



## MY DEAR CHILDREN,—

It is quite a long time since we had a chat together, isn't it? I wonder how you have been amusing yourselves this winter, when work and lessons were over for the day. Did you ever play parlor croquet? If you want to really enjoy the game, make a set of mallets, hoops, etc., for yourself—it is far more fun than playing with "boughten" ones. Make the hoops of wire, bent into shape, and fastened with glue or sealing-wax into small pieces of cork. The mallets can be made of corks, with small sticks for handles, and you can use marbles for balls. Cover the table with a cloth, fasten a strip of wide tape around it to keep the balls from rolling off, and your lawn is ready for the game.

Talking of corks, lovely chairs for the little sister's doll's-house can be made in this way. Cut a slice off a large cork and cover it with a scrap of velvet. Stick into it four large pins for legs and three for the back. Twist in and out between the pins which form the back, colored wool to match the seat, and you may be sure the pleasure it gives will pay you well for your trouble. The beds can be made of small match-boxes and a little muslin and lace. Any box, nicely papered, carpeted, and divided into rooms by cardboard partitions, will do for the house. Of course, if you make a roof to it and cut out the windows, putting in glass, it will look much better.

Perhaps you will say, "I don't want to waste my spare time making things for other people." But is it waste of time? Think a moment. Do you remember our Lord's words? "Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these My brethren ye have done it unto Me." Never think that work for others is waste of time—work for ourselves very often is. Did you ever hear the saying: "What I spent I had; what I gave I have." This saying applies to time just as much as it does to money.

"What have you done, dear children,"

The mother gently said  
As she kissed her white-robed babes at night  
And tucked them up in bed:  
"What have you done through all this day  
To help someone along the way?"

Then each one told her some kind deed—  
A loving word just spoken;  
Some sacrifice for other's wants,  
Or gift of friendly token.  
But when 'twas Katie's turn to speak  
A tear-drop glistened on her cheek.

"I cannot think of anything  
So very good to-day,"  
She sadly said, "only I helped  
A chicken find its way  
Back to its mother—that was all;  
But it was lost, and oh, so small!"

"'Twas naughty when it ran away,  
But, dear mamma, I know  
It felt so sorry, for it tried  
The right way back to go.  
You told us once we ought to seek  
To save the lost ones and the weak."

"The little chicken looked distressed,  
And how it cried, poor thing!  
It was so glad to cuddle up  
Under its mother's wing.  
I was so happy when I found  
'Twas there with her, all safe and sound."

The children hid their smiles beneath  
The bed's white coverlet,  
But the mother kissed her Katie  
Just where the cheek was wet.  
"Your part," she said, "you too have done;  
God is well pleased, my little one."

I don't know who wrote these lines, but they are very true. God is well pleased with any of His children when they, like the Lord Jesus, "go about doing good." Don't wait until you are grown up; don't wait even until to-morrow; look round you now and see whether there is not some little thing you can do for Him. You can surely lighten somebody's burden, or give pleasure to someone. Try it, and see if you are not much happier than if you had wasted your spare time looking after "Number One."

## Motto Competition.

In order to encourage the little ones we offer three prizes—first, second, and third—to the child sending in the best quotation, most carefully written out. No one who is over thirteen years old may compete. Send one short motto only. None will be accepted unless accompanied by a statement from teacher, parent or guardian, that the competitor is not over age, and has done the work alone and unaided.

Remember, the writing will be taken into account as well as the choice of a motto.

The competition closes on the first of June. Address your letters to "Cousin Dorothy, FARMER'S ADVOCATE, London, Ont."

## Puzzles.

[The following prizes are offered every quarter, beginning with months of April, July and October: For answers to puzzles during each quarter—1st prize, \$1.50; 2nd, \$1.00; 3rd, 75c. For original puzzles—1st, \$1.00; 2nd, 75c.; 3rd, 50c. This column is open to all who comply with the following rules: Puzzles must be original—that is, must not be copied from other papers; they must be written on one side only of paper, and sender's name signed to each puzzle; answers must accompany all original puzzles (preferably on separate paper). It is not necessary to write out puzzles to which you send answers—the number of puzzle and date of issue is sufficient. Partial answers will receive no credit. Work intended for first issue of any month should reach Pakenham not later than the 15th of the month previous; that for second issue not later than the 5th of that month. Leave envelope open, mark "Printer's Copy" in one corner, and letter will come for one cent. Address all work to Miss Ada Armand, Pakenham, Ont.]

