

OUR YOUNG FOLKS.

To be young is to be one of the immortals. — HAZLITT.

The Little Missionary.

I have met her many mornings
With her basket on her arm,
And a certain subtle charm,
Coming not from her adornings,
But the modest light that lies
Deep within her shaded eyes.

And she carries naught but blessing,
As she journeys up and down
Through the never-heeding town,
With her looks the ground caressing;
Yet I know her steps are bent
On some task of good intent.

Maiden, though you do not ask it,
And your modest eyes may wink,
I will tell you what I think:
Queens might gladly bear your basket,
If they could appear as true
And as good and sweet as you.

—[Charles H. Crandall, in February St. Nicholas.

"I Can Swim, Sir."

During a terrible naval battle between the English and Dutch, the English flagship, commanded by Admiral Narborough, was drawn into the thickest of the fight. Two masts were soon shot away, and the mainmast fell with a fearful crash upon the deck. Admiral Narborough saw that all was lost unless he could bring up his ships from the right. Hastily scrawling an order, he called for volunteers to swim across the boiling water, under the hail of shot and shell. A dozen sailors at once offered their services, and among them a cabin-boy.

"Why," said the admiral, "what can you do, my fearless lad?"

"I can swim, sir," the boy replied. "If I am shot, I can be easier spared than any one else."

Narborough hesitated, his men were few, and his position was desperate. The boy plunged into the sea amid the cheers of the sailors, and was soon lost to sight. The battle raged fiercer, and as time went on defeat seemed inevitable. But just as hope was fading a thundering cannonade was heard from the right, and the reserve were seen bearing down upon the enemy. By sunset the Dutch fleet was scattered far and wide, and the cabin-boy, the hero of the hour, was called to receive the honor due him. His modesty and bearing so won the heart of the old admiral that he exclaimed:

"I shall live to see you have a flagship of your own."

The prediction was fulfilled when the boy, having become Admiral Cloudsley Shovel, was knighted by the king.

Value Your Time.

Above all things, learn to put a due value on time, and husband every moment as if it were your last. You should dispose of the time past to observation and reflection, of the time present to duty, and of the time to come to Providence. In time is comprehended all we possess, enjoy or wish for; and in losing that, we lose them all. This is a lesson that can never be too often or too earnestly inculcated, especially to young people; for they are apt to flatter themselves, they have a large stock upon their hands, and that, though days, months and years are wantonly wasted, they are still rich in the remainder. The moments thus prodigally confounded are the most valuable that Time distills from his alembic; they partake of the highest flavor, and breathe out the richest odor; and, as on the one hand, they are ir retrievable, so neither, on the other, can all the artifice of more experienced life compensate the loss.

Do not talk about yourself or your family to the exclusion of other topics. What if you are clever, and a little more so than other people, it may not be that other people will think so.

OUR PUZZLE PRIZE.

More letters than ever have been received this month and the majority have the answers nearly right. The close competition for the prize-book results this time in favor of Earnest Livingston, Hamilton.

For the best set of answers to the puzzles in this number, sent in before the fifth of March, we will give a similar handsomely-bound, interesting story book.

The following have been awarded our extra little chromo prizes:—Minnie A. Ramsey, Ulverton, Que.; R. L. Eedy, London; H. Reeves, Toronto; Louie Bolton, Toronto; Mary Sheppard, Berlin; Bertha Miller, Walkerville; Ellen Ralph, Goderich; Anna I. Stevens, Kirkdale, Que.; Katie Darrah, Rapid City, Man.; J. Mullock Jackson, Toronto; Delie Sawyer, Huntley; Samuel Beattie, South Lake; C. M. Stewart, St. Catherines, and Charles H. Anderson, Toronto.

Correct answers have also been received from:—Ashton Langrill, Jarvis; William Gill, London; Lizzie Kinnisten, Parkhill; Maggie Walker, Ulverton, Que.; Rose Salter, Holland Landing; Annie Emery, London; John E. Gow, Windsor; W. Cunningham, London East; George West, Montreal; Sarah King, Ottawa; Fred Hayes, Kingston, and Josie Abel, Windsor.

FEBRUARY PUZZLES.

1.

SQUARE WORD.

A digest of laws.
A cavity over a fire.
Deprived of life.
Conclusions.

2.

DECAPITATIONS.

Behead a weapon, and leave a fruit, behead a fruit, and leave a part of the head.

Behead a portion, and leave an animal, behead an animal, and leave a verb.

Behead to begin, and leave acid; behead acid, and leave cunning.

Behead mild, and leave ground; behead ground, and leave a conjunction.

Behead a hard mass of earthy matter, and leave a sound; behead a sound, and leave a unit.

3.

A consonant.

A heavenly body.
A people of Europe.
Congealed water.
A consonant.

4.

EASY DECAPITATION.

If you a sailing vessel take

And rob it of its head,

A portion of the human frame
You then will have instead.

5.

HIDDEN FRUIT.

If you would be admitted rap earnestly.

Be brave if you would grapple with the straggles of life.

In luxury's lap each sluggard laid himself down.

ANSWERS TO JANUARY PUZZLES.

1. Square word:— G R I N
R I D E
I D L E
N E E D

2. Diamond puzzle:— Y
D O G
Y O U T H
A T E
H

3. Hidden names:—Mary, Tom, Will, Grace.

4. Enigma:—Heartsease.

Poetical pi:—

The thickest ice that ever froze
Can only o'er the surface close;