

Uncle Tom's Department.

MY DEAR NIECES AND NEPHEWS, — What are the duties of brothers and sisters? It is the duty of brothers and sisters to promote the improvement of each other. Let not pride of understanding or sullen reserve withhold that information which might improve or interest. Sarcastic ridicule will make them resolve that they will never again lay open their difficulties before you. Yes, dear nieces, how much the persuasive language of mildness and affection is adapted to form the roughest and most impetuous tempers to meekness and wisdom, and that your remarks may direct a brother's attention to sentiments full of beauty and feeling, which he has overlooked! Conversation in families is too often frivolous, and in some of them it is occupied with censures on the characters of others, which feed the malignant passions of the heart; or with such injudicious praise as is calculated to inspire false ideas of excellence. Let us, then, try and promote each other's personal interests. Nothing is more amiable than a constant desire to please, and an unwillingness to offend the taste or hurt the feeling of one another. And when this sweetness of disposition shines out in the calm countenance, it is the token, at least, of a contented mind. As politeness is man's password where he is not known, so good-humor will insure him continuance of favors which his good manners have elicited. Good humor, when not weakened by indiscriminate charity, is the most exquisite beauty of a fine face, and a redeeming grace in a homely one.

UNCLE TOM.

PUZZLES.

28.—EASY BEHEADINGS.

1. Behead a title of honor, and leave hours of darkness.
2. Behead to delay, and leave a small island.
3. Behead to twist, and leave a kind of vase.
4. Behead a part of the face, and leave a pleasant outdoor exercise.
5. Behead thoroughly searched, and leave dressed.
6. Behead to strip, and leave a fish.
7. Behead shoe, and leave a felled tree.
8. Behead articles used in games of chance, and leave a thing in which boys delight.
9. Behead a punctuation mark, and leave a tree.
10. Behead an insect, and leave a metallic pin of a certain kind.
11. Behead congealed vapor and leave an adverb.
12. Behead one European country and leave another.

29.—SQUARE WORD.

My first you'll find before a door;
Nearth it I've often stood,
Before my second, where I've sought
For intellectual food.
My third it is a riddle,
As you may plainly see;
And if you find my fourth too hard,
Pray sop it in your tea.
These lines are written in my fifth,
And now ye ladies fair
Pray take the trouble to arrange
These five words in a square.

A.

30.—CHARADES.

I.

At one time my first was the terror of the nation,
To old and young, and rich and poor, of every
grade and station;
But the farmer, in particular, who thought much
of his stock,
Oft heard of the destruction of my next, one of
the flock.

For my 'first' and my 'next' search the animals of creation;
My 'whole' is a metal—does it meet your comprehension?

II.

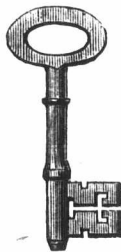
An adverb is my 'first,' as also is my 'second,'
And my 'whole,' when guessed, you'll find *non est*
is reckon'd;
But try again—my 'first' and 'second,' though
adverbs still remain,
When, lo! and behold, I'm present! Now what
can be my name? BENNET LOWE.

31.—POETS AND THEIR WORKS.

1. Adam Harm's calls to you 'are no fancy lies, Tom.
2. Class bitter star-wort, faster than mostel lily.
3. On border eggs rely, to scald rash scribe when deserving.
4. Your patent sonnets are all fe'd; G. F. liked only this.
5. N. B. sub-terrors—a rat's ghost in the duty cart.
6. Mr. M. Majesty goes on, down thee, V. O. guard.

32.—EASY TRANSPOSITIONS.

An animal, transposed is a bird; a fish, an accommodation; an animal, a plant; a fish, a fruit; an animal, connected with the sea; a vegetable, part of a ship; a tree, conveys light; a boat, a large quantity of water. J. G. P.



33.—PICTORIAL REBUS.

34.—DOUBLE ACROSTIC.

The passions good and bad of mind,
The rose and thorn of human life—
In this you see affection kind;
In that, the germ of war and strife.

1. For felons, not for soldiers, I,
I guard the apple of your eye.
2. The world's a stage, 'tis often said,
Here's good and bad in songs portrayed.
3. Where choicest wines are often stored,
Who'd do me well, jumps from a board.
4. A justice-court itinerant,
Justice for him is all we want.

E.

35.—DIAMOND PUZZLE.

A vowel; a part of the body; an animal; a township; a flower; a fish; a vowel, or a consonant. The centrals, read downward and across, will give the name of a township in the Province of Quebec. J. E. R.

36.—TRIPLE ACROSTIC.

