiest."-Chicago Chronicle.

Worth Trying.

Here are two easy little worth trying for the present

## rs combined, and, however strange It may seem, all alone. That person was Bachelor Spriggs ite an eccentric individual, but the No one, however, seemed to make

cisely the same manuer.

and kissing.

of him during the ride, or to care for listening to his queer but humorous conversation. The ladies of party thought him "perfectly hor-for he drinks, and the smell of whisky on him is terrible!" they whis his weakness, pronounced him a very when once started, he ran on like a town clock; in fact, made himself

ulte a bore. So the old bachelor, discarded b everybody, "went it alone," nestled in one corner of the sleigh under a clus-ter of fir branches, with no one but his little brown pocket flusk to keep him it, and seemed to prefer its please

Darrell was dressed in handsome black, which is not generally worn upon a straw-ride, either.

tlemen were dressed in a style not to be expected for a straw-ride, and the As the party moved away from the families of Frisker and Darrell were cottage the scene was lit up magnifidressed in their very best.

All this caused curiosity Suddenly the presence of Parson Brooder, sitting at an adjoining table with a Rible before him was noted.

and this and that put together genthem with sharp, snapping sounds erated a great deal of suspicion. the bells jingled with a merry unison. In the midst of the mysterious whisperings Farmer Frisker arose, and, with a sly smile, that showed how he enjoyed the deception he had practiced upon his friends, disclosed the

ing jewels of the sky shed a soft cenature of the "surprising sensation." "My friends," he said, "I wanted to provide you with real enjoyment upon the appearance of an ermine paradise. this ride. We have had great fun on On, on flew the sleighs, past houses, the road but I have reserved the cream of the amusement to the last. This cream we would have churned at my motives, until the village was left nouse, but there wasn't enough room there, so we'll churn it here under the across the low, white-carpeted meadroof of good Dan Kelly. The great sensation anounced to take place here onely homesteads, the party enjoying

this pleasant diversification of scenery young Stephen Darrell, on which I pray you to shower your blessings." This intelligence was received, first, in silent astonishment, for only the few we have mentioned had had the instance, sitting with his arm around least inkling of the secret, but after the waist of Laura Dale, pointing out the astonishment was recovered from

s the marriage of my daughter to

to her the places of interest upon the it was greeted with a storm of an road, the old dead sycamore tree, with plause. the spring in its trunk famed for such What Frisker had done in his fer words he had intended Spriggs to make the subject of a splendid speech. But, alas! Spriggs har failed him in time ago, etc. All this while her his hour of need, and he was forced father and mother, sitting quite near, thus to be his own speechmaker, but it is our belief that the great Spriggs, had he been in fit condition with all his polish and ready command of language, could not have delivered a

farmer in his few blunt words. All the other young people derived an Then all became silent, and the arson, rising, entered upon his happy mense amount of enjoyment in pre duty of joining together two loving

speech with better effect than had th

hearts. "Keep Spriggs out! Don't let him in!" said Frisker, to one of his friends before the marriage service began, for he had looked around the company and found, to his great relief, that Spriger was missing, for the tipsy bachelor was at that moment in the bar-room of the hotel below, replenishing his

little brown flask. The bride and bridegroom, with their attendants, took their places, the parson rose, and the ceremony began. But when nearly through, and just arrived at that highly critical part of the ceremony when the couple are questioned as to whether they accept each other as husband and wife, sud-denly out went the gas, and the room

was left in total darkness. This created some consternation.
"Blame the luck!" cried Frisker, and bellowed for a match.

Then every man began to fish in his vest pocket; but, of course, no one had a match about him.

"I'll go downstairs for one," cried
the man on guard at the door, and he
opened the door to go; but at the same
moment the bridegroom, Stephen Dar-

during the latter part of the cere-mony, stood in the glare of the light, with one hand grasping his brown flask, and the other clutching the table Two or three other ladies and gensupport-spriggs, the bachelor Frisker.

