

SKEEING IN THE ALPS.

Picturesque Sport on the Order of "Follow Your Leader."

The skeeing clubs form one of the most picturesque sights to be seen in the Alps in winter. With their bright colored blanket suits, tasseled caps or tam-o-shanters and huge white mitts, they go through the snow covered woodlands across the white mountain slopes usually in single file, perhaps fifty sliding along after the leader in true Norwegian fashion. Indeed, it is a variety of the old game of "follow your leader," for what he does the others are expected to do. So if he comes to a ledge and jumps off all are supposed to leap.

But jumping with the skees is not so easy as it looks, and the end is often burial in the snow bank, for unless one is very sure of his footing the long, narrow wooden slats will twist or turn without warning, and over you go. With the skee one can go over hard snow at a very rapid rate, but when he strikes a patch of the newly fallen snow it is a case of slow to be sure, for any minute the bottom may sink away with him.

But it is beautiful as well as invigorating, and the women have found that they need not look awkward even in this form of outdoor dress, with a ribbon here and a tassel there and some even adorning their skees.—St. Nicholas.

HE TOOK THE CASE.

The Lawyer Said He Would Attend to It, and He Did.

A Washington attorney is rather noted for the facility with which he forgets financial obligations. He has owed a certain grocer \$8 for a year or two. The other day the merchant concluded to try a new course with him. Meeting him in his store, he said:

"Judge, I have a customer who owes me a small bill and has owed it for a long time. He makes plenty of money, but won't pay. What would you do?"

"I'd sue him," said the lawyer emphatically.

"Well, I will put the account in your hands." And the merchant presented a statement of the account against the lawyer himself.

"All right, I will attend to it," said the disciple of Blackstone.

A few days later the merchant received the following note from the lawyer:

"In the case of — versus —, I took judgment for the full amount of your claim. Execution was issued and returned 'no property found.' My fee for obtaining judgment is \$10, for which amount please send check. Will be glad to serve you in any other matters in which you may need an attorney."—Washington Star.

The Bashi-bazouk.

Like each of the various clans of the Kurds, the bashi-bazouk can easily be distinguished by his costume. His shoes, or "yemeyas" (meaning leathers), are red or black. His goldlike stockings, which leave the knee exposed, are elaborately embroidered in black. His short Turkish trousers are of homespun, while about his waist is a short sash of wool or silk, surmounted by a leather belt in rich colors and embossed in red. This is divided into three or four sections, in which he keeps his revolver, his chibouk, or pipe, and his yataghan, always kept sharp. The bashi-bazouks never carry daggers, as the Circassians do. A cartridge box hangs from the side, as well as a small silver snuffbox. They wear two jackets, the under one with short sleeves and the outside one with long. At the elbow is an opening in which they carry in a leather bag written quotations from the Koran as a talisman to protect them from the bullets of the adversary. About the neck is a chain of silver coins, from which is suspended a powder box.

Dividing Something.

A farm laborer in one of the western counties was requested to vote for a candidate at the election, but he refused. Being asked for his reason, he laudably answered:

"Why, because them ebaps be well enough paid."

They then tried to explain to Hodge that members of parliament in this country were not paid for their services. But he was not to be convinced.

"Don't 'ee tell me," he replied somewhat angrily. "I believe my eyes, and when I zees in the paper as they divides almost ev'ry night I knows they be dividin' summat!"—London Tit-Bits.

Old Scottish Words.

Here are a few quaint old Scottish words still used a good deal in East Ayrshire: "Mowse"—To say anything is nae mowse means it is uncanny or dangerous. "Connached"—Spotted; clean connached would mean utterly destroyed or rendered useless. "Blaud"—To blaud anything would mean to sell it. A child would be told, "Dinna blaud your clean pint." "Gardies" or "gardies"—A child's forehead. The last is a very old expression, but we have heard it used. "Sic bonnie gardies he has" means the baby has plump arms.—Glasgow Herald.

A Straight Vote.

The secret of the ballot is sometimes too good to keep. "George," said the squire, "did you vote straight, as I told you?" "Sure, O! did, squire. It said on th' paper to put a X, but O! included as how ye said 'root straight,' and O! put an straight through un's name."—London Chronicle.

