

## CRADLE SONG.

To sleep the corn is sinking,  
For heavy hangs its head;  
The timid flowers are shrinking  
From darkness in their bed.

The evening breezes flocking,  
Like gentle angels blest,  
Come softly, softly rocking  
The corn and flowers to rest.

Just as the flowers are shrinking,  
So timid, too, art thou,  
And as the corn heads sinking,  
So nods thy dear head now.

And sounds of evening winging,  
Like gentle angels blest,  
Come round thy cradle, singing  
My darling one to rest.

—J. Edmund V. Cooke.

## LABRADOR DOGS.

## How a Number of Them Went on an Impromptu Hunt.

The dogs of Labrador are not only most useful as draft animals, but for hunting as well. A writer in Forest and Stream, who has spent several seasons in Labrador, relates a rather thrilling experience with a team of these dogs, who, he says, trot along contentedly enough so long as there is no game in sight, but the moment they scent game they seem to conclude that dragging a sled is for them merely a side issue; that their actual mission in life is to go after the game whenever it is within range. He says:

"A thaw had been followed by a frost, and the snow covering the ice on the lakes was frozen hard. So four of our party got on the sleigh to have a final drive. They started in great glee, and just as they rounded the first point they saw a fine young caribou buck about 500 yards ahead. As soon as the dogs saw it they gave a yelp like a pack of wolves and started like an arrow from a bow after the caribou, which looked round on hearing the yelp, saw its pursuers and flew over the ice, keeping in the middle of the lake. When the dogs started with a jerk, one of the party was thrown off violently and slid a long way on the hard snow before he could pull up, feeling redhot from the friction and gazing wistfully after his fast disappearing comrades, who clung to the sleigh like grim death and enjoyed this novel hunt. Of course, there was not the slightest chance of their catching the animal, which, instead of making for the bush on the nearest shore, held on in the middle of the lake, right up to the end, where it took to the woods. The impromptu hunters soon found themselves in a difficulty, for it was impossible to stop the dogs, who could not realize that they had a sleigh behind them with passengers. The driver tried in vain to stop them, and there was every probability of broken limbs or necks when they would strike the bush. However, they soon made up their minds and dropped off one by one, rolling over and over in the snow, or sliding some distance away, with much damage to their nether garments and much abrasion of the cuticle. Meanwhile the dogs, relieved of the weight, rushed after the deer, and, entering the woods, got tangled up among the trees, and, as usual on such occasions, wound

up with a free fight among themselves. After extricating them the party re-embarked and drove quietly back to the house, where they repaired damages, related their adventure and wrote it down in the club's logbook."

## Nature's Cold Storage House.

In the valley of the Petchora river, which flows from the Ural mountains into the Arctic ocean near Nova Zembla, there is a state of things which is attracting the attention of naturalists and is only one more example of how judiciously nature does her work when her primitive conditions are observed. This valley has a sturdy growth of crowberries, cloudberry, cranberries, any number of small fruit bearing plants, with heath moss and lichens, some of which bear seed and fruit in great profusion. An eminent ornithologist, in the course of his researches in this locality, stopped for a little time. There were millions of acres covered with these growths. The arctic summer has a perpetual sun, and the indigenous plants and trees grow and develop with great rapidity. The summer comes suddenly, and with it innumerable birds of all varieties, but they come to what seems a barren waste, for there is nothing visible but snow and ice. Within 24 hours, however, this frostbound region changes its appearance. The snow dissolves, the ice melts away, and nature's bounty stands revealed. The autumn snows fall here and cover the plants, with their loads of fruit, keeping it in the most perfect condition until the springtime, when it furnishes food for the millions of birds that make this their summer home.—New York Ledger.

## New York Chinese Quarters.

There is one feature of New York amusements that is wholly unknown to the Chinaman, and that is the concert garden. To congregate in a public place to drink intoxicating beverages, listen to sensuous music and watch vulgar displays of the human figure, to be waited upon by young women of more than questionable character, to take part in profane and obscene talk, all this is beneath the dignity of a Chinaman, and nowhere in the Chinese quarter, from beginning to end, can such a place be found. But they are found on the Bowery, and Germans, Irishmen, Italians and Jews fill the places to the doors.—Helen F. Clark in Century.

## Too Much to Swallow.

"Inkwell nearly lost his job on the paper yesterday."

"How was that?"

"He handed in an account of the athletic sports and said one of the winners of the foot races was a messenger boy."—Washington Times.

When Nero made his artistic tour as a musician and actor through the cities of Greece, more than 400 crowns were bestowed upon him, and when he returned to Rome he decreed himself a triumph and entered the city with these crowns borne in solemn procession.

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