

"They were very pretty, and the children almost went wild over them, as country children always do over any unusual display.

"You have no bust of Dickens?" I said to the little fellow, after I had looked over the articles, and had bought a lovely vase.

"Deekens?" he said, in his funny broken English, looking puzzled at first; but presently a smile broke over his fair, bronzed young face as he went on. 'Deekens busto—write stories—Little Nell—no.'

"Then pointing out of the window, he said, 'Snow come—I bring him not then. Snow all go away, I come again; then I bring Deekens, lady.'

"We were preparing grapes for preserving, and when Minnie gave him a nice large bunch which, running out into the garden, she had picked from the trellis purposely for him, and I had given him a few pleasant words, the gratification he showed was touching to see.

"Le sono infinitamente obligato—as we might say, 'I am ever so much obliged to you'—he said, the tears glistening in his shining black eyes. 'God bless ladees!' he continued, bowing and smiling, and turning around to bow again as he passed out of the yard.

"We spoke of him several times during the winter, and planned, idly, as we then thought, where our prospective bust of the great storyteller should be placed.

"One pleasant morning in May, as I was assisting John in getting my flower-beds ready for the bulbs and seeds, I heard the latch in the dooryard-gate rattle, and, turning around, saw another Plaster-of-Paris vendor coming up the walk, smiling pleasantly as he placed his long tray of busts and vases upon the ground.

"My thoughts immediately flew to the little Italian boy who had called the autumn previous, and seemed so grateful for the bunch of grapes my sister had given him, and had promised us to bring the bust of Dickens.

"But this young Italian man was not the same person; although he resembled him very much, he was a good deal older.

"I haf bring ze bust of Dickens to ze lady," he said, bowing as I approached him.

"But you are not the one who was to bring it?"

"No, no, lady," he replied, very sadly; 'he was my brodder. He now in heafen. He died, it was so cold. But he say many times, some day ze cold snow go away, and I sal carry ze busto of Deekens to ze lady where ze grapes grow. But he died, and I haf come to carry it.'

"How did you find the place?" we asked, as we brushed away the tears we could not suppress at the touching little recital.

"Oh, he told me, my brodder, to come by ze church wiz ze cloek, and ze yellow house, and I sal come to ze house wiz many grapevines—one in ze apple tree, wiz ze seat under it."

"How much shall I pay you for the Dickens?" I asked, as I handed the bust to my sister and started to go for my portmonnaie.

"Notting, notting; you speak so kind to my little brodder, and she, pointing to my sister, 'did gif him ze sweet grapes, and he was so tired and so homesick—and he come here not again—oh, I sal now go!' And the poor Italian, with the tears streaming down his olive cheek, hurriedly turned away.

"Before we could speak a word of comfort to him he had replaced the tray upon his head, and trudged along alone with his grief."—A. A. Preston, in *Youth's Companion*.

REMARKABLE ECHOES.

In the sepulchre of Metella, the wife of Sulla, in the Roman Campagna, there is an echo which repeats five times, in five different keys, and will also give back with distinctness a hexameter line which requires two and a half seconds to utter it. On the banks of the Naha, between Bingen and Coblenz, an echo repeats seventeen times. The speaker may scarcely be heard, and yet the responses are loud and distinct, sometimes appearing to approach, at other times to come from a great distance. Echoes equally beautiful and romantic are to be heard in our own islands. In the cemetery of the Abercorn family at Paisley, when the door of the chapel is shut, the reverberations are equal to the sound of thunder. If a single note of music is breathed the tone ascends gradually with a multitude of echoes till it dies in soft and bewitching murmurs. In this chapel is interred Margery, the daughter of Bruce, and the wife of William Wallace. The echo at the Eagle's Nest, on the banks of Kilarney, is renowned for its effective repetition of a bugle call, which seems to be repeated by a hundred instruments, until it gradually dies away in the air. At the report of a cannon the loudest thunder reverberates from the rock, and dies in seemingly endless peals along the distant mountains. At the Castle of Simonetta, a nobleman's seat about two miles from Milan, a surprising echo is produced between the two wings of the building. The report of a pistol is repeated by this echo sixty-

times; and Addison, who visited the place on a somewhat foggy day, when the air was unfavorable to the experiment, county fifty-six repetitions. At first they were very quick, but the intervals were greater in proportion as the sound decayed. It is asserted that the sound of one musical instrument in this place resembles a great number of instruments playing in concert. This echo is occasioned by the existence of two parallel walls of considerable length, between which the wave of sound is reverberated from one to the other until it is entirely spent.—*The World of Wonders*.

