

**SKATING AND THE
PHILADELPHIA
SKATING CLUB**

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Skating and the Philadelphia Skating Club by John F. Lewis

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JOHN F. LEWIS

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SKATING CLUB**

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and the

Philadelphia Skating Club

By

Frederick
JOHN F. LEWIS

PHILADELPHIA
1895

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One Author

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This "History of Skating and the Philadelphia Skating Club" was read by Mr. John F. Lewis, at the Annual Banquet of the Club, January 9, 1895, at the Manufacturers' Club House, Walnut Street, above Broad. The President, Thomas W. Marchment, was in the chair, and the Committee of Arrangements consisted of Peter Breen, Dorrance Evans, Howard W. Lewis, John H. Packard, Howard Evans and John P. Walker.

The paper is published by the Club's direction.

The origin of skating is veiled in the remotest antiquity. Like many arts which ameliorate the condition of man, it was doubtless conceived and born of necessity. No trace of it can be found in the Bible, though the Book of Job, which is the oldest in the sacred library, has several references to frost and ice. He speaks of brooks "*which are blackish by reason of the ice,*" and says: "*The waters are hid as with a stone, and the face of the deep is frozen.*"

But the devil can quote Scripture to his purpose, and might urge (if he knows anything about low temperature at all) that several Biblical passages prove that the children of Israel could skate. For instance, it is said in Deuteronomy, "*Their foot shall slide in due time,*" and he might claim that the backward roll was described, in language more figurative than accurate, when Hosea said: "*Israel slideth back as a backsliding heifer.*"

Turning to profane history, it is learned that skating probably originated in the north of Europe, and that the first skater was some hardy Norseman, who fastened bones to the soles of his