

"What is a syllable?"
 "A word split in two."
 "What is a verb?"
 "Hit's suthin' that tackles onto suthin', or shows that suthin' tackles onto hit."
 "What is reading?"
 "Hit's talkin' from a book."
 "How do you teach reading?"
 "Sometimes by coaxin', and sometimes by a board."
 "What is geography?"
 "Hain't no classes in that."
 "But you might have. How would you teach it?"
 "By askin' 'em questions."

Obituary.

In deep sorrow we announce to our readers in this issue the death of Mr. Henry Weld, third son of the editor of this journal, which occurred at the family residence, Ridout street, London, on Monday, 17th January last. This is the first death which has occurred in the large family of eleven children. In his youth he had the misfortune to contract a very severe attack of fever and ague, which weakened his constitution. He went to Texas, where he engaged in fruit farming, but his predisposition to fever and ague rendered that climate unsuitable to him, and he was obliged to return home. He then entered into the seed and commission business in this city. This undertaking required considerable travelling in the country districts, and on one occasion he passed the night in a damp and unaired bed, from which it is firmly believed he contracted a cold which settled on his lungs and ultimately caused his death. From this time he never recovered his former health, and although the winter of 1884 was spent in the Bermuda Islands, and the following winter on the Pacific Coast and New Mexico, he considered that any benefits derived from these climates were obtained at too great a cost in the sacrifice of home comforts. The last year he spent at his home in Westminster, near London, conducting his business and in hope of recovering his strength, but during the last few months he became weaker and weaker, and finally passed peacefully and quietly away on the morning above mentioned. How true it is: "What shadows we are and what shadows we pursue."

Deceased was for many years connected with this journal, and will, no doubt, be kindly remembered by many of its readers, having travelled largely in its interests throughout all the Provinces of Ontario, Quebec, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island, and his many friends in connection with the seed and commission business (from which he retired some time ago) will hear of his death with regret. Mr. Henry Weld, in his business career, was energetic, honest, courteous and successful, and was highly respected by all who knew him. He was a sincere Christian. His loss has created a sad blank in the family and is deeply mourned by many relatives and friends. He was married about five years ago to a daughter of the late John McDiarmid, of Westminster, who, with one son, survives him. Deceased was 34 years of age; his remains were interred in Woodland Cemetery, and were carried to their last resting place by six of his brothers.

"Thou art gone to the grave; but we will not deplore thee,
 Whose God was thy ransom, thy guardian and guide:
 He gave thee, He took thee, and He will restore thee;
 And death has no sting, for the Saviour has died."
 —Bp. Heber.

Minnie May's Dep't.

MY DEAR NIECES,—According to promise, we give this month the result of the competition on "The Sayings of the Wise on Conduct and Character," which was far from being an easy one, as our younger readers evidently found, there being no papers, we are sorry to say, in either the 1st or 2nd class, but some excellent ones in the 3rd class. Of course success could not be hoped for without much time, thought and perseverance; and we are glad that so many at least of our older nieces have given evidences of industrious research, which, doubtless, has had an improving effect on their own "conduct and character."

We feel great satisfaction in stating that the prize of \$3 has been awarded to Miss Agnes M. Craig, Cornwall, Ont., whose paper, as a whole, was good both in quality and quantity, as well as the various works consulted.

We have one fault to find with nearly all the competitors, that they had no title page, or even a head-line to say what the paper was about.

Some papers were very promising at first sight, judging by their formidable appearance, but upon examination were quite disappointing. The quotations were frequently incomplete; others, though they contained the word asked for, did not illustrate really that particular point in conduct or character. All quotations should be passed over unless they contain some "truth or beauty" relative to the subject that makes them worth remembering. It would be better in some cases had the contestants been satisfied with doing less and been more discriminating in their choice of passages.

I would hint here that the use of different kinds and sizes of paper, as well as careless corrections, make a manuscript look very unattractive.

A few papers were sent in with simply the class, and not the age of the competitor, according to rule 10. And other contestants went to a great deal of unnecessary trouble by writing their name, age and address on the back of each page, instead of on the last page. One paper was arranged in alphabetical order, to be sure, but backwards from "H" to "A," which was exceedingly awkward.

Some of these points would not be worth mentioning had we not taken pains to draw up rules about them, so we ask our nieces to be more careful about little details, the observation of which add grace and elegance to whatever we undertake.

As the younger nieces have taken no part in this competition, we will make a change in the prizes this time, and offer a 1st prize of \$3 and a 2nd prize of \$2 for the two best collections (irrespective of age) of quotations on the remaining list of words, which we will again publish, with the rules, for the sake of some who may be new subscribers to our magazine. The list for the present competition is as follows:—

Idleness,	Purity,
Ignorance,	Revenge,
Independence,	Self-control,
Innocence,	Self-knowledge,
Jealousy,	Self-love,
Kindness,	Selfishness,
Modesty,	Simplicity,
Perseverance,	Suspicion,
Piety,	Truthfulness,
Pride,	Vanity,
Prudence,	Virtue,
Punctuality,	Wisdom,

The rules are:—

1st. The quotations are to be arranged in alphabetical order.

2nd. Quotations from either prose or poetry may be given, but *must* be worth copying and worth remembering.

3rd. The collection of quotations *must* be solely the work and in the handwriting of the competitor.

4th. The meaning must in all cases be complete—that is to say, it must never be necessary for any one reading the quotations to turn to the author to complete the sense.

5th. The length of each separate quotation, as also the number of quotations under each separate heading, is left to the judgment and industry of the competitors. (We will here suggest that quality and not quantity is of greatest importance "That it is better to do little well than a great deal carelessly.")

6th. The competitor must give, at the end of each quotation, an exact reference to the source from whence it is obtained. This reference must state the author, the work, the edition of the work and the page, except in the case of the Scriptures, when the book, chapter and verse will do. The edition is to be indicated by giving the date, or, if no date, the publisher's name. A quotation, followed only by the author's name, will not count for very much.

7th. Quotation books may be made use of, but a reference to the page of a quotation book will not secure so many marks as a reference to the page of the original author.

8th. Four marks will be allowed for quotations, given correctly and according to our rules, on each subject, with extra marks for spelling, neatness and variety of authors consulted, and the two gaining the greatest number of marks will be awarded the prizes.

9th. Competitors must write on one side of the paper only, and fasten all neatly and securely together at the left hand top corner.

10th. The full name and address of the competitor must be written upon the back page of each collection of quotations.

11th. The papers *must* be sent in by April 20th.

12th. Send the papers (without letters) for a one cent stamp, marking "Printers' Manuscript" on the upper left-hand corner of the wrapper.

We hope that, as the holding of festivities are past, more of our readers will be induced to enter this competition; even those who have now failed, try again. To all such Longfellow gives the following encouraging words:—

"No endeavor is in vain,
 Its reward is in the doing;
 And the rapture of pursuing
 Is the prize the vanquished gain."

We also offer this month a prize of a handsomely bound copy of Longfellow or Tennyson's poems for the best "Essay on Gratitude," the papers for which *must* be sent in by February 25th.

To clean hair brushes. The best way in which to clean hair brushes is with spirits of ammonia, as its effect is immediate. No rubbing is required, and cold water can be used just as successfully as warm. Take a teaspoonful of ammonia to a quart of water, dip the hair part of the brush without wetting the ivory, and in a moment the grease is removed; then rinse in cold water, shake well, and dry in the air, but not in the sun. Soda and soap soften the bristles and invariably turn the ivory yellow.