

**The Tiger and Alligator.**

In Africa wild and dangerous animals abound. Man has but a poor chance when in close conflict with these monsters of the jungle and the marshes. It may be a matter of speculation for the young folks to compare the powers, advantages and disadvantages of the two combatants, particularly when you see the reserve guard or companion of one. Perhaps the other may have a greater force unseen in reserve.

**HUMOROUS**

"What is worse than freckles?" asks an exchange Corns, sonny, corns. They don't show so when you're dressed up, but then if you keep straight no fellow can step on your freckles.

How Jones did his calling New Year's Day upon Brown:—"Miss Van Smither-eens, happy new year, aw. You look chawming, weally, Miss Mawee, d'lighted 'm shah; thanks, aw; no shewewy, aw; bullyong, yosse, thanks."—Albany Express.

AT A CHILDREN'S PARTY.—Edwin (who, together with Angelina, is doing the amiable at the little ones' party):—"How sweetly innocent and that sort of thing the children—." Small treble voice from the centre:—"Ere, I say, tarn't I have some of that cussed pudding?" (He meant custard.)—Fun.

To his fond father, who has asked him where he is in his class now—"Oh, pa I've got a much better place than I had last summer." "Indeed? Well, where are you?" "I'm fourteenth." "Fourteenth, you little lazybones! You were eighth last term. Do you call that a better place?" "Yes, sir; it's nearer the stove."

"My child," said a bereaved lady to her little girl, "grandma is now happy in Heaven; she will have no more pain." "Yes, mamma," answered the child, thoughtfully, "I suppose she is happy; but I don't know about not having any pain. I should think it would hurt awfully to have the wings stuck in!"

Tableaux Vivant.—Bridegroom (to his little sister-in-law at the breakfast)—"Well, Julie, you've got a new brother, now—" Julie (enfant terrible)—"Yes; and ma said the other day to pa, she didn't think he was much account, only it looked like Lottie's last chance!" Great clatter of knives, forks and spoons.—Punch.

**Uncle Tom's Department.**

MY DEAR NEPHEWS AND NIECES.—The joyous festivities of Xmas and New Year's are past, and we have again settled down to our various occupations. Our friends have returned to their respective homes, and we are left to pursue our daily

One night in particular quite a party of us started for a drive of two or three miles to visit some friends. We had two splendid horses and a large box sleigh, with plenty of straw and lots of buffalo robes. We could not think of spoiling the romance of the situation by having seats. I can assure you we enjoyed the drive, although it was about one of the coldest nights we have had this

winter. Still, as we all had very warm wraps it had only the most exhilarating effect. This has also been the most delightful winter for skating, as there is not much danger of the ice thawing at present. I suppose, tho', that in the country there has been too much snow for the benefit of the ice. In the cities it makes no difference about that, for as long as it is cold enough to freeze there is always skating at the covered rink.

I would advise you all to make the most of the present time, and enter warmly into any amusement on the tapis, but never to the exclusion of your duties. All amusements are harmless when not carried to excess. If so, the most harmless among them may be rendered very pernicious.

UNCLE TOM.

**PUZZLES.**

104.—ENIGMA.  
In cream, not in milk.  
In chintz, not in silk.

In time, not in late.  
In pencil, not in slate.  
In atlas, not in book.  
In sight, not in look.  
In love, not in pity.  
My whole an American city

WALTER.

105.—ENIGMA.

First in mouse, not in rat.  
Second in dog, not in cat.  
Third in house, not in lot.  
Fourth in can, not in pot.  
Fifth in owl, not in hawk.  
Sixth in flower, not in stalk.  
A famous city am I;  
You'll guess me if you try.

HERMIE.



WHICH WILL CONQUER?

routine of duties, with the occasional break of a party or a day's skating. Home circles have been broken; dearly loved brothers and sisters have departed to battle with the world and capricious fortune, firmly resolved to "make their mark" and carve for themselves a name that will long remain famous, or use the words of that very popular poet Longfellow:—"Departing, leave behind them foot-prints in the sands of time." The foot-prints left behind by many are not always very steady, but I hope none of my friends will render themselves famous in that style of "print." Of course you have taken advantage of the "beautiful snow," and the bright moonlight nights to enjoy sleigh-riding to the fullest extent. I spent nearly a week in the country this Xmas, and never allowed a day to pass without enjoying that pleasure.