Violent delights have violent ends and in their triumph die like fire and powder, which as they kiss consume.—Shakespeare.

Noah's Anchors.

A story of a pair of anchors is told in the book entitled "To Kairwan the Holy."

Kairwan is the Mecca of the west. It is a city so sacred that women are allowed to move about in it but very little. One of the interesting sights is the Mosque of Emir Ben Said Ben Muphat. This mosque, with its six melon shaped domes, is the tomb of a most amusing old Moslem who died about the middle of the last century. He had great power over the bey and managed affairs according to his own pleasure. This Moslem got possession in Tunis of four large anchors which probably belonged to some old men-of-war abandoned on account of stress of weather. The gentleman with the lion name was not content with any such prosaic explanation of their origin. It means of the labor of 500 Araks. It had the anchors dragged from Tunis and deposited in front of his house. The transportation took five months. He then declared them to be the anchors by which Noah fastened the ark to Mount Ararat. The relics are now in the mosque of their former owner and are regarded as holy.

His Rules of Golf.

A lawyer of considerable prominence took up the game of golf. Some of his friends volunteered chapters of advice, while another presented to the beginner a book of rules. After completing his first round the counselor was asked if he had mastered the rules. The perspiring lawyer realized the sarcasm of the remark, but protested equal to the occasion. "The rules are quite simple," he replied. "There are two I know of, and to a mind they are the most important. You must hit the ball with your club and after you have hit it you must find it, of course, before you hit it again. It will take an honest man several weeks to master these two rules. After driving the ball you must hit it wherever it lies. Good lies are as important in golf as in fishing. Losing a ball costs you two strokes and in price of the ball. Hitting a caddy with the ball is justifiable homicide."—New York Tribune.

Butler's Reply.

There was a time, while Lyman Trumbull was chairman of the senate committee on judiciary, that Benjamin Butler was chairman of the judicial committee of the house. It was a this period that a delegation from one of the southern states visited Washington with a desire to secure the impeachment and removal of the federal judge of their state. They interviewed Mr. Butler as to the probability of carrying such a measure through this session.

"I don't know," was Mr. Butler's reply; "I am chairman of the judicial committee of the house. The necessary action can be had here. But Lyman Trumbull is chairman of the senate committee, and Judge Trumbull is troubled with two things—the dyspepsia, which makes him miserable, and conscience, which makes him uncer tain."

Ginseng's Growth.

The manner of the ginseng's growth gives it a queer shape and in some cases fabulous value. There is a main root or trunk. Then on all sides there will be smaller roots, one on a side, and by a curious formation, the offshoots resemble arms and legs, so that the full grown ginseng looks for the world like a human figure. The more the fancied likeness to the human form is developed the greater the value, according to some of the Chinese. The root as an herb has wonderful properties, but, for a much beyond is the value of one that looks human. The others will cure cancers and all sorts of other diseases, but the precious one having the human shape will keep off devils and at bad luck.—Argonaut.

Not His Fault.

A story is told of a well known Sheffield tenor who when asked to sing at a dinner, although he had no music with him, went on to the platform to try.

He did his best, but he broke down in the middle and retired.

He was cheered up by an elderly man sitting next to him, who tapped him on the shoulder and said: "Never mind, lad; that's done th' best, but 'feller at asked thee to sing out to be shot!"—London Telegraph.

Had to Do It.

Hogan—Phwat makes ye swally at your dinner in two minutes, Hogan? Are yez atin' on a bet? Hogan—It's for the good av me dyspepsy. Moidie Sure, the docther told me to rist at hour after 'atin', and how else av O! goin' to get the hour to rist in unless O! ate loike the divil!—Boston Transcript.

The Higher Court.

"The courts have decided that a woman has no right to open her husband's mail."

"My wife reversed that decision before it was made."—Houston Post.

Still Young.

Teacher—I am surprised that you are not further advanced. You are extremely backward for your age. Little Girl—Yes'm. Mamma wants to marry again.

A Medical Opinion.

"Doctor, how do you account for the existence of rheumatism?" "The mind, my dear sir, evolved the disease to fit the word."—Chicago Tribune.

The best rowlsh, after all, is not that which has the fewest thorns, but that which bears the finest roses.—Henry Van Dyke.

HE NEVER MISSED.

