

Uncle Tom's Department.

MY DEAR NEPHEWS AND NIECES,—It is quite evident, from the limited number of correct answers to last month's cryptograph, that many of you will be anxiously awaiting the promised explanation in regard to deciphering it. Now the letter l must stand for either a or i, and as we see in the second line l written in a small character we know it must be for a. Again, knowing l to be for a, we also know that p in the fourth line must be for i. Now since the letter e occurs in English more frequently than any other letter, let us try in this. Looking over the puzzle we find k occurring quite a number of times oftener than any other letter, therefore we can almost positively infer that k is for e. In the fifth line we see the word lbk, and substituting the letters we already have we get a—e; now the most likely letter to go between a and e is r, making the word are; at any rate let us assume b to be for r. Again, at the end of the fourth line we find the word nkb, that is —er, and the only letter that can fill up the blank is h; thus we find u to be equivalent to h. Again, in the fifth we find muk, or —he, and the only letter that can fill up the blank is t; hence m is t; and mn in the fourth line is for t—, and o being the only letter that will make a word, n stands instead of o. Now in the fifth and last lines the word leg occurs, and knowing the first letter to be a, we are apt to suspect, from the position of leg in the last line, it to be the common word and; thus we assume e and g to be put respectively for n and d. Again, by substituting for p and m in pmo in the last line, we find that o must be for s. From the third word, nerk, or on—e, we find that r must be a substitute for c, and we know that ny or o— in the third line must be either on, of, or or, and having other letters for n and r we conclude that y is for f. Again, the last word by substitution is cond—ctor; the word conductor is immediately thought of, and hence t is u. In the second word in the third line we have —eddin—, suggesting immediately wedding, thus giving us the letters w and g for i and c. From the second word in the fourth line we get —entured, indicating ventured, so x is v. From ont'd'o or sou—s in the seventh line, suggesting the word soul's, hence d is l; and in the second word we have lad—, showing us immediately the word lady, hence z is y. Now by substituting the letters found we find out almost every word in the verse; but if there are yet incomplete words they at once suggest themselves on perusal. In this manner, and by noticing particularly the small and the rhyming words, most puzzles of this nature can be deciphered.

UNCLE TOM.

PUZZLES.

98—CRYPTOGRAPH.

Djia jkg hmff,
Eukb vy j omff,
Bq nubio j yjml qu ejbus,
Djia nuff gqek,
Jkg csqan omw isqek,
Jkg hmff ij xu boxcfmkh jnbub.

99—CHARADES.

- 1.—My first is used for giving light
To many persons every night.
My second gentlemen hold in their hands,
And my first in my whole doth stand.
- 2.—My first light without doubt,
My second keeps the robbers out;
That my whole is dangerous by everyone is said,
For it has killed many a person dead.
- 3.—My first is a vowel to be seen in sank;
My second a spirit too often drank.

My third a small thoroughfare in a town;
My whole is a battle of great renown.

4.—My first is to know; my second is to utter
with musical sounds; my third is a weight, and
my whole is the name of a town in England.

SCHOOL GIRL.

5.—My first is a kind of pottery; my second is
a dwelling-place; my third is a human being, and
my whole is a storehouse-keeper.

100—SQUARE WORDS.

- 1.—To summon.
- 2.—A river of Italy.
- 3.—A part of the day.
- 4.—A cape of Scotland.
- 5.—A river of America.
- 6.—A town in Wales.

My initials will give a city of Asia, and my
finals a city of Europe.

- 1.—1, a bird; 2, a bird; 3, to turn aside; 4,
tendon; 5, to come in.
- 2.—Part of the face; an animal; a flower; a lake.

101—ILLUSTRATED REBUS.



GOOD ADVICE.

102—NAMES OF BIRDS.

An article of jewelry and a bird; a fraction and
a small hill; a piece of money; time of darkness;
a proposition and a storm; a musical instrument
and a biped.

E. BLAIR.

103—DECAPITATIONS.

Whole, I am costly; behead me, and I am part
of the head; transpose my whole, and I am to
defy; change my second letter and transpose, and
I am an animal; change my last letter, and I am
a document; change my last letter again, and I
am profound; curtail me, and I am a river.

M. J. SELLS.

The following is the list of successful prize winners, who
sent in correct answers to the illustrated rebus in October
number:—

JOHN WATTEWORTH, M P P, Wardsville, Ont, 1st prize,
\$5 00.
JOHN WEST, St Foy, P Q, 2nd prize, \$1 00.
MATTHEW ALLISON, Inverhuron, Ont, 3rd prize, 25c.

Answers to October Puzzles.

Honesty is the best policy.

90.—A lady once whose love was sold,
Asked if a reason could be told
Why wedding rings were made of gold.
I ventured thus to instruct her,
"Love and lightning are the same,
On earth they glance from heaven they came;
Love is the soul's electric flame,
And gold its best conductor."

91.—1, Sunflower; 2, Penmanship.

92.—Melbourne.

93.—1, Polyanthus; 2, Primrose; 3, Love in a mist.

94.—Like the dew on the mountain,
Like the foam on the river,
Like the bubble on the fountain,
Thou art gone and forever.

95.—Cayman.

96.—Irish, Iris; Rabbit, Rabbi; Sight, Sigh; France, Franc;
Bee, Bee; Scarf, Scar; Brown, Brow.

97.—Education.

Names of Those Who Sent Correct
Answers to October Puzzles.

