

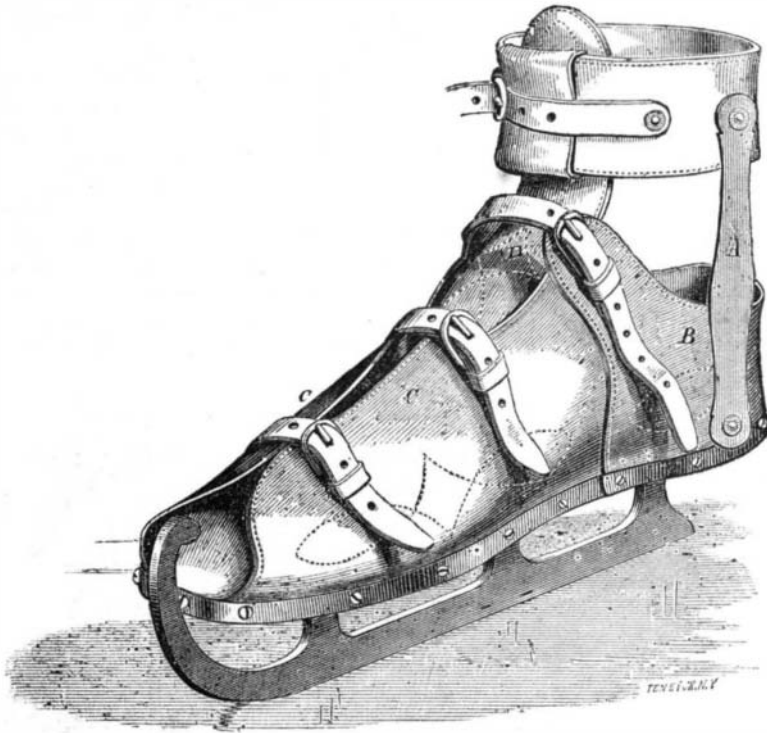
## A FEW FACTS ABOUT CELEBRATED MEN.

Some literary men make good men of business. According to Pope, the principal object of Shakespeare in cultivating literature was to secure an honest independence. He succeeded so well in the accomplishment of this purpose that, at a comparatively early age, he had realised a sufficient competency to enable him to retire to his native town of Stratford-upon-Avon. Chaucer was in early life a soldier, and afterward a commissioner of customs and inspector of woods and crown lands. Spencer was secretary to the Lord Deputy of Ireland, and is said to have been shrewd and sagacious in the management of affairs. Milton was secretary to the Council of State during the Commonwealth, and gave abundant evidence of his energy and usefulness in that office. Sir Isaac Newton was a most efficient Master of the Mint. Wordsworth was a distributor of stamps; and Sir Walter Scott a clerk to the Court of Session—both uniting a genius for poetry with punctual and practical habits as men of business. Ricardo was no less distinguished as a sagacious banker than a lucid expounder of the principles of political economy. Grote, the most profound historian of Greece, is also a London banker. John Stuart Mill, not surpassed by any living thinker in profoundness of speculation, lately retired from the examiner's department in the East India Company, with the admiration of his colleagues for the rare ability with which he had conducted the business of the department. Alexander Murray, the distinguished linguist, learned to write by scribbling his letters on an old wool-card with the end of a burnt heather-stem. Professor Moor, when a young man, being too poor to purchase Newton's "Principia," borrowed the book, and copied the whole of it with his own hand. William Cobbett made himself master of English grammar when he was a private soldier on the pay of sixpence a day. The edge of his berth, or that of his guard-bed, was his seat to study in; a bit of board lying on his lap was his writing table; and the evening light of the fire his substitute for candle or oil. Even advanced age, in many interesting cases, has not proved fatal to literary success. Sir Henry Spelman was between fifty and sixty when he began the study of science. Franklin was fifty before he fully engaged in the researches in natural philosophy which have made his name immortal. Boccaccio was thirty-five when he entered upon his literary career; and Alfieri was forty-six when he commenced the study of Greek. Dr. Arnold learned German at forty, for the sake of reading Niebuhr in the original. James Watt, at about the same age, while working at his trade of an instrument maker in Glasgow, made himself acquainted with French, German and Italian in order to peruse the valuable works in those languages on mechanical philosophy. Handel was forty-eight before he published any of his great works. Nor are the examples of rare occurrence in which apparently natural defects, in early life, have been overcome by a subsequent devotion to knowledge. Sir Isaac Newton, when at school, stood at the bottom of the lowermost form but one. Barrow, the great English divine and mathematician, when a boy at the Charter-house School, was notorious for his idleness and indifference to study. Adam Clarke, in his boyhood, was proclaimed by his father to be a grievous dunce. Even Dean Swift made a disastrous failure at the university. Sheridan was presented by his mother to a tutor as an incorrigible dunce. Walter Scott was a dull boy at his lessons, and while a student at the Edinburgh University received his sentence from Professor Dalzell, the celebrated Greek scholar, that "dunce he was, and dunce he would remain." Chatterton was returned on his mother's hands as "a fool, of whom nothing could be made." Wellington never gave any indications of talent until he was brought into the