A Well Paid, Fiery Job That Wears a Man Out in Fifteen Years.

The man who stood at the lever had a story that is common all over America. Ten years before he had been a peasant lad in a dull little village in Ireland. Drawn up and along by the emigrant tide, he had drifted to Chicago, and here in the works he had caught the true spirit of the place, which is to strain every nerve and rise. He had risen. His pay was \$50 a week. He worked every night from 8 p. m. to 6 a. m., twelve vigilant hours. Watching those three mammoth tanks, by the tints and hues in their columns of flame he could tell just when to wrench back a lever. This he did over a hundred times in the night, and if he missed by so much as thirty seconds he spoiled thousands of dollars' worth of steel. He never missed.

To hold this job is to jam the strength of a lifetime into fifteen years—at \$50 a week. The man recognized this as a matter of course, only qualifying it by the remark that he knew of a reformed Scotchman at Homestead who had held it seventeen years before breaking. That his whole life had been changed; that the little Irish village, the misty bog and the hovels were back to another age, on another planet—all this he felt vaguely and summed it up, with a twinkle. "Shure," he said, "it's a terrible quick spin this ouid world is after takin'!" But he loved the fiery job, called the huge tanks "me darlin'" and said he would rather be what he was than be president.—Ernest Poole in Every-body's.

COLORS IN FLAGS.

Red is the Most Frequent, and After That Comes Blue.

It is entirely appropriate, of course, that red, the war color, should appear so frequently in the flags of the various nations. Of the flags of the countries of the eastern hemisphere there is only one—that of Greece—which does not show the martial color. In the western hemisphere, however, we find several standards not showing red. The flags of the Argentine Republic, Brazil, Nicaragua, Guatemala, Uruguay and Honduras contain no red.

In this country there is no red in the union jack or in the flags of the secretary of the navy, the admiral of the navy, the rear admiral senior in rank and the rear admiral junior in rank. Red appears in the pennant of the rear admiral second in rank and the pennant of the revenue marine. The United States mail flag also shows red, and that color is also found in the pennants of the vessels of the lighthouse service, the yacht ensign, the ensign of the revenue marine, the president's and the secretary of war's standards.

The flags that are almost entirely red, except for the devices shown thereon, are those of Austria-Hungary, Egypt, Morocco and Japan. The flag of Turkey is practically of a solid red. After red the prevailing color in flags is blue.—Harper's Weekly.

Something Wrong.

The balloon pilot lauded in the little backwoods village and told the listeners the thrilling story of his escape.

"And at one time," he related, with dramatic force, "I was in a storm and sweeping over a vast desert. There was nothing to do but throw out sand and prepare for the worst. Gentlemen, at one time I felt as if I had lost my head and gone plumb crazy."

The oldest inhabitant slowly lighted his pipe and drawled, with a sarcastic smile:

"You must have been plumb crazy, bub, to throw sand on a desert. Didn't you think there was enough sand there already?"—Chicago News.

What Intermittency Means.

Intermittency is that form of irregularity in which the pulse appears to drop a beat occasionally. In some instances it occurs regularly and two or three times per minute for several hours. Sometimes also it is very irregular and is noted a number of times within a few seconds and not again for a minute or more. This peculiarity generally causes much uneasiness. Yet, while it may be a very serious symptom and associated with grave and incurable disease of the heart, it often signifies merely a functional disturbance which is in nowise dangerous.

Why He Got Up.

It was only about noonday, but the computer yawned. He yawned heavily two or three times.

"Got up at 6 o'clock," he explained. "Had to catch my train. When my wife waked me I said to her: 'Six o'clock! The chickens haven't begun to crow yet, have they? Why must I get up before the chickens do, I'd like to know.'"

"I don't know," she said, "unless it's because you're so chicken."—New York Press.

Fatal Curiosity.

"How did they manage to get such a fine thumb print of the burglar?" "The house had been painted that day, and he just couldn't resist the temptation to feel of the paint to see if it was dry."—Houston Post.

Her Worry.

Mrs. Hoyle—You seem unhappy. Mrs. Doyle—I am. I don't believe that if I were to die my husband would wear as deep mourning as he did for his first wife.—New York Press.

Scruples too rigid are nothing else but concealed pride.—Goethe.

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