Mrs Jos Hepworth, Richd Pitt, Thos Corbitt, Robt Jacket,
Mrs Geo Husband, Ida A Parlee, Fannie Sharp, Rhoda, R
Suddar, Jno Leggo, Nathan Yussey, Annie Rogers, Mrs Jno
Koovin, Gilbert McIntyre, Annie Jones, Francis Books,
Mrs George Robinson, A Elliott, R McLeod, C W Parker, Geo
S Chitty, H E F Ostrow, Henry Brown, D J Buchanan,
W H J L Beck, James Durham, Alice Cross, Thos Keenan,
John Vivian, Wm Graham, James E Luras, Allen Jones,
Saml Herity, Helen Whitney, Wm Legg, Mrs Jacob Wisner,
Mrs W Knowles, Henry Westlake, Geo Walden, F W
Lampier, Mrs Alex Buriss, Thos Pearce, Wm Laing, D A
Ghent, J C Stafford, John Wesley Denzes, Robt V Keating,
Fred Greer, Amos Hawkins, Henry Howell, Albert H Weeks,
Hattie Harland, John Watterworth, M Thorncroft, Mathias
Bonhle, N Robinson, Trotman, Amasa Kennedy, Geo L
Shipley, Barbara Capron, John Scollin, T O Newson, Eliza J
Blair, Anna Maria McFaul, L Anson, James Stephens, Mary
Legart, Jas Sheppard, J P Phin, Thos Nagle, David Cutten,
Mrs Wm Syer, John Spring, Maggie Devitt, Belta McVicar,
Jas Manning, Jas Anguine, Leonard Powell, Mary L Tyairty,

Andrew Gordon, H A Powers, H D Wetmore, Hector McKin-
hon, Wm Taylor, Wm Cross, John West, Henry Careth, E M
Culver, Maggie Meander, M H S Macnab, C Humbsole, John
Cooney, Thos Sells, John Cooke, M Tupper, David Wisner,
H D Wetmore, John West, J P Phin, Hector McKinnon, Saml
Anguine, S T Hagerman, E Tupper, Wm Watter, Ella Mylie,
George Norton, H Christie, Jas R Upham, W A Locke Jones,
Thos A Corbett, Chas Beas.

Credit is due Hattie Haviland for having answered the
greatest number of puzzles correctly.

HUMOROUS.

A German clergyman who was travelling stopped
at a hotel much frequented by wags and jokers.
The host, not being used to have a clergyman at
the table, looked at him with surprise. The guests
used all their artillery of wit upon him, without
eliciting a remark. The clergyman ate his dinner
quietly, apparently without observing the gibes and
sneers of his neighbors. One of them at last, in
despair of his forbearance, said to him: "Well, I
wonder at your patience! Have you not heard all
that has been said to you?" "Oh, yes; but I am
used to it. Do you know who I am?" "No sir."
"Well, I will inform you. I am chaplain
of a lunatic asylum. Such remarks have no
effect upon me."

A lady in Boston discovering that her
trunk had been broken open, and her valu-
ables stolen, called in her servant, a negress
of eighteen summers, and accused her of
having "access to her trunk." "Axes to
your trunk?" the indignant girl exclaimed;
"I haven't any axes, and never had any.
I've nothing but a hatchet to split wood
with!" The lady considered the girl too
innocent to accuse further.

An abundance of guests and limited lodg-
ing rooms caused Jimmie to be "slept out"
at a neighbor's. On arising in the morning he was
invited to remain at breakfast. "Well, I guess
not," he replied, "we have mighty good break-
fasts at our house when we have company."

Little Billy was told: "Never ask for anything
at the table. Little boys should wait until they
are served." The other day little Billy was for-
gotten in the distribution and was not served at all.
What could he do? Presently, after reflecting
seriously, he asked: "Mamma, when little boys
starve to death, do they go to heaven?"

MANUFACTURE OF ISINGLASS.—One of the most
notable industries of Russia depends upon the
sturgeon, the swim-bladder of which is manufac-
tured into isinglass. The bladder is first placed in
water, and left there for some days, with frequent
changes of the water, and a removal of all fatty and
bloody particles—the warmer the water the more
rapid being the operation. The bladders, on being
removed, are cut longitudinally into sheets, which
are exposed to the sun and air, being laid out to dry,
with the outer face turned down, upon boards of
lime-tree wood. The inner face is pure isinglass,
which, when well dried, can with care be removed
from the external lamellae. The finer sheets thus ob-
tained are placed between cloths to keep them from
drying, and are then subjected to a heavy pressure,
so as to flatten them out and render them uniform;
and after this they are assorted and tied in packets.
The packets composed of the isinglass of the large
sturgeon usually contain from ten to fifteen sheets,
and weigh a pound and a quarter; and those of
others contain twenty-five sheets, weighing a
pound. Eighty of these packages are usually sewed
in a cloth bag, or enclosed in sheet-lead.

THE SONGLESS BIRD.—The sparrow comes from
a good family, having a host of representatives in
Europe, and a full list in North America; but,
strange to say, it is the only scion of this large di-
vision of the bird tribe from which the gift of song
seems to have been wholly withheld. Everybody
who has strolled in the country during May and
June has listened to the sweet love carols of our
chirping and song sparrows, but no one ever heard
the sparrow in question utter a single sound that
possessed the faintest melody—nothing but that in-
cessant complaining chirp and distressful chatter
from one end of the year to the other—no inter-
mission, no rest. If it could sing like our cat-bird,
or even the clumsy robin, for instance, the opposi-
tion to it which now exists would, it is safe to say,
never have been aroused, because in all fairness,
waiving the question of song, the sparrow can not
be called any better or worse than the rest of its
kind, which are all plump, sober, dull-plumaged
birds.—[Harper's Magazine.]