

Walter Nelson

THE PIONEERSMAN.



CHRISTMAS

THE

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THE PIONEERSMAN

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THE BILLINGS CHRISTMAS

The Billings cabin was in a sharp little valley on a small brook that came tumbling down over the rocks in its path while the mountains reared up above them as if they might topple over at any time on the small log cabin at their feet. Mr Billings was a woodchopper during the winter and spring and during the summer he cultivated a small farm about a mile and a half down the mountain. There were four children at this cabin, Jack who was about seventeen was the oldest then Joe who was fourteen then Dorothy who was twelve then Jimmy who was the youngest and about ten years old. They had never had much schooling but Jack the oldest could read and write pretty well and could cast up accounts a little but there wasn't but little required of them in

this backwoods home. "Why don't father and Jack come" said Dorothy "Can it be either of them have got hurt" and she sighed and turned from the window where she had been watching. Just then Jimmy burst into the room and yelled "There is a team coming up the road mother who can it be?" Mrs Billing ran to the door and looked down the road or rather the rough uneven path that led to the settlement when that she got to the door the team had just gone out of sight behind a bend in the path but they soon came in sight again and Mrs Billing saw that there were two men in the wagon one seemed to be laying down in it as if hurt when she saw this she was pretty certain what it meant and she rather thought that it was her husband that was hurt and not her son. They soon arrived and proved what she had thought to be true and as she had

feared. "Oh father how did it happen that you got hurt so bad" asked Joe at Jack. "Well you see we were up in the woods at work chopping began Jack. "I had got a tree about ready to fall so I called to father to warn him but he thought I had not got it as near cut as I had and when the tree started he was not ready but tried to get out of the way as quick as possible but before he could quite get out of the way a limb struck him on the shoulder and knocked him down and broke his shoulder a very little. I called for help and a man soon came then between them they took Mr Billing down to the camp then we got a team and brought him home. They put Mr Billing on the bed in the bedroom and the doctor soon came from the settlement he bound up and bandaged his shoulder up good and said he would call again the next day to see poor Mr Billing. The doctor came day after day and Mr Billings shoulder slowly got well but it

was very slowly it was now most Christmas and he was not quite well yet. "Say mother what are we to have for Christmas this year" asked Dorothy wistfully thinking of her father's sickness. "I don't believe we shall have much of a Christmas this year for Jack can not earn any more than we have to use to pay the doctor and what father had laid up will have to be used to buy food with so I guess we will have to see how happy we can make each other" replied Mrs. Billing. "Oh dear this will be the first time that we have had to go without Christmas I do wish that papa was well but then we will do the best we can" she added when the boys heard of this they were bound that they would have some kind of Christmas with out any money of their mothers or papers so one day a few days later Joe took his gun and went out in to the woods to hunt he traveled a good ways up the mountain side with out seeing any thing then at last he came up on a partridge just as

he was turning to go home again
the bird started before he saw it but he
fired and the bird dropped but started
off on the run Joe put after it and at
last came up with it and killed it.

"I wish this was a turkey" thought he
as he picked up the bird and started
home he had gone but a little ways
homeward when he heard an old gob-
bler beck in the woods a little ways

