French Huguenots." There is nobody who can find such good stories as grandpa. —Noel Bakke,
Sixth Grade. Harmony, Minn.

A SERIES OF PICTURES.

I am always glad when winter comes and Mother Nature sends down the snow like a great white cloud over the earth. Winter in herself is beautiful, and day after day a new and equally beautiful picture is spread out before us. One morning every branch and twig is covered with frost, making us think of a fairyland; another day the snow falls quietly and steadily and the whole world seems still. Again and again the scene changes, each rivaling the other in beauty. Yet winter's charms are not altogether in its pictures; there are its opportunities for sports. At night maybe the girls and boys go skating, singing and talking as they glide over the ice. The moon looks down upon this scene and shadows of the tall elm trees lie across the snow and ice; and as the children skate back and forth their skates shine and glisten in the moonlight. Another sport of winter is sliding on the hill, often in tin pans, sometimes on sleighs and occasionally on their backs. Then there is the sleighride when the moon is full and round. The merry sound of voices mingles with that of the bells as we merrily glide along. Summer, autumn and spring each has its charms, but to my mind winter reigns supreme.

Seventh Grade. Margaret Bell,
Minto, S. D.

THE LAND OF PALACES.

Winter is nearly always acceptable to young folk, tho not always to adults. It is usually a source of delight to see the white snowflakes falling for the first time, and to hear the jingling of the sleigh bells. One advantage of winter is that there are so many more enjoyable sports than in summer.

The sports of winter are very healthful and the air is usually bracing, and one is likely to have a good appetite. Most children like snow-balling and playing in the snow. Sometimes boys build snow forts and have fights, tho they hardly ever end without a quarrel about something.

In the eastern part of the United States and Canada people have many winter sports, and the men and women enjoy the fun as much as the children They build toboggan hills and skate and slide. Ice-boating on the St. Lawrence river is a favorite pastime and most people like it immensely. They often have palaces built entirely of ice, that look very beautiful in the evening, when they are lighted up and fireworks are sent off. The snowshoe clubs often meet at these palaces and start off on their long tramps, the people looking very fine in their long blanket coats striped with purple and red, according to the various clubs they belong to. They tramp for miles and miles over fields and thru forests, and the men vault over the fences as tho they were not wearing snowshoes. It is winter now where I live, and cold, too, but I have a good time and forget all about Jack Frost.

Sixth Grade, —William Ball,
Central School. Grand Forks, N. D.

WHEN 'RITHMETIC IS WRONG.

Winter has more charms than any other season of the year. In winter the air is filled with the sweet sound of sleigh bells and the children sliding, skating and snowballing. But the best of all winter brings Christmas, with gay Christmas trees, covered with presents for everyone. December has more charms than any other month of the year. On Christmas Eve, the echo of the singing of sweet childish voices fills the air. After New Year's Day the school children seem more ready to try again when their arithmetic goes wrong, perhaps because of some resolution they have made and are trying to keep. In the evenings, when outdoors the wind is blowing, the children sit around the fire and crack nuts and tell stories to one another about ghosts and witches until, at last, they float off to dreamland, perhaps dreaming that some of the stories are coming true.

Fifth Grade. —Russella Cooper,
Chatfield, Minn.

SANTA IN AN AUTO.

If winter should be taken away from me I do not know what I would do. I should miss many things which make winter enjoyable. There would be no coasting, or skating, or sleighing, and what would Christmas be without any snow? Or Thanksgiving without any snow or ice? Santa Claus would have to sell his sleigh and reindeer for an automobile. But I suppose the children who live in lands where there is never any snow have a great deal of fun which we know nothing about. But I would rather live where I am, wouldn't you?

Sixth Grade. —Bernard Coffey,
Luverne, Minn.

A JOLLY GAME OR TWO.

To me the most charming part of winter is the long happy evenings spent before the open fireplace. Imagine a group of school friends, not too many, but just a few congenial friends, are spending the evening with you. First a few of the good old-fashioned games, as "the miller boy," "blind-man's-bluff," and other favorites, played with an organ or piano for accompaniment. Then an hour in the kitchen with a pan of taffy. Oh, what fun, pairing off and pulling the long, glistening strands! But mind! There stands Grace ready to snatch your sweets! The fun is fast and furious and when we resort to the parlor it is with rosy cheeks and dancing eyes.