> The excitement that prevailed after this thrilling tableau it would be hard to portray. "Blame that Spriggs!" roared Farm er Frisker. "Throw him out of the

"Let me at him till I break his neck!" cried Stephen, and indeed the angry pair would have broken the poor bachelor's neck had friends not interfered and calmed them down, and

bore Spriggs out of sight. Then, when the full ridiculousness of the scene was realized, there was great amusement. The cause of the light going out so suddenly was that somebody downstairs had turned off the gas, but whether designedly or accidentally could not be ascertained The mirth and excitement over the affair did not subside for fully fifteen

By that time the bride had recovered from her faint, and the fathtr and bridegroom from their desperation. Then the ceremony was re-enacted

and the right man was married. After the ceremony there was a splendid supper, and after that, spirited dancing, which was kept up until an early hour of the morning. Then the straw-ride party left Dan Kelly's and reached Racketville not

only in time for dinner, but in plenty of time for breakfast. "We have had a first-rate time Haven't we, Frisker?" said one of the farmer's friends.

"Yes, a spankin' time," said Fris-"Straw-rides are very well in their way, but the next straw-ride I get up will be a straw-ride and noth-ing else. Never while I have brains enough left to raise carrots, will cart one of my daughters to another man's house to be hustled into wedlock. Then I'll know she'll not be married in the dark."-New York

How To Be Popular. Be natural. People are quick to iscover affectation of any kind, and have a contempt for it; so give up

Be neat. There is great charm in

Be affectionate and sympathetic and don't be self-conscious ashamed to show either quality. Be home-loving and kind to all old people, poor people and children. These are womanly qualities, and all love and admire the womanly girl. Don't have "moods." Avoid the find a girl, not to have to renew her acquaintance every time they meet. Be athletic, as that means health, and healthfulness means wholesome-ness.—Philadelphia Inquirer.

They did without food. They drawed in gunny sacks They suchred the gas motor

will be erected 300 feet apart and centrifugal pumps will be installed for the purpose of drawing off the water. The results of the work can not be a question of doubt, judging from the past performances of these diamond

have the diamonds been found in the Sao Jose? The answer to this is not difficult, and is given when we state that the original rock-which former ly occupied the high plateau-has been gradually disintegrated, the debris of the rock being carried by rains into the Sao Jose, Because of their tensity the black and white diamonds were concealed under the sand, to gether with the mineral accessories which surround them and which are the indications of the precious stones. Thus, in the course of years, these beds have been formed, beds the rich

Wide Magazine. Some Extremes of Cold.

The lowest cold recently experi need was very moderate compared with records of severe years. Illustrating this point, Rev. Samuel D. Sander of Thornton-heath, writes that in the beginning of December, 1874when he was rector of Bishop Middle ham, in Durham-his thermometer, feet from the ground, never rose during the week about 0 degrees (zero) Fahrenheit; and at Cornforth Colliery the curate of the parish reported that the thermometer sank to six degrees below zero. In 1895 it descended out side a bedroom window to 8 degrees. or 24 degrees of frost. There has been nothing approaching this at Thornton-heath since 1895, when the ground was frozen to a depth of three eet, and water supply in many places cut off. Our correspondent thinks that no people in the world stand ex-tremes of heat and cold like the Engrell, who accompanied Mr. Whymper at Chimborazo and Cotopaxi, was afterwards frozen to death on Mon Blanc, when the two English tourists whom he was guiding escaped.—JLondon Telegraph.

ooks in the Indian schools, and who are cited as authorities not to be dis puted. Thre are also Indians who fore being put in permanent form had been handed down from generation to eration. The Indians today obe se laws with a greater rever an they do the laws of the United. There are Indian novel velists who devote their time to en-rtaining the Indian mind with ro-ance with entangied plots and bloodcurding climaxes. These books are popular among the Insiana. Edition after edition of some works is published, and they are read by buck an-

Members of the Norwegian skee

The question naturally arises, Why

ness of which is incalculable.-World

That great Swiss guide, Car-

Of late years the number of writer mong the Cherokees has greatly increased. There are historians in the whose works are used as text

A new form of looping the loop to omised the Parisians. A French en inser says he will make a motor on

In the course of a speech in the Senate recently on a proposition to di-vide the state of Texas, Mr. Balley "If Texas had contained a popula

fied her admission as five states, it is my opinion that she would have been so admitted then, because the all-aborbing slavery issue, which, happily, at that time, would have led to that that, and I will say that if Texas were seriously propose their consolidation vided in the beginning, Texas is not divided now, and under the Proviminds of all her citizens a just and population, wealth and influence.

prominence today she looks

children even for many additiona

seats in this august assembly. "The world has ne more about other battlefields,

"Mr. President, if I might be per

in existence is supposed to be a fossil fragment of the cinioliasaurus, which lately brought to New York, weight

Cal., was kicked over a 200-foot preci

of rescuers got him down with ropes