July – Dec. 1866

WINTER.

He comes! the tardy winter comes!
I hear his footsteps through the nights!
I hear his vanguard from the heights
March through the pines with muffled drums!

His naked feet are on the mead,
The grass blade stiffens in his path,
No fear for child of earth he hath,
No pity for her tender seed!

The bare oaks shudder at his breath;
A moment by the stream he stays;
Its melody is mute! A glaze
Creeps o'er its dimples as of death!

From fettered stream and blackened moor,
The city's wall he silent nears;
The mansions of the rich he fears;
He storms the cabins of the poor!

The curtained couch, the glowing hearth,
The frost rimmed greybeard's power defy;
He curses as he hurries by,
And strikes the beggar dead to earth!

For every gleaming hall he spares,
A hundred heartless hovels hold
Heart pulseless, crip with ice and cold,
Watched by a hundred grim despairs!

The forests grow by His command
Who saith, "He lendeth to the Lord
Who giveth to the poor!" You heard
Is His, ye stewards of the land!

Here is your mission, ye who feed
Your lavish fires! Not afar,
But at your doors your heathen are!
God's poor—your creditors—take heed!

The path is long to Pagan shores,
Their skies are sunny; God's o'er all!
The winter's deadly harvests fall
Around you! Deal your Master's stores.

AQUATIC.

THE TRANSATLANTIC YACHT RACE.

In aquatics nothing goes on, the entire number of admirers of all water amusements remaining as if spell bound till the eagerly looked for news of the arrival of the adventurous yachts shall arrive. If ever the cable did good work, it will be called upon to do so now, and bear joyous word to many an anxious wife and mother, of the success attending the hazardous adventure of our brave amateur sailors. Since our last, nothing has transpired, except it be some extremely improbable stories about two of the yachts being seen, the latitude and longitude on each occasion given, being sufficient to prove that either the vessels' reckonings were wrong, or that they, as well as the yachts, had made the most unprecedented passages on record.

The winds, judging from those we have had, have been extremely favorable, prevailing from the North and West, but the temperature has been so very low, that it almost makes one shudder to think of reefing, and handling ropes, frozen stiff as crow bars. It is difficult enough to keep warm and comfortable at home with every requisite, what must it then be in a two hundred ton schooner. The last transatlantic steamship reports very heavy weather during her passage, with head winds; just the very thing wanted to make the yacht race short, and little should we be surprised if when we again go to press we should have the pleasure of announcing the arrival of the successful competitor.

Betting still continues in favor of the Henrietta, although the Fleetwing is nearly equal and therefore second candidate in the public estimation; but for all this, if we were betting men, from our experience of sea matters, and the remarks we have heard made by some regular old sea dogs, we should place our shiners with great confidence on the Vesta. However, ere long we shall see.

THE GAME OF BILLIARDS.

CHANGE IN A BILLIARD RULE.

The veteran author of the Rules governing the Game of Billiards announces the following alteration in the rule relating to "frozen" balls, to take effect on the 1st day of January, 1867:—"When the cue ball is in contact with any other ball, the striker may effect a count either by playing first upon some ball other than that with which his own is in contact, or by playing against the cushion, or by a masse. In either of the two last mentioned cases, it is immaterial which ball the returning cue ball strikes first. These stipulations observed, the play can then be pursued entirely as if the balls had not been in contact.

FEMININES AT THE CUE.

The Brothers Shoaf lately opened a new billiard saloon called the "International Billiard Hall," at Omaha City, Nebraska. It is said to be one of the largest and finest saloons west of the Mississippi river, and contains four tables, which were furnished by Julius Balke, one of the most extensive manufacturers at the West, having one manufactory on Main and Eighth streets, Cincinnati, and another at 58 Market street, St. Louis. At the opening, about one hundred ladies were present, many of whom participated in the "spherical" exercises.

BILLIARDS IN WASHINGTON.

On the 12th of December a new billiard saloon was opened on D street, between 6th and 7th, under the auspices of Joseph Simpson. The opening ceremonies was inaugurated by a carom game, 240 points, between Jones and Collinsworth, the former won by 80 points. This was followed by a carom game, 400 points, between Messrs. Plunkett and Davis, which was a spirited affair and resulted in favor of Davis, by 91 points in 27 innings.

THE BALLS IN BALTIMORE.

At the rooms of the Concordia Club, Baltimore, Md., a billiard tournament was lately held, at which two classes were represented. The prize for the first class was a silver mounted cue—won by Mr. L. P. Wiel. That for the second class was a silk umbrella, which was carried off by Mr. Hecht. The contestants were all amateurs and members of the club.

TOURNAMENT AT CARTHAGE, N. Y.

On Dec. 6th and 7th, a tournament was held for the possession of the champion cue of the counties of Jefferson, St. Lawrence, Franklin, Oneida, Herkimer and Oswego, this State. Only three counties, Jefferson, Oneida and St. Lawrence were represented. The first match, for Thursday evening, was between Mr. Rhodes, of Ogdensburgh, Mr. Childs, of Carthage, and Messrs. Whipple, Griffin and Spencer, of Utica. The first prize, consisting of the cue and $30, was won by Mr. Rhodes, of the "Burgh;" the second prize, $30, was taken by Mr. Whipple, of Utica. The games were 500 points up, caroms. On Friday evening two additional players entered for the prizes—Mr. Tripp, of Watertown, and Mr. Salier, of Carthage—the latter a mere youth, though not successful, was at one time the favorite, his brilliant shots being greeted with much applause. In one game of 100 points, with Mr. Whipple, young Salter was the victor by about forty points. The prizes on the second evening were—first prize, $50; second prize, $30; third prize, $20, which were won respectively by Messrs. Childs, Spencer and Tripp; full game, 100 points up. Watertown kept up her standing in the contest. The victory of Mr. Childs, on the second evening, was hailed with satisfaction by those present.

☞ An English exchange says:—"In addition to the prominent position which the Duke of Hamilton is gradually taking up on the English Turf, he appears to be equally determined to become one of the racing magnates of France. For the very respectable stud which he already possesses on the Continent, he has recently purchased three yearlings of promise—Gouvernail, Capitaliste and Clair de Lune II, for £1,000, leaving a large interest to the seller in the several engagements for which the horses are entered at Epsom, Doncaster, Chantilly and Paris, in 1867."

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☞ A Western judge, full of fun and folic, and withal a widower with five children, was lately bantered by a pretty miss of five-and-twenty for not taking a wife. The judge confessed his remissness, and ended in offering himself to the lady who had so handsomely pointed out his shortcomings. She was willing, but there was one—to her—serious obstacle. "Well," said the judge, "name it. My profession is to surmount such obstacles." "Ah! judge, this is beyond your power. I have vowed if I ever married a widower, he must have ten children!" "Ten children! O, that's nothing," says the judge, "I'll give you five now, and my notes on demand in yearly instalments for the balance."

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