Now let's play a game or two of pit or flinch, or else sit around the hearth listening to one of grandfather's jolly tales. Then let's hitch up old Bob and Ned and take the friends home. How merrily the bells jingle! How lively is the chatter! And just imagine a whole winter of just such good times! Come on, Father Winter! We hail thy approach with shouts of joy, oh, thou most charming of seasons.

Tenth Grade. —Mabell Hamilton,
Frazee, Minn

A CROP OF ROSES.

Winter in Minnesota especially is the most beautiful season, for then we always have plenty of snow; and when the ground is nicely covered with the beautiful, white snow, we take our sleds and in merry parties, make our way to one of the many hills where coasting is good and where we may enjoy this healthy sport. Also since the beautiful Mississippi flows thru our city, we have fine skating and those who do not skate may make use of their sleds on the ice.

The boys can take their skis and exercise and if they are real good at skiing they can take part in tournaments, which are held here once in a while. All the children are quite healthy in the winter, and a set of rosy-cheeked girls and boys lend charms to the beautiful winter. —Inga Johnson,

B Sixth Grade, Red Wing, Minn.
Central School.

NEVER MIND NIPS.

How dull it must be in the southern states where there is no winter. No one thinks of a sleigh ride there. I like winter because it does a person good to be all muffled up and go for a sleigh ride. If one should fall he would sink into the soft, white snow, while in spring or summer if he fell he might perhaps fall into some black mud. But this is not all. The greatest of fun is to sit around the stove and crack nuts on Christmas. Even the turkey and cranberries seem to taste better in the winter. Winter has many charms. If Jack Frost does nip your fingers or nose you'll soon be smiling again when sleigh-riding time comes. The jingle of the bells makes a person very happy. —Maggie Jackson,

Sixth Grade. Cavalier, N. D.

IN DANGER.

Uncle Washington—Yo, Eph, git yo'r haid away f'um dar! Yo' want ter cripple dis mule?
—Judge. Copyright 1904.

A COLOR FOR EACH SEASON.

Some people may think winter is only to freeze their fingers or to be cold and disagreeable, but for my part it is welcome. Still when spring comes we are glad it is over. Spring and summer would not seem nearly so delightful if we did not have winter.

If we did not have winter we could not go skating, or we could not slide down hill or go sleighing. Christmas would not seem like Christmas to us if we did not have snow on the ground, nor would it seem so nice to decorate the rooms with holly and evergreen. In the winter we can crack nuts and pop corn. Of course they can do that in the south, but there is not so much fun in it. We feel so warm and happy doing it, knowing it is cold and stormy outside. Up here the scenery changes with the seasons. In winter the ground is all white with snow and the trees are all bare. In the summer everything is green, and in the fall the leaves are of all colors. We cannot get tired of one color, as I am sure they must do in the south, where everything is green all the time. —Calista Noyes,

Seventh Grade. Pembina, N. D.

HUNTING DENS ONLY.

In the great woods, particularly, one must enjoy winter. A life in the cold and clear open air seems much more preferable to me than life in the "madding crowd" of a city, or even in the woods themselves in summer. In the winter there are skating, sliding and skiing—the three s's, which rank almost equal to the three r's. Then there is the excitement of the chase. Hunting bears' dens is one sport, while he of less pretensions can track rabbits, wolves and foxes. Then, too, isn't the deer season in the winter? Aye, surely winter hath charms more than wet spring, hot summer or dry autumn.

Second Year, —J. Marvin Nickerson,
Cloquet High School. Bengal, Minn.

THE HOWLS ALL OUTSIDE.

"Hello, Dorothy, isn't this snow just fine? Come in a while and see my dog. We just gave him a bath and he looks so nice and clean.

"Don't you think this snow makes the most beautiful scenery? I think there's nothing more beautiful than a cold winter day when the snow is on the hills and the icicles are hanging from the eaves of barns and houses as well as from the branches of trees. The scenery must be magnificent among the mountains, but we cannot go there so we might as well be satisfied with the scenery among the hills surrounding our city. I also enjoy looking out the window and watching the wind blow the snow here and there, while the blizzard is raging outside. It is delightful to have a warm fire inside, plenty of good things to eat and a good book to read. When bedtime comes I like to go to my cozy bed and hear the wind howling outside until I fall asleep."

Sixth Grade, —Ethel Odell,
Chaska, Minn.

BITS OF WOODLAND.