PLANS FOR WINTER READING.

It is not wise, in laying out literary plans, to make them so cumbrous as to invite failure. It is better to plan little and do more, than to propose much and accomplish less. Very commonly an ambitious reader resolves to abandon everything else for history, and to go through Knight's History of England, or Guizot's France, or Gibbon's Decline and Fall, from cover to cover. Or, very likely, he draws up a still more elaborate scheme, in which the history of some country is to be supplemented by collateral reading concerning its social customs, literature, art, religion, and geography. By December his zeal becomes cool, and in January his scheme is likely to be abandoned entirely. He has meanwhile derived some profit, and increased his store of mental ammunition to a certain extent. But the effect of a failure of this sort is not likely to be stimulating or salutary. Much harm may be done by courses of reading, or by a too strict adherence to a list of books which one thinks he ought to read. A good appetite and an enthusiastic spirit are as essential to sound literature digestion as to physical health. For children and young persons, of course, certain directions concerning a choice of books are absolutely necessary; but even before them it is not advisable to set a whole library of twenty or

high and three feet in girth. Each will probably give six dozen pairs of wooden shoes. Other kinds of wood are spongy and soon penetrated with damp; but the beech sabots are light, of a close grain, and keep the feet dry in spite of snow and mud; and in this respect are greatly superior to leather. All is animation. The men cut down the tree; the trunk is sawn into lengths, and if the pieces prove too large, they are divided into quarters. The first workman fashions the sabot roughly with a hatchet, taking care to give the bend for right and left; the second takes it in hand, pierces the holes for the interior, and scoops the wood out with an instrument called the couiller. The third is the artist of the company; it is his work to finish and polish it; carving a rose or primrose upon the top, if it be for the fair sex. Sometimes he cuts an open border round the edge, so that the blue or white stocking may be shown by a coquettish girl. As they are finished they are placed in rows under the white shavings, twice a week the apprentice exposes them to a fire which smokes and hardens the wood, giving it a warm, golden brown hue. The largest sizes are cut from the lowest part of the bole, to cover the workman's feet who is out in rain from morning to night. The middle part is for the busy house-wife who is treading the wash-house, the dairy, or stands beside the village fountain. Next come those of the little shepherd who wanders all day long with his flock, and still smaller ones for the school-boy. Those for the babies have the happiest lot, they are seldom worn out. As the foot grows, the mother keeps the little sabots in a corner of her cupboard beside the baptismal robe. Long after when the child has become great and his chair is vacant by the hearth, they are drawn out to be looked at sometimes with a smile, but often with tears. During all his toil the workman talks and sings; he is not taciturn, like the charcoal-burner; his muscles continually in action, his work in the



open air, keep him in good temper, and give him refreshing sleep and appetite. He sings like a linnet, while the women chatter and mend the family garments. When the trees have been all cut up, the camp is raised, the mules are loaded, adieu to the green hollow, and another place is sought for. Thus all the year long, whether the forest be tinted with pale spring verdure or covered with the yellow autumn leaves, in some corner will be heard the workers, busy as bees in a hive, gayly carrying on their simple, healthy forest-life.—*Chambers' Journal*.

QUEEN VICTORIA AND HER FAMILY.

The picture on our fourth and fifth pages represents Queen Victoria surrounded by her numerous children and their families, making up such a family picture as all her loyal subjects must feel proud of, beautifully representing, and calling to mind, as it does, the fact that such a Queen should be at the head of the nation in which the home is so revered and sacredly guarded. We also give above a key to the engraving, showing the manner in which each member of the family may be distinguished. The thirty-eighth on the list is Princess Alice of England, the second daughter and third child of the Queen, who was born April 25th, 1843, at the Windsor Castle. She was married to Prince Frederick William Louis, now Louis, Grand Duke of Hesse, in 1862 and died from diphtheria on the 14th of December of the year which has just closed. She had rendered herself very dear to the English people before her marriage, which was solemnized in a very quiet manner six months after her father's death—which, strange to say, occurred on the same day of the year—on account of which it had been postponed. The last on the list is the

Princess's little daughter, who died but a short time before her mother from the same terrible disease, the whole family being prostrate with it at the same time.

