

The Straw-Ride at Frisker's.

By Fletcher Cowan.

The village of Racketville was at fever heat in the middle of February. At fever heat in the middle of February. What an absurd expression that is, but the cause of this ferment...

Figure passed into the room unnoticed in the gloom. Stephen Darrell was intensely flurried 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...

BLACK DIAMONDS IN BRAZIL. Not Used as Jewelry, But in Demand for Boring Machines. The black diamond is an important article of commerce, not because it is destined to embellish the hand of feminine grace...

SOLDIERS USE SKEES. EFFICIENCY OF NORWEGIAN TROOPS INCREASED. THEREBY. Both Japanese and Russians might profit by this experience and introduce the "foot sled" in their armies during the Manchurian Campaign...

AN ELOQUENT SENATOR. Mr. Bailey's Speech on a Proposal to Divide Texas. In the course of a speech in the Senate recently on a proposition to divide the state of Texas, Mr. Bailey said in part:

THE PULPIT. A BRILLIANT SUNDAY SERMON BY THE REV. DR. M. C. SWENTZEL. Subject: The Divinity of Christianity. Brooklyn, N. Y.—For the first of a series of sermons on "The Religion of Jesus Christ," the Rev. Dr. Henry C. Swentzel, pastor of St. Luke's Church, 41st Street, New York, preached Sunday on "The Divinity of Christianity..."

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 storm...

Stephen Darrell was dressed in handsome black, which is not generally worn upon a straw-ride, either. Two or three other ladies and gentlemen were dressed in a style not to be expected at the Frisker family, and the Darrell family, and a few others were dressed in their very best. All this caused curiosity and remark.

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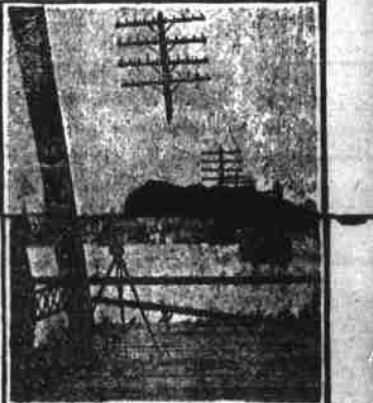
Some Extremes of Cold. The lowest cold recently experienced was very moderate compared with records of severe years. Illustrating this point, Rev. Samuel D. Sander of Thornton-beath, writes that in the beginning of December, 1874...

QUAINT AND CURIOUS. One of the most remarkable opals in existence is supposed to be a fossil fragment of the cheloniasaurus, which once lived in Australia, reaching a length of forty feet. The specimen, lately brought to New York, weighs 1150 carats.

THE IDEAS OF THE CHINESE. The idea that roast dog is an ordinary 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.

FASTEST BIRDS THE BEST. Purchase of Ostriches Always Recommended by a Race. "Have you ever seen an ostrich farm?" 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 a race..."

WORTH TRYING. Here are two easy little things worth trying for the present year. First, to give some one at least one little thing of your own by a little thought or deed, in addition to those which spring up spontaneously from your heart. Create one extra one each day by your own conscious effort. Second, still at least one hearty word or ungenerous deed each day, that would have found expression for this campaign of self-watchfulness. Did you ever stop and think how much brighter any one of us would be if these 365 rays of sunshine and suppressing 365 of our small clouds each year?



Wires Suspended in Air.

peculiar Happening Followed Washing Away of Bridge. Last March occurred the highest and most dangerous floods of water containing ice, snow and wreckage on the various rivers of the middle west that has happened within the memory of the oldest inhabitant. It was owing to the unusually long and severe winter...