



EDGAR WILSON NYE ("BILL NYE").  
Died February 22, 1896.—[See "This Busy World," Page 234.]  
Photograph by John H. Ryder.

### AUTOBIOGRAPHY OF "BILL NYE."

Edgar Wilson Nye was born in Maine in 1852, August 25, but at two years of age he took his parents by the hand and telling them that Piscataquis County was no place for them, he boldly struck out for St. Croix County, Wisconsin, where the hardy young pioneer soon made a home for his parents. The first year he drove the Indians out of the St. Croix Valley and suggested to the Northwestern Railroad that it would be a good idea to build to St. Paul as soon as the company could get a grant which would pay them two or three times the cost of construction. The following year he adopted trousers and made \$175 from the sale of wolf scalps. He also cleared 27 acres of land, and raised some watermelons.

He is the father of several very beautiful children by his first wife, who is still living. She is a Chicago girl, and loves her husband far more than he deserves. He is pleasant to the outside world, but a perfect brute in his home. He early learned that in order to win the love of his wife he should be erratic and kick the stove over the children when he came home. He therefore asserts himself in this way, and the family respect him, being awed by his greatness and gentle barbarism. He eats plain food with both hands, conversing all the time pleasantly with anyone who may be visiting at the house. If his children do not behave, he kicks them from beneath the table till they roar with pain, as he chats on with the guests with a bright and ever-flowing stream of *bon mots* which please and delight those who visit him to that degree that they almost forget that they have had hardly anything to eat.

In conclusion, Mr. Nye is in every respect a lovely character. He feared that injustice might be done him, however, in this biographical sketch, so he has written it himself.