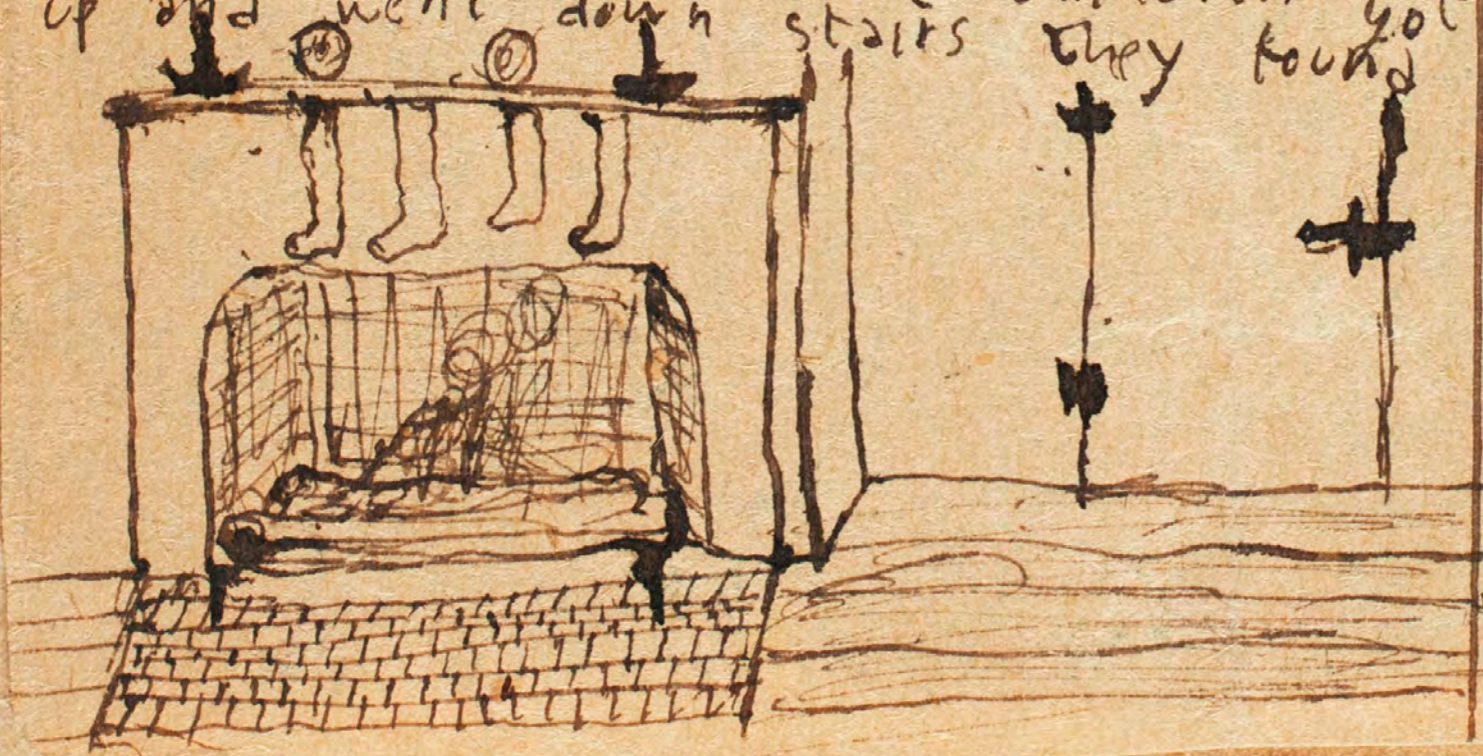
"I'll have you" said he and he started
off in the direction of the gobbler going
as stealthily as an old indian he soon



came to a large rock that hid the
turkey from him and also hid him
from the turkeys he cocked his gun and
stepped around the ledge there they
were fully a score of large birds
it so surprised him that he did not
fire the instant he came in sight and
the turkeys began to fly before he

was on the thought and fired so he
there was took aim at the thickest
clump of turkeys and brought down
two these he took along with him to
the house not letting his mother see and
the next morning long before the rest
were up he got out of bed and went
to the settlement he first went out
in the barn and got his two turkeys
then he started off down the snowy
road towards the settlement it was dark
but it was very early in the morning
and after a while he came to the
village the stores were just being
opened and he went in to one where
he was acquainted with the man and
asked him if he was buying turkeys
no he said but he told him that
Mr Thomson down street was
buying them so Joe went down
there. "Yes I buy turkeys and pay
seventy five cents in money for them
and eighty cents in goods he said
so Joe took eighty cents worth of
groceries buying a little rice and some
raisins for a pudding then he bought
several other small quantities then he
sold the other turkey for cash and
went in to a store and got several presents for
Jack, Jimmy and Dorothy these

he had done up and he had it happen
 hurried home he hid the presents and just carried in the few groceries. "Why were you been" said his mother as he came in. "Oh I shot a turkey yesterday and so I got up early and went down and sold it then I bought a few groceries a little rice and plums for Christmas because I thought that Christmas wouldn't be Christmas without a pudding" he replied. "Well you must be hungry" said his mother and she made him sit down and he ate a hearty breakfast after his morning walk during that day the children talked about their Christmas pudding. Two days later Christmas arrived and with it the presents for the rest of the children and when the children got up and went down stairs they found



their presents Dorothy had a little work basket Jack had a scarf and Jimmy had a box of colored pencils with which he was much pleased. Mrs Billing had a box of hair pins a news paper that Joe had bought with a five cent piece at the village while Joe had a pair of warm mittens that his mother had knit and Jack also had a pair of mittens. They were all pleasantly surprised. This was the first day that Mr Billings went out doors and all together it was one of the happiest days that they had ever known. That they could remember and it was all owing to Joe's turkeys and they all thanked him for their presents.