A METHODIST LADY in Chicago lately leased property for a beer-garden among the fine residences about Twenty-second street and Cottage Grove avenue. The effect has been large indignation meetings, a revival of the Citizens' Anti-Liquor League, and a citation to the lady to appear and answer for her offense before her Church Board.

Question Corner.—No. 1.

Answers to these questions should be sent in as soon as possible and addressed EDITOR NORTHERN MESSENGER. It is not necessary to write out the question, give merely the number of the question and the answer. In writing letters always give clearly the name of the place where you live and the initials of the province in which it is situated.

BIBLE QUESTIONS.

- Who beheld a vision in the valley of dry bones?
- Who buried Saul's body after he had committed suicide?
- Who said "To obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams?"
- Where is to be found the declaration, man looketh at the outward appearance, but God looketh at the heart?"
- Who built Tadmor (Palmyra) in the desert?
- What prophet acted the part of a physician by giving a medical prescription?
- Which of the prophets was called from the plow?
- Who were the bride and groom of the first bridal procession that entered the land of Canaan?
- Who built a monument in the middle of a river, in what river was it built, and why?
- What was Belshazzar's last official act?
- Who was Belshazzar's successor as king of the Chaldeans?
- What commander refused to lead his army to battle unless a prophetess accompanied him?

SCRIPTURAL ACROSTIC.

- Was an apostle of the Gentiles.
- Was a Syriac term of reproach.
- Are what the heathens worship.
- Is an emblem of innocence.
- Was a priest and ready scribe in the law of God.
- Was one of the sons of Jacob.
- Is a tree and its fruits.
- Was one of the sons of Aaron.
- Is a place for depositing the dead.
- Is used for protecting fields or gardens.
- Is a precious gum.
- Is a large and powerful bird of prey.
- Easy to be broken.
- Was a king of Israel.
- Is a part which is left.
- Was one of the prophets.
- Was a king of Persia.
- Was one of the prophets.
- Was a seaport city in the island of Crete.
- Merchandise.
- Was the wife of one of the patriarchs.
- Inconstant.
- A city on the shore of the Sea of Galilee.
- Was a celebrated mountain in Palestine.
- Was a prophet of the kingdom of Judah.
- Was one who received the ark and his prosperity in consequence.
- A celebrated river in Egypt.

The initials form a proverb; the finals, a city on the island of Crete, a city of Lycaonia, an island in the Mediterranean Sea, a city situated about forty miles from Jerusalem, and a city in Italy.

ANSWERS TO BIBLE QUESTIONS IN NO. 23.

- Benaiah, 1 Chron. xi. 23.
- Jacob, Gen. xxxii. 9.
- Daniel, Dan. ix. 21.
- Shishak, King of Egypt, 1 Kings xiv. 26.
- Hannah, 1 Sam. ii. 19.
- Abraham, Gen. xv. 1.
- Nebuchadnezzar, 2 Kings xxv. 1, 11.
- Daniel, Dan. vi. 10.
- One hundred and forty years job, xiii. 16.
- Nebuchadnezzar, Dan. iv. 37.
- Builders of the wall of Jerusalem Neh. iv. 16, 18.
- Cyrus, Ezra i. 7.

ANSWER TO SCRIPTURAL ACROSTIC.

- Redeemer, Emmanuel, Jesus.
- Obadiah, Isaiah.
- Cornelius.
- Elymas.
- Esther.
- Vashti.
- Enoch.
- Reuben.
- Moses.
- Omega.
- Rebecca.
- Eve.

CORRECT ANSWERS RECEIVED.

To No. 22.—James Rose, 12 a; M. Graham, 12 a; W. M. McMillan, 12 a; Annie Donaldson, 12 a; Francis Hooker, 12 a; Margaret Patton, 11 a; Mary Patton, 11 a; Anna A. B., 12 a; Alice L. Goodspeed, 11; Eli Stout, 10; D. Morton, 12 a; William Torrance, 11; H. Paton, 9; Gussie Kelly, 8; Thos. Wiley, 11; Agnes McCartney, 13 a.

N.B.—The a after some of names signifies that the acrostic has also been answered correctly.