My initials will furnish a season of joy,
To old and to young, to girl and to boy;
My centrals discover a show which, 'tis clear,
Ne'er flourishes save at this time of year;
My finals reveal most correctly, I ween,
Where this kind of show is best to be seen.

1. A god behold, who rules with gentle might.
2. A place where wealth is often hid from sight.
3. Transposed, I signify to flee away.
4. To bury, strongly linked with "to decay."
5. A sauce am I, of culinary fame.
6. A net, the dictionary says the same.
7. In Isles of Philippine a town am I.
8. A statutory declaration try.
9. You'll have me if you will but ope your eye.

H. H.

37.—CROSS-WORD PUZZLE.

My first is in light, but not in heat,
My second's in throne, but not in seat,
My third is in tell, but not in speak,
My fourth's in quiet, but not in meek,
My fifth is in might, but not in strength,
My sixth is in ply, but not in length,
My seventh is in quiet, but not in still,
My eighth is in quart, but not in gill,
My ninth is in health, but not in life,
My tenth is in woman, but not in wife,
My eleventh's in certain, but not in sure,
My twelfth is in mine, but not in your;
My whole is what we all should abhor.

FANNIE F.

Answers to February Puzzles.

- 17—Honesty is the best policy.
18—1 Fair, fare. 2 Rite, right, write. 3 Maid, made. 4 Reed, read. 5 Beats, beats. 6 Bawl, ball. 7 Mien, mean. 8 Fain, feign, fancy.
19—Barley-corn.
20—Door-step.
21—1 Gun. 2 Wolf. 3 Sable. 4 Llama. 5 Badger. 6 Kangaroo. 7 Ant-eater. 8 Chindrilla. 9 Tree-toad, sloth. 10 American panther.
22—Button-wood.
23—Sea lion.
24—Share, hare; bear, ear; heel, eel; bass, ass; goat oat; rice, ice; spike, pike, like.
25—Rather bear the ills ye have than fly to those ye know not of.
26—Scott.
27—Demosthenes.

Names of Those Who Sent Correct Answers to February Puzzles.

Fanny F McKay, N L Standish, John West, Minnie Hyde, Gertie Heck, H Watson, Anna Wooley, Minnie Summers, Henry Hoffman, Jas Smith, Dora Hines, Clara McKay, Edith Lee, Thos Niven, Lucy Whitmore, A O Willard, Herbert Jones, Emily Anderson, Henry Rowland, Thos Saunders, Abraham Leslie, Nellie Emerson, John Scott, Thos Frank, Lulu Roberts, Geo Davis, Jos Sutherland, Minnie Bradley, Jane Taylor, Donald McKay, Edwin West, Martha Williams, Frank Norris, S W Leslie, Mary Macklin, Henry Marling, Agnes Harris, F G Hughes, Arthur Brown.

Honorable mention is made of Minnie Hyde having answered the greatest number of puzzles in the February number.

HUMOROUS.

"The little darling, he didn't strike Mrs. Smith's baby a-purpose, did he? It was a mere accident, wasn't it, dear?" "Yes, ma, to be sure it was; and if he don't behave himself, I'll crack him again."

A lady that would please herself in marrying was warned that her intended, although a good sort of man, was very singular. "Well," replied the lady, "if he is very much unlike other men, he is much more likely to be a good husband."

Pedestrian (who had dropped half-a-crown in front of "the blind"); "Why, you confounded humbug, you're not blind!" Beggar: "Not I, sir! If the card says I am, they must have given me a wrong one. I'm deaf and dumb!"

A bright little Shoreham boy, who had been engaged in combat with another boy, was reproved by his aunt, who told him he ought always to wait until the other boy "pitched into him." "Well," explained the young belligerent, "but if I wait for the other boy to begin I'm afraid there won't be any fight."

"I come for the saw, sir."—"What saucer?" "Why, the saw, sir, that you borrowed."—"I borrowed no saucer."—"Sure you did, sir; you borrowed a saw, sir."—"I never saw your saucer."—"But you did; there's the saw now, sir."—"Oh, you want the saw. Why didn't you say so!"

"Mamma," said Master Harry, "how fat Amelia has grown!" "Yes," replied his mamma; "but don't say 'fat,' dear; say 'stout.'" At the dinner-table on the following day Harry was asked if he would take any fat. "No, thank you," said Harry, "I will take some stout."

A preacher in Kentucky the other Sunday, becoming exasperated, paused in his discourse to say: "Ladies, if you will give me your close attention I will keep a lookout on that door, and if anything worse than a man enters I will warn you in time to make your escape."