

Uncle Tom's Department.

MY DEAR NEPHEWS AND NIECES,—How beautiful are the rosy footsteps of May? Less showery and changeable than April, and not so heated and burdensome as June, she stands a gentle mediator between the two, gradually leading us forward to the season when all is sunshine and verdure and fruition start into new life at her approach. She scatters in her path the sweetest flowers of nature, and everywhere breathes fragrance and joyousness. The birds of the air are carolling her welcome, and even the mute beasts of the field seem happier at her coming. In times of yore the first morning of May was ushered in with music and songs and merrymakings. What cheerful hearts our brave forefathers must have had? The young maidens rose with the first dawning of the May-day morn, and went to bathe their cheeks in May dew, and the men and boys to gather green boughs and wild flowers wherewith to deck their homes for the summer festival. The tallest tree was reared as a Maypole on the village green, around which the lads and lasses danced and sang till sunset.

This May-day celebration, they say, was but a relic of an old Pagan festival. May-day cannot be celebrated with any satisfaction by our boys and girls. The flowers are not abundant enough, and the weather is apt to be unpropitious. We think a floral festival can be much better enjoyed on the last day of May than on the first. Still if May-day itself must be given up the woods can be enjoyed during the month; they will soon be bright with foliage, and how delightful to see the bright sun peeping through their branches, as if to seek some lonely though loved flower. Not with but a wise purpose does nature thus yearly renew her youth and clothe everything with verdure and flowers. Among the early flowers we will see the violet, crocus, buttercup, daisy, field hyacinth, blue bell, the brilliant tulip, the rich peony, with many other beautiful flowering plants, roots, and shrubs.

Which of my nephews or nieces will have the most and nicest to write and tell your old Uncle Tom about.

UNCLE TOM.

PUZZLES.

45—EASY CHARADES.

I.

My first gave us early support,
My next is a virtuous lass,
To the fields if at eve you resort,
My whole you will probably pass.

II.

My first is a native of the ground,
In English countries much prevails,
My next in every county found,
My whole was never out of Wales.

III.

My first if you do you won't hit,
My next if you won't leave it,
My whole if you do you won't guess it.

IV.

My first makes all nature appear with one face,
At my second is music and beauty and grace,
And if this charade is not easily said
My whole you deserve to have thrown at your head.

46.—SQUARE WORDS.

- 1—A thought; loved; to win; an Italian river.
- 2—Quiet; an answer; exhibition; an inhabited place.
- 3—An open space; a plant; wander to; sharp.
- 4—Birds; a response; improve; finals.

47—AN ENIGMA.

My first is in goose, but not in hen,
My second is in yard, but not in pen,
My third is in cat, but not in dog,
My fourth is in snow, but not in fog,
My fifth is in war, but not in fight,
My sixth is in day, but not in night,
My last is in hail, but not in rain,
My whole is a city built in Spain.

MINNIE GOULD.

48—DROP LETTER PUZZLE.

The answer is an adage very pleasant to remember when work is done. Every other letter is omitted:

a - l - o - k - n - n - p - a - m - k - s - a -
k - d - l - b - y

49—EASY SYNCOPATIONS AND CENTRAL ACROSTIC.

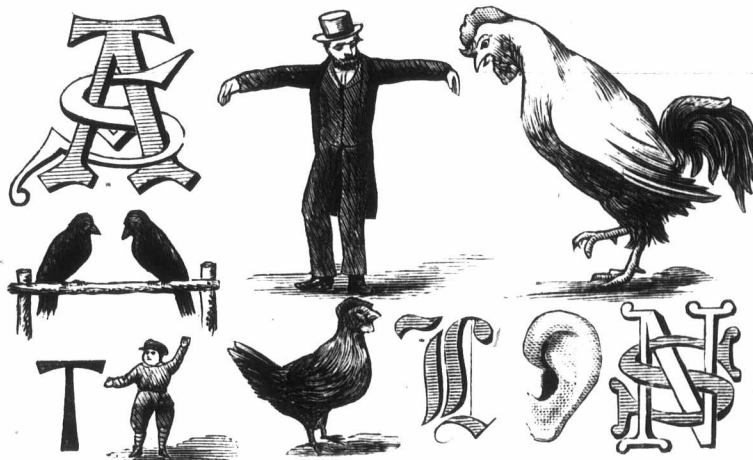
1. Syncopate a thread-like substance and leave to shoot. 2. Syncopate the shore and leave expense. 3. Syncopate the name of a wise Greek and leave shortly. 4. Syncopate a part of a flower and leave a loud sound. 5. Syncopate tumult and leave part of the face. 6. Syncopate a round roof and leave an animal. 7. Syncopate to languish and leave to fall. 8. Syncopate a kind of play and leave part of the head. 9. Syncopate a relative and leave a city of Lombardy. The syncopated letters read in order name an American city.

LUCY NILES.

50—DIAMOND PUZZLE.

1. A consonant. 2. A plural verb. 3. Part of the human frame. 4. To turn from the truth. 5. An emigrant. 6. Often a pitiable result. 7. A consonant. The perpendicular letters are the same as the fifth item.

H. CLARK.



51—ILLUSTRATED REBUS.

52—BEHEADINGS.