Frank Booth.

ACROSTIC ON CHRISTMAS DAY

Christmas brings old Santa Claus
 He drives his team with many haws
 Right down the chimney comes he
 In the stockings a hole he will see
 So that he may put in the toys
 To please the good girls and boys
 Morning brings expectant looks
 All run to the fireplace hooks
 Santa has stuffed them stockings full

Down from the noils the stockings they put
And clear to the bottom they look
Yes, Santa Claus always gives them a book
H. Green

CHRISTMAS DAY AT HOME

"Come wake up Tom and come on.
What for?" growled Tom sleepily
"What for? Why don't you know it's
Christmas morning?" replied his brother
Perley with this Tom woke up and
hopped out of bed then he and Perley
scampered down stairs and to the
fireplace where their stockings were
hung they took them off and ran
back up stairs. "You begin to take
out first" said Tom ~~so~~ so Perley
began the first thing he took
out was a pair of mittens then he
found farther down a box of
dominoes there were several other
things and then to end up with
was a bag of candy and some
nuts then Tom began to look his
over he found a pair of mittens
to match Perley's then he found
a game next came an orange and
a ball then it ended up the same
as did Perley's. "Wasn't there some other

things on the floor" asked Perley. "I be-
lieve there was" Tom replied so they got
up and dressed this time and went
down to stay they found a sled for
Perley and a large book for Tom. "After
breakfast we will go out and glide
and I bet my sled will go the farthest
because it's new" said Perley "I'll bet it
won't because the shoes on mine are
scoured the most" replied Tom. When break-
fast came they hurried through it so fast
that their mother said "What make you
hurry through your breakfast so fast
are you afraid that the time is going
to run away from you?" the boys
made no reply but only smiled right
away after breakfast the boys put on
their coats and mittens and went out
sliding the first time they started
side by side and went down but
before the sleds had got a great
ways they ran up side by side and
hit so Perley put down his feet
a little and let Tom get clear of him
then he let his sled go and when
they had got nearly to the foot
Perley caught up and went by
Tom and kept a head of him till
they had most stopped when Tom
caught up and they sled slid along till
it was just even and then stopped

"These sleds are about evenly match-
ed" said Tom "Well lets try it again
and let me start a head said Perley
so they tried it a gain and this time
Perley came out two sled length ahead
where didt I say my would go the
farthest" said Perley proudly looking
at his new sled "Oh dont brag" said
Tom "mine might beat yours next
time" "Well I'm willing to try again
Perley replied so up they went and
tried again this time Tom began
ahead but Perley passed him as before
and this time he kept ahead and
came out about half a sled lengths
ahead when they stopped after slid-
ing sometimes longer they went in
to the house for a while then they
took their skates and went down
on the mill pond skating. The mill
pond was about a quarter of a mile
from the house and a good sized
one and when the boys got there
they found several others there also



"Have a race with me" called one of
the boys to Tom as he began to put
on his skates so when he had got put
his skates on he tried a race with
him but got beat as he expected
to after skating quite a while they
went up to the house when they
dinner was ready and they ate a
heartly dinner of pudding and chicken
and other things then to end up
with Tom divided his orange among
the folks then after dinner they played
quite a while and then as it began
to grow dark Perley and Tom went
out in the woods and got a small
thing their mothers permission put and with
the sitting room then they cut up
a couple of tallow candles in to
small pieces and fixed them on to
the limbs then they put on the presents
that they and their parents had
received that day and lit up the
candles after they had got them all
fixed on Tom put on his fathers
fur over coat and played some
claus and so gave out the presents
as if they had never been seen
before and made a gay time of
it.

JOE. JAM.

CHRISTMAS

Christmas has got here
From the regions of ice.
Its the best day of the year
with its puddings of rice.