field of practical effort, and was described by his strong-minded mother, who thought him little better than an idiot, as fit only to be "food for powder."

## IMPROVED SKATE AND ANKLE BRACE.

The skate illustrated in the annexed engraving is the combined invention of J. F. Blondin (the celebrated rope walker), Frank Douglas, N. H. Spofford and J. B. Hernshoof, all of whom applied for separate patents on the invention about the same time. An interference was



IMPROVED SKATE AND ANKLE BRACE.

declared at the Patent Office, but before the day appointed for opening the evidence in the case, the several parties compromised the matter between themselves, and the Patent was issued on Oct. 2, 1860, to Mr. Blondin, assignee to himself and all the other parties named above.

Two brass plates, one, A, on each side, are fastened to the heel of the skate by pivots at their lower ends, and at their upper ends also by pivots to a broad leather strap, which passes around the leg above the ankle joint. While this arrangement allows all the freedom of motion requisite to the foot, it prevents that side turning of the ankle joint, which causes the greatest fatigue in skating and is the principal difficulty with beginners.

The straps for fastening this skate, besides being remarkably secure, operate as an extra clothing to the foot, preventing that coldness of the feet which is the principal discomfort in this delightful exercise. These are shown so plainly in the cut as hardly to require a description. The heel strap, B, is in the form of the counter to a shoe, the two pieces, C C, cover the sides of the foot, and the tongue, D, passes from the toe over the top of the foot, under all the narrow straps, to prevent these from pressing in a way to produce pain or injury.

Messrs. Douglas, Rogers & Co., Norwich, Conn., manufacture the skate, and to them inquiries should be addressed.

## WINTERING YOUNG STOCK.

We extract the following from a communication of a practical farmer, addressed to the *Mark Lane Express*: "Of all the departments of management connected with the breeding of cattle, few give the breeder so much anxiety as the rearing and subsequent care of his young stock. This is peculiarly the case in districts not altogether applicable to breeding purposes, and yet cannot well be appropriated to better uses. Young cattle cannot endure cold rimy frosts for any length of time; it causes scouring. The loss of condition in a short time is often surprising. My usual remedy is the change of food, dry warm bed, and a few doses of thick wheaten-flour

gruel, with a little laudanum in each. The issue is very precarious; I always think it a poor prospect, when I am obliged to resort to medicinal treatment for any animal. Young stock should, as a rule, be safely housed in warm sheltered yards before cold or frosty weather sets in; the youngest and most delicate must be provided for in covered hovels, airy, but well shut in. Warmth to a young animal is equal to a moderate supply of food. The stronger animals may do well in the yards, provided the yards be warm, and have open hovels for them to retire to in wet and stormy weather. The great question arises: How are they to be best and most profitably wintered? There probably is no better way to promote condition and healthiness than to feed them on good meadow hay, and to give with it a moderate allowance of oil cake. This will ensure progress and a healthy constitution. The common white-fleshed turnip, when well grown and sliced, is excellent food in the early winter, and if a quantity of the leaves could be given along with the bulbs, all the better; the leaves promote the sounder and freer growth of the bone in all young animals. With this kind of food a little barley or oats should be daily given; of course, cut chaff or hay, or even a great superabundance of good straw for the young stock to browse over, is to be included as food. Roots will never do alone; in all cases dry cereal food is desirable, if not absolutely necessary. Much has been written about the necessity of exercise for young animals. It certainly does appear to be right, if necessary to promote growth and vigor. Taking all into consideration, however, I prefer the plan of tying up, with an occasional run into the yard in suitable weather." The experience of a stock raiser given above is worthy of attention by all our farmers.



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