Behead a vessel and leave a grain.
Behead a story and leave a liquor.
Behead a shrub and leave space.
Behead an animal and leave part of the head.
Behead a kind of fish and leave to listen.
Behead to cry and leave part of the head.
Behead learned and leave anything.
Behead an animal and leave another animal.

MAGGIE S. McLAREN.

53—NUMERICAL ENIGMA.

I am composed of 22 letters.
My 17, 7, 14, 15, is an officer.
My 19, 5, 4, 13, is an actor.
My 16, 20, 21, 11, is a tube.
My 6, 8, 18, 11, 22, an edentate animal.
My 10, 2, 9, 1, 3, 12, 5, is a country in Africa.
M whole is good advice.

54—ENIGMAS.

I.

I've seen you where you never were,
And where you will never be,
And yet within that very place
You shall be seen by me.

II.

In spring I am gay in my attire; in summer I wear more clothing than in spring; in winter I am naked.

III.

In camps about the centre I appear,
In smiling meadows seen throughout the year;
The silent angler views me in the streams,
And all must trace me in their morning dreams.
First in each mob conspicuous I stand,
Proud of the lead and ever in command.

Without my power no mercy can be shown,
Or soft compassion in their hearts be known;
Each sees me in himself, yet all agree
Their hearts and persons have no charm for me;
The chemist proves my virtue upon ore,
For touched by me he changes it to more.

Answers to April Puzzles.

- 38—Seal.
39—"Full many a flower is born to blush unseen."
40—Duck, Upon, Code, Knee.
41—1 Ploughshare. 2 Headstrong. 3 Winchester. 4 Assistant.
42—Grave, Rave, Ave, V.
43—Women.
44—Bismarck, Irritate, Slovenly, Meanness, Abundant, Ruth, Hero, Complain, Keystone.

Names of Those Who Sent Correct Answers to April Puzzles.

Minnie Gould, Maggie S. McLaren, G. McLaren, Ettie N. N. Barney, T. G. Blackwood, C. Dawson, M. E. Gardner, Francis Mern, Thos. Butler, R. J. Gibson, Bessie Barker, Geo. Taylor, Noah Bayley, Edwin West, Sarah J. Dutton, Henry Frankfort, Jessie Curry, Maud Kinnon, Henry Marling, E. Anderson, Niven Cox, Jane Taylor, Theo. Summers, J. E. Freshman, Susan Jones, A. J. Willard, John Scott, Ellen Burroughs, Susan Shore, Rosie Phillips, Geo. Trevel, Alex. McKay, Henry Thomas, M. A. Lyons, Octavius Crane, C. L. Leamington, Mary Weekes, James McIntyre, William Craw, Annie Fleming, Minnie Flood, J. E. Cowan, Chas. Brown, Ailly Mercer.

Honorable mention is made of J. Taylor, having answered the greatest number of puzzles correctly.

HUMOROUS.

A gentleman being once asked why he talked to himself, candidly answered, "Because I like to converse with a man of sense."

Professor (looking at his watch)—
"As we have a few minutes, I should like to have any one ask questions, if so disposed." Student—"What time is it, please?"

Rector: "Those pigs of yours are in a fine condition, Jarvis." "Yes, sir, they be. Ah, sir, if we was all on us on'y as fit to die as them are we'd do!"

Smart Sophomore—"What fruit would you most resemble when riding on a jackass?" Innocent-Looking Freshman—"Give it up." S.S.—"A beautiful pear." I. L. F.—"All right come; outside and I'll try it."

"One day," writes our correspondent, "I was compounding a simple cough remedy for my little three-year-old, who had a severe cold. He stood watching the process, and asked if it was 'good.' On letting him taste, he exclaimed: 'It's awful good, mamma. Let's keep it all for papa!'"

It was a colored preacher who said to his flock last Christmas day: "We have a collection to make this morning, and for de glory of Heaben, whichever of you stole Mr. Jones' turkeys, don't put anything on the plate." One who was there says, "Every blessed niggah in de church came down with the rocks."

How They Shop.

(Written by a Fatigued Dry Goods Clerk)

A woman enters a dry goods store.
Steps to a clerk who stands near the door,
Asks him to show her the latest style,
And she pulls over the goods meanwhile.
Says she: "I want a dress for my niece,
Will you please show me that under piece?
Oh? I didn't see 'twas a polka spot,
That is too near the one she's got,
That piece with stripes would just suit me,
It's just as pretty as it can be;
But she wants a better covered ground,
With a sort of vine running all around.
She don't want too dark nor yet very light,
Nor a striped piece nor yet very bright,
I think she'd like what you showed me last,
But do you think the colors are fast?
Cut off a bit, before I decide.
I'll take the piece home and have it tried.
I had a dress like that last fall,
And the colors did not wash at all,
I like those patterns there on the end,
I'll take a few samples for a friend;
Now one of this if you'll be so kind,
And a bit of that if you don't mind;
They're the nicest styles I've seen this year;
I most always do my trawling here.
I've got a piece that came from here
I've forgot the price—'twas pretty dear,
It's a sort of dark plain stuff;
I want to match it, I've not enough,
Do you think you have any in the store?
The dress is spoiled if I can't get more.
Will you put these samples in the bill?
I'll know where I got them if you will,
I'll take them home; if she thinks they'll do,
You'll see me back in a day or two."