2

Hang your stockings near the fire
For Santa Claus to stuff and fill,
And you little children never tire
Of piling up a candy hill,

3

Or eating all that you can hold
Of the goodies on the festive board
And are you not a little bold
To on your plates put such a hoard

4

Now for a sleigh ride swift
And the bells do gingle merrily
As we pass the glittering drift,
For its a frosty winter day.

5

And now to the chapel grey
Then up to our little wooden pew
And hear the parsons lengthy say
Then again under the sky so blue

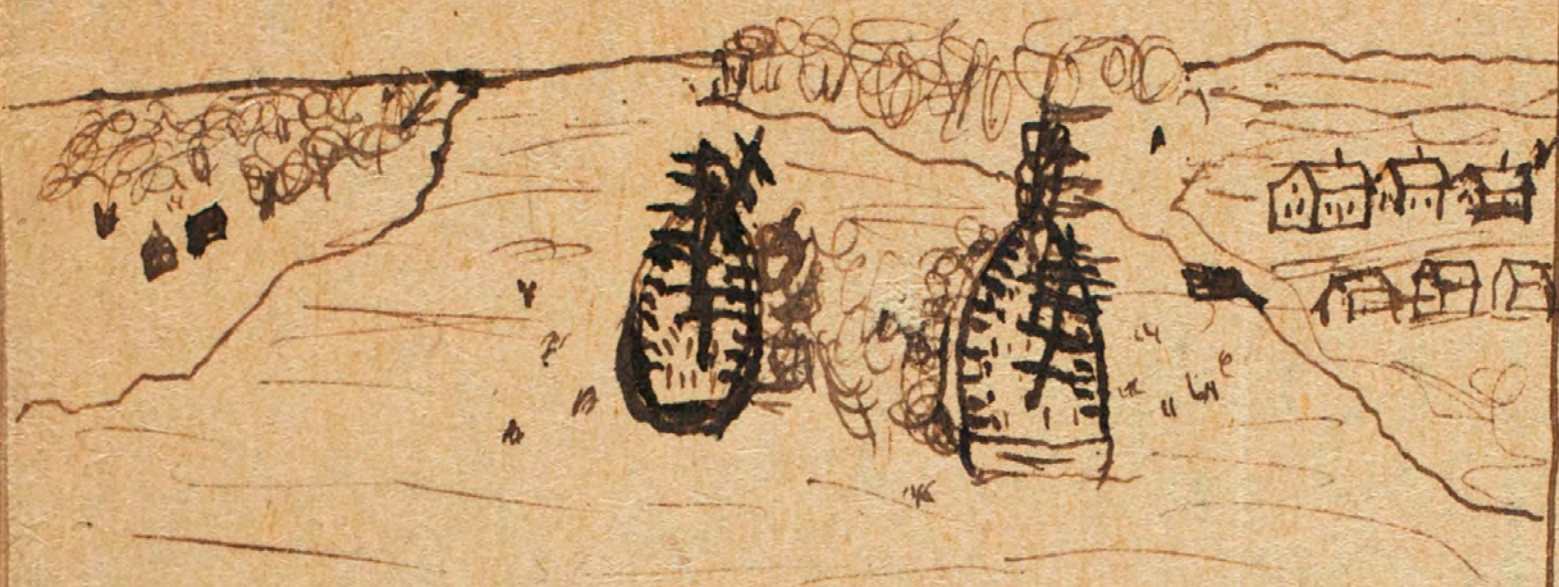
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And home we merrily ride
In anticipation of a Christmas supper
Then at eight in darkness hide
Under the beds worn wooden cover.
Ida Green.

CLUMFIELDS GREAT DISCOVERY

A small war was threatening Dick Island
for Sam Bins had been crowned
king of the Black Archipelago
and Alonzo Dickens was also an heir
to the throne on morning a large
war ship was ~~ordered~~ seen in the ham-
bor so the king commanded a ship
to be sent out and attack it so
Clumfield and his ship was sent
out the enemy didnt fire till the
ship of Clumfield's was in short
cannon range then it gave it a
broad side with six guns but
Clumfield paid no attention to this,
as only one ball had hit the
vessel and kept on till he was
a little closer then he whirled
round and gave the enemy a
good broadside of iron balls from
the mouth of ten cannon, then