## 1—BEHEADMENT.

When Night descends and howling winds drive past,  
When dark clouds gather and the rain falls fast,  
Then Nature is my *Whole*, till morning light  
Returns, and sheds its sunshine warm and bright.  
Cut off my head—a coward I must be,  
For in the front you never can find me.  
But inconsistency is passing strange,  
And though in backward file I take my range,  
My tendency's to rise, and upward bring  
Children, cattle, fruit or anything!  
Behead again, and I to you belong.  
At least I hope that I am not far wrong.  
A great affliction it would surely be  
To go through life entirely without me.  
Hey, presto! Turn my head into my tail  
And you will see, for you can hardly fail,  
A tiny, useful word of letters three—  
Part of a verb well known to you and me;  
A verb so common that we every day  
Are pretty sure some part of it to say.

SIMPLE SIMON.

## 2—SQUARE.

(1) To crouch in fear; (2) a kind of fruit; (3) an old British council; (4) to avoid. (5) to make new.

G. E. K.

## "A Serious Case."

What is the matter with Toby?  
Do you think he has got "la grippe?"  
For he looks very ill,  
Perhaps he needs a bread pill,  
Or of cod-liver oil just a sip.



He hasn't been eating the chickens  
Or fighting with Kitty, I'm sure—  
No, I won't let you flog  
My own dear little dog;  
His sickness you'll please try to cure.

## 3—SQUARE.

1. An animal; 2. empty; 3. a child; 4. to record; 5. twice five, look.

UNA.

## 4—ANAGRAM.

A summer scene near a lake is fine,  
And a winter scene in the woods of pine;  
But who can the thoughts of a JUNE SCENE SEVER?  
Why, it makes the old feel as young as ever! "DICK."

## 5—CENTRAIS.

1. Remove the central letter from hurry and leave dislike.  
2. From a famous river and leave part of a skeleton.  
3. From punishable and leave a loud sound.  
4. From pertaining to a duke and leave double.  
5. From a temporary shop and leave a pair.  
6. From a tree and leave masculine.  
7. From a vision and leave a small weight.  
The centrals give a suitable name for this puzzle.

F. L. S.

## 6—

1.—100,—50,—R,—1000,—  
2.—1000,—10000,—1,—  
3.—10000,—10,1,100,—  
4.—50,—N,—R,—  
5.—1000,—H,—10000,—  
6.—10000,—N,—R,—50,—

A river in United States.  
What Canada is.  
An American gulf.  
County of Ontario.  
County of England.  
A Canadian city.

M. A. A.

## 7—CHARADE.

ONE, is often seen on the floor.  
TWO, means "one."  
THREE, is ladies' apparel.  
FOUR, is a preposition.  
TWO, THREE, is a covering for the hands.  
TWO, THREE, FOUR, is a sponge cake.  
ONE, TWO, THREE, FOUR, is a low, mean fellow.

"DICK."

## 8—MULTIPLICATION.

(Multiply four letters by three letters and get convulsion. Answer—paroxysm.)

1. Multiply a vowel by clear and get to define.  
2. A firm by a toothed instrument and get a dude.  
3. A pronoun by pointed and get six-cornered.  
4. An exclamation by a passage and get the name of an English university.  
5. A letter by large and get a pattern.  
6. A vowel by hearty and get to breathe.  
7. In favor of by y and get a substitute.  
8. Multiply festive by x and get a brilliant gathering.  
9. A vowel by assumed and get remonstrated.

F. L. S.

## 9—CHARADE.

ONE, TWO came to town the THREE of COMPLETE,  
With shoes on their hands and mits on their feet.  
"Why come TWO in this way?" cried the boys, short and tall;  
"Why?" queried TWO, ONE, "because this THREE is 'DICKENS.'"

## 10—BEHEADMENT No. 2.

When WHOLE, alas! this world is full of me,  
To harm both rich and poor at any hour.  
Sometimes I am approached by gradual steps,  
Yet man oft falls, at once, into my power.

Behead me, and I sparkle like a gem,  
And shed my breath on fields and foliage green,  
Making fair Nature shine with lustre bright  
That fades, and for a while is no more seen.