Winter is our most charming season. What is more beautiful than on a winter's morning to find the whole world covered with frost and bathed in a "glory of light"? Myriads of diamonds sparkle everywhere. The poorest peasant, who sees this sight and appreciates it, is richer than the richest man in the world with all his gold and diamonds, who does not. Nature is our greatest artist. In a single night she covers our windows with the most charming bits of woodland scenery. Next comes a dark, gloomy day when the whole world seems dismal. In a short time a few soft flakes begin to drop gently downward, and in a few minutes the air is thick with snow. In the morning everything is clothed in soft, white raiment. I think everybody enjoys some phase of winter. The poets especially enjoy it.

Eighth Grade. —Nora Sorenson,
Marshall, Minn.

GOOD TIMES AT SCHOOL.

I have often heard people say that winter is a cold and very disagreeable season, but I do not think so. Winter has many charms when you stop to think them over. First come all the winter sports; the ice comes, and then we can skate, the snow comes and we can go sleighing or sliding. Then Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's all come in the winter, which adds to its charms.

But the greatest charm of all is going to school, for you know school always keeps in the winter. We get up early, eat our morning meal, and then skip off to school with happy hearts. We meet our schoolmates and friends at school, and best of all we learn. I say learning is the best, for it is the most useful thing of all.

I think that all the children will agree with me in saying that going to school is the greatest charm of winter, when they think of all the jolly times they have at school.

Fifth Grade. —Olive Stone,
Cokato, Minn.

WHITE-WINGED MONSTERS.

When winter comes with its many joys, where is the boy or girl who does not enjoy the sport that then is obtainable?

For the sturdy boys there is the choice between such sports as skating, skiing, coasting or ice-boating. Happy is the boy who has a lake near at hand and can look out of the window and see a tall stately iceboat with lowered sails lazily flapping in the breeze.

Then for the sport of swiftly gliding over the broad expanse of ice with the great, white-winged monster obeying his command. Or perhaps the skis are brought out from their long rest to participate in the long race to a favorite fishing place in the creek. Then there are skating and coasting, which are equally important. Ho! for the charms of winter!

Seventh Grade. —Egbert Swenson,
Carver, Minn.

FINE PLACES TO SKATE.

I like winter because of its joys and sports and because of its snow and ice. We can have delightful sleigh rides and parties, and all the people come and have a good time. Then another joy of winter is skating. We have skating parties and all of us go skating. We have some large lakes around here and they are fine places to skate. Still another charm is that when Saturday comes we boys go hunting rabbits and squirrels. There are many of them this winter. Then there is one that is more fun than any of the rest, and that is coasting. We go coasting at the parties and we have a jolly good time, and often when we are at a coasting party we snowball one another. —Weseley Simcox,

Sixth Grade. Blakeley, Minn.

AMUSING TO SPECTATORS.

Winter! The very sound makes a person feel happy! It has so many beautiful charms. If one would notice, he could see many different kinds of snow flakes, piling up on each other regardless of extent or space. It is fun to go sleighing under favorable circumstances, but it is not so much fun when one is dumped into the snow and almost buried there only to be laughed at when he finally emerges. Another sport for boys and girls, as well as for older people, is skating on the lakes or rivers. Many games are played out on the school grounds which furnish great amusement for the school children. And snowballing! Here are a crowd of girls and boys snowballing, and it does one good to hear them laugh. But suddenly one of them screams; she is only hit with a snow ball, and she does not mind it in the least, but hurries to get revenge on the thrower. So the fun continues the whole winter long. Who will say that winter has not its charms? —Margaret Foltz,

Eighth Grade. Henderson, Minn.

OF THE TOMBOY ORDER.

I like winter on account of its sports. I like to go out for a sleigh ride and hear the sleighbells ring joyfully, sitting in the sleigh while the horses dash thru the deep snowdrifts, sending the snow above their heads. This one sport of winter charms me. When those awful snow storms rage outside, we sit by the fire cracking hazel nuts or roasting chestnuts. Sometimes when there are high snow banks, I go to the top, lie down and roll to the bottom. This sport may be a little of the tomboy order, but it is healthful exercise; and besides country children may do what their city cousins are denied. Did you ever know the pleasure of skating outdoors? Rinks are very well, but they cannot come up to the wide open ponds. What an exhilarating exercise skating is! It may make one's hands and face tingle, but then it sends the blood racing thru one's veins with such speed that it is highly enjoyable. All these things taken into consideration, coasting, skating, and all winter sports, winter is very charming, especially to the lover of outdoor exercise. —Cora A. Tanke,

Sixth Grade, Grafton, N. D.
R. F. D. No. 3.