began a great battle, between
the two ships they kept up a con-



tinual flash and roar with in
half an hour two masts had been
cut down by canon balls on the
enemies ship and one on Clum-
fields and both the other masts
had been cut off up half way.
They fought till most noon then
the enemy whelled round and tried
to leave the harbor and at last
succeeded, Clum field would have fol-
lowed, but his ship was too dis-
abled so he ran up to the dock
and by the middle of the after-
noon they had all three masts fix-
ed up and again they started out in
pursuit of the enemies ship along
towards night they sighted the
ship, and were in hopes of taking
it the next morning but as it grew

dark a fog arose over the ocean,
and the sky clouded over, and a fine
rain began to fall, then to climax
the whole the wind shifted to another
direction this was the worse of the
whole for no compass had been put
on board of this ship when it started
through some mistake of the owners
and they were left with no way
to find their way back so they took
a straight course for some where
and when it began to grow
morning land was sighted at head
and about noon they came to a
small island, this Clum field thought
must be one of the small outlying
islands of Block Archipelago, so they
kept on about night the faint
tops of mountains were soon ahead
far on the horizon this night fog
again rose, and the wind shifted
but, they tried to tack a cording
so as to keep in the same direc-
tion, and when morning came they
found themselves with in a few
miles of the shore so they quickly
sailed up to the shore as they
drew near they saw the shore
swarming with men the dress and
actions of which they did not

recognized and soon Clumfield saw
that the natives meant war so
he fired his canon on them and
he had not to repeat it for
the natives soon turned and fled
into the woods then Clumfield went
ashore and he and his men made
several log cabins in which they
stayed that night they Indians tried
to drive them from their strong-
holds but they never made out.
Clumfield's men fared hard for
food but they bought ~~skins~~ ^{skins} from
the Indians for old brass buttons
or any other shiny thing they
planted some corn and after
a long time they had a good
harvest. During these few months
that the corn was growing Clumfield
made many discoveries around
near there by land, and had gone
quite a ways farther with their
ship the land he had discov-
ered he named Clumfield's land,
soon other ships came from Black
Archipelago and after several years
of discovering this new land for
found to be a continent, and be-
cause of its size they named it
Big Continent and its name the

most prosperous continent on the
globe.

Eugene Danvers.

THE YOUNG RABBIT HUNTERS
Come on John lets go rabbit hunt-
ing for the market is getting short
and prices high. All right John re-
plied so they took their guns and their
hound and started out they went up
on to the side of the mountain where
they had hunted before here they found
several new tracks the dog took one
of them and had not gone a great
ways when it began to bark furiously
and was soon heard to be retreat-
ing in the distance the boys hunted
up some places where the could be
out of sight and waited. The dog
was heard to keep straight off and
at last the dog kept barking and
did not seem to be going in any
direction. He must have a coon
or else the rabbit has gone in
to some ledge lets go and find
out, said John so off they went
they had to go quite a ways but
at last they came out in front
of a large ledge here they saw
their dog at an entrance to the

be small passages through the rock
 to "Let's smoke him out" said Ernest
 so they went off to the nearest
 Birch tree and got a lot of birch
 bark this with a few sticks and
 a lot of moss and set it on fire
 then they stuffed up the entrance
 after a little while they heard
 a scratching and so pulled out
 what they had in the entrance and
 in an instant the rabbit darted out
 John struck it and killed it and
 by this time a hedge hog came scoot-
 ing out they went for him and
 while they were battling with him
 another came out and went up
 a tree this one the dog tread and
 kept watch of till the boys got
 round to look for it then Er-
 nest shot it. "Let's skin one of
 them and so have some meat for
 out dinner" said John. That is it



"good I know" replied Ernest. "Well
 we will try and see" answered John
 John took out his jack knife and went
 to work and soon had got what they
 wanted then they went on again
 and the dog started another rabbit
 they waited for it did this one
 did as they expected so they shot it
 then they found a good place for a
 fire and fixed up a place to broil their
 meat on then they sat down on a log
 and watched their meat cook and
 planned what they should do with the
 money when they had sold their
 rabbits, when the meat had got cooked
 they took out a lot of crackers they
 had in their pockets and ate with
 it after they got through they
 hunted a while longer and got another
 rabbit then they went back home and
 the next day went to the village and
 sold them they got seventy five cents
 a piece for them which made in
 all two dollars and a quarter. John
 took a dollar and twelve cents and
 Ernest took the dollar and thirteen
 cents. This they kept and saved
 for Christmas.