Behead me twice, and what a change appears!  
I am your very self—your life, your soul,  
Which must be kept for good, and ne'er to fall  
In contact with my dreaded name, when WHOLE.

SIMPLE SIMON.

## 11—ADDITION.

(1) 5+ a valley—a self-closing door; (2) 100+ a verb=worry;  
(3) 1000+ help—a young girl; (4) 6+ a vehicle—a clergyman; (5)  
1000+ a female deer—a famous city; (6) 50+ a son of Adam—a  
printed slip of paper.

## 12—SQUARE.

1. A friend of ADVOCATE puzzlers; 2. one who raises; 3. malignity; 4. the beard of grasses or corn; 5. a pleasant liquor; 6. dismal.

13—MEN IN THE PUBLIC EYE, PHONETICALLY EXPRESSED.  
1. A boy's name, a grain, and a child; 2. a Canadian writer, part of the face, and a pronoun; 3. a girl's nickname and something we all have; 4. sour; 5. robust; 6. brittle, and a bother; 7. a girl's name, a verb, and to hide; 8. a pronoun and a box.

"ARRY 'AWKINS."

## 14—SUBTRACTION.

Take a thousand from something we love and leave remote;  
Take one from carriage and leave what all boys become; take  
fifty from soft and leave intervening; take fifty from the soft  
roe of fishes and leave a winter's covering; take one from con-  
taining water and leave the greatest; take nothing from damp  
and leave fine rain; take part of a hundred and leave the  
fashion. Subtracted amounts added together form a very  
large number.

"ARRY 'AWKINS."

## Answers to February 15th Puzzles.

1—Isabel, Una, Bertha, Ada, Ora, Ann.

3—r e c e i v e  
2—h i r e e t h i c s  
i r o n c h i d e  
r o o d e i d e  
e n d s i c e  
v s  
e

4—Kilt, itch, tone, cons, home, emu, need, era,  
roan; Kitchener, the Soudan.  
5—Great Britain, Kitchener, Canada, Bala-  
klava, Gibraltar, Perm, convolvulus, mouse.  
6—Representatives.  
7—Spice—ice; stick—tick; madam—Ada—a-a;  
David—a; friends—fiends.  
8—St. Valentine's day.

## 9—d i s m a l

i n c a s e  
s c a r p s  
m a r k i s  
a s p i r e  
l e s s e n

## 10—Gladstone.

11—Phra the Phoenician.

12—Levi, vile, evil, veil, live.

13—Bump  
Yeddo  
Roe  
Out  
Nuts

Byron

poets.

14—Fire-fly.

15—Expect (x specked) me between five and six for tea.  
16—Revelation.

## SOLVERS TO FEBRUARY 15TH PUZZLES.

Geo. Lawson, "Ena," "Dick," "Arty 'Awkins," "Barney,"  
Una Shepherd, M. N., G. E. K., "Toledo," "Burns," Henry S.  
Sweet, Barclay Green.

## ADDITIONAL SOLVERS TO FEBRUARY 1ST PUZZLES.

"Ena," Lizzie Conner, Una Shepherd, J. McLean, M. N., H.  
C. G., "Toledo," "Burns," Maggie Beattie.

## COUSINLY CHAT.

"Ena,"—I have your name credited with answers for both  
January issues.

A. E. T.—A mistake was made in printing your initials last  
time. Come often.

G. E. K.—All puzzle matter, whether answers or puzzles,  
will come for one cent, provided no regular correspondence  
accompanies it.

H. S. S.—Your puzzles are scarcely up to the standard this  
time, but do not be discouraged—try again.

"Barney,"—I cannot use your puzzle, either.

M. B.—You are very welcome, and your answers were  
correct.

"Burns,"—You are getting along very well, but of course  
the older solvers have the advantage. Never despair—practice  
makes perfect.

Geo. L.—You keep the rules very well. Keep trying, even  
if you should not win first time.

C. B. M.—I dare say "Arty" surprised more than you. He  
is a veritable veteran, is he not?

I regret that I have not space to use more of the many  
excellent puzzles I receive. Our contributors will have to be  
patient and they will see their work later. We have plenty of  
room for more solvers. Everybody is welcome.

## In a Minor Key.

She—Look at the ocean from here. So grand!  
So majestic! So peaceful!  
He—It may be grand and majestic, but it isn't  
peaceful. It always stirs up an ill-feeling in me.—  
Chicago Tribune.