

LIFE IN RUSSIA.—The streets of the town are wonderfully gay and picturesque. Sledges, with the famous Russian trotters, move gallantly about over the clean white snow, the swift horses jingling their merry bells, and tossing their handsome heads in their gay silver harness. Fair, fur-clad ladies talking pleasantly, and making quite a holiday time of it, go jauntily about in delightfully high spirits. The awful Winter is to them a mere change of pleasures; they take their brisk recreation of sledging by day, and muster at brilliant balls and assemblies at night. Nothing can quench their thirst for excitement and society; but the theatres are closed by the police, lest the coachman waiting for playgoers should be frozen on his box. The tariff ceases for public carriages, and the droschky drivers, hardy enough to brave the weather, may charge their own fares. Gentlemen walk about with pelisses of the black fox, costing as much as \$4,000 apiece, because this fur is the warmest and lightest—for even fashion has reason in its caprices. Persons less wealthy, or less luxurious, wrap themselves in the skins of the racoon or the skunk, the bear or the beaver. Ladies go clothed in sables, the finest of which should be of dark hair, tinged with gray. The yellow fox gives a good, light, warm fur, but it is discredited on account of its cheapness. Our houses are, in the South, not so well built for this weather as those in St. Petersburg and the North. Not only do our windows freeze, but the frost and snow force their way inside the rooms, and lie inches deep of a morning under the balcony doors and between the double windows. But by means of ovens between the walls, which we call stoves, we can contrive to keep our rooms facing the South at about 14 degrees of heat. Reamur. An iron stove, when it burns well, which is not often, will bring even a northerly room up to 18 degrees; but this is too warm. It requires some management to get a comfortable temperature, which is about 15 degrees Reamur. An English fireplace, however large and well-fed, will by no means make head against the difficulty.

DRESS.—A Scotch professor recently strongly condemned the practice of allowing children to go about without sufficient covering for their legs. He said, in addition, that mothers commit child murder, and then wonder how God could be so unkind as to take away their darling. They not only murder their children, but, in his opinion, commit suicide themselves by exposing their own necks to the cold air. It was a puzzle which he could not understand, that women should cut off the tops of their dresses and appear with bare bosoms in refined society, while that part of the dress which should protect the heart and lungs and other vital organs is trailing in the mud.

A story is told of a New England city clergyman, who, one Monday last summer, visited the market early in the morning. While there, his attention was called to some very fine strawberries. He wished very much to purchase some, but it being so very early in the morning, it occurred to him that they must have been picked on Sunday, and of course he could not purchase or use anything which had been produced under such circumstances. He inquired of the farmer, "Mr. Smith, were these berries picked on Sunday?" Mr. Smith, with a sly twinkle in his eye, replied: "No, doctor, they were picked this morning, but they grew on Sunday."

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