Frank Dickson

CLUMFIELD

Clumfield won in a great battle
Load the shot and shell did rattle
Under the royal flag he hailed
Mid many dangers he sailed
For the enemy's ship he steered but
In to a fog at night he got
Every thing was tried in vain
Load the wind blasts came
Darkness was darkness sure

Dark specks the ship did lure
At last the morning dawns
Yet many a samah yawns

In sight of land they come
Such sights are not at home

How the brave men cheered
Even when the Indians they feared
Right to land they came
Over the forest was full of game.
Ida Green.

How TO TRAP THE WOODCHUCK.

The woodchuck is rather sly and can not usually be caught away from his when danger is round he is a very watchful animal and a fierce fighter when made to fight and some dogs are aware of this and will not jump on them when that they is fasting them - but wait for a chance to take it at dis-advantage dogs will a good many times get in between the woodchuck and his hole and so catch them but usually they will get them into a stone heap or wall and bark at them till they get tired at it or some one comes and gets it out for them. The woodchuck is a brownish yellow in winter it stays asleep till it comes warm again the best time to trap them is in the last part of April or through May it being the time that they come out the oftenest though they can be trapped till in to September. To set a trap for them, scoop out a place just the size of the trap which set and two inches

deep place your trap in this
 and then cover up with fine grass
 till none of it can be seen then
 take the chain carry the end off
 one side and take it solid for
 if it should get unfastened the
 wood chuck would go into his hole
 so far that he would have to be
 dug out. To kill a wood chuck rap
 it right between his eyes is
 hard as you can for he is a
 hard fellow to kill and will stand
 a good many knocks. The meat
 of the wood chuck is a good deal
 like a rabbit and very good to
 eat, late in the fall just before
 the woodchuck goes into his
 hole for the winter he is very
 fat and the oil when stewed
 makes excellent oil for greas-
 ing boot and shoes, as it softens
 them up the best of any oil.
 Bert Green.

A SCIENCE

The snow is white
 The trees are brown
 Oh what a sight
 To look a round.

BILL SMALLS REVENGE

An adventure in a sail boat
 The day was clear as clear could
 be and warm to and every one seemed
 to realize it for carriages were going in
 all directions on the smooth roads of
 plainington, the bay was dotted with
 boats of all descriptions from small
 row boats to large sail boats and ships
 besides little tug boats and large steam-
 ers. The club at O. W. B. S. were to have
 a racing match that day with sail boats
 Bill Small was going to take his sail boat
 and expected to win the prize of two
 dollars. The race was to begin at two
 o'clock. The racers were to start near
 shore go a mile and a half out in
 to the bay around a buoy and back
 a gain. The one getting to the home
 goal first was to receive the prize.
 When Bill came down to his boat
 after dinner ready to take her out
 nearly half of the ropes were gone
 and it showed where a knife had
 been used to cut them off. Bill was
 mad he couldn't help him self though
 so he turned and went up the
 road to the store where he got
 some new rope then he hired another
 boy and they two went down to

the boat to put the rope on they had got it most on when Bill saw the other boats forming in line ready for the start then raised the signal and they were gone in ten minutes more Bill had his sail boat ready and he with the other boy put up the sail and started off over the track the rest had so lately taken he kept all sail up and was gaining on the hind ones when the boy with him pointed to a black cloud swiftly rising and said that cloud will strike us just after we round the buoy out there and there is a gale coming with it and if you will take my advise you would turn back and go to shore well I guess that won't hit us and if it does it can't hurt us any" Bill replied so they kept on but before they had quite got to the buoy the sea began to darken out side of the bay and the waves began to grow larger. Just before the storm struck Bill and his companion put down all of the sails but one small one and while the others kept their up and raced on all at once there came a gust that keeled Bills boat over on one side then it stopped then there came

another they kept coming faster and faster till it was a continuous gale. The waves kept rising till they came a long like small mountains hiding one boat from another and it was all that Bill and Dick could do to keep the boat right side up and they had not any time to take down their one small sail so they kept going along slowly all at once there appeared up near them the sails of a sail boat it was reeling about dipping water at every dip and the owners were clinging on for their lives as Bill passed them one of them sprang and landed on Bills boat with this fellows help they shifted the sail and slowly beat up against the wind and at last again came to the half wrecked sail boat and got up near enough so that the two others made out to jump on board when the little sail boat was lot to go where it was a mind to then they put a boat and kept on in a few minutes they came to the buoy and shifted on to the other course here they came to a new lot of fellows to be rescued their boat had tipped completely over and lay with me side

in the water they came up and took the men off by this time the boat was loaded so that they could not take on any more they passed all the rest of the sail boats the most of which were right side up and after some time got to land and on shore from the shore they could see the different vessels there were three of them tipped over but the rest were all right side up, one of which was heading for land in a little while the wind went down and by the time it got dark the waves had gone down a good deal. The next day was Sunday and the minister had this for his text, "Do unto others as ye would that they should do unto you" this set Bill to thinking that he ought to take his boat and go and get the sail boat of the one that had cut his ropes for the very person was one of those on the boat that they had first rescued for this one had acknowledged it after he had been rescued, so the next day Bill took his boat and went out as soon as it was light enough to see and look round for Tom Liskie's boat and at last he discovered it far out at sea so

he sailed out to it, he found it half full of water and had to work fully an hour before he got it bailed out and right side up the he hitched on to it and started for shore when he got to land he found a lot of boys on the wharf among them was Tom Liskie. "Thank you for this" he said "Oh this is my revenge on you for cutting my ropes" Tom replied. That day soon after that he got home a man called and gave him the money he won from raling and he always said afterwards that he felt better a good deal for getting that sail boat so Tom Liskie.

Blmer. George.

GREAT CITIES OF THE WORLD.

From Farmington we went to Point City here there is a small prison something like the one at The prison it would have been larger if the war between Big Continent and the United Divisions had lasted longer but when the war closed there was not so much need of a large prison so they left off and went to work and made it into a prison what they had got made

of it and it does just as well as
a larger one would. Point City is near
the woods. There are hardly any wild
animals near here though there are
a few trappers here that do some trap-
ping and partly live by this way of getting
money but now we must go on to
Allens town the biggest city on Forest
Continent but we must first stop at
the great National or Evergreen Park and
then at the coal mines. The National
Park was first divided off and fixed up
by Ethan Allen and is kept in repair
by money furnished by him. It is
a park covering many square miles
filled with deer and antelope of the
Big Continent breed that inhabit the
wild peaks of the Long Mountains. The
Park is divided off into pieces of a bout
two acres each by broad shady avenues
or walks wide enough for two carriages

side by side to go along. Every little
ways there are seats fixed on the
tree with backs for any one to sit
down and rest on. Small summer houses
are also quite frequent through the
park. The trees are mostly fir in this
park and are beauties for their kind.
The coal mines are quite mines but
they are not quite as large as those
at the Prison but the coal produced by
this mine is very nice. But now we must
go on to Allentown the great city
of Forest Continent. One of the
great attractions of this place is
Allens store that has been built with
in the last two years it is a great
block three stories high built of
the best spruce boards brought from
Big Continent. It has a large door
opening out on to Main street and
then a smaller one opening out on
to Ethan St. The store is kept supplied

with every thing from toys ^{up to} dry good and groceries in fact it is a great variety store then the Capitol is a large building of the best New Poplington granite the top of the building is formed in to a great dome crowned by a flag of Big Continent. The president is here at New Poplington a bout a third of the time the other two thirds he is at Big Continent he is liked by all his people and they do not want to change him for any one else. The next place that we shall go to will be to Dugout in the United Divisions.

Frank Dickson.

SKATING

The brook was frozen over
With thick glare ice
It was surely quite enough
To my boy entice

And so you see its quite
Out of reason
That the boy should stay in
During this season

For they must skate and,
They must slide
Or away in a sleigh
Go to ride

Down on the ice they
Put on their skates
And over the ice they go
At lively rates

It is exhilarating sport
Indeed
To under your feet feel
The ice swiftly speed

But ankles get sore and
Legs get ~~long~~
And at last it gets to be
An old game

And now for sliding
Away we go
Rapped in a coat from
Tip to toe

We swiftly glide from
Hill tops high
And through space we
Downward fly.

Edo Green.



