Chats with the Children 22020202020202020

PORM COMPRETITION.

THE SPARROW. What bird has more freedom than the

sparrow,
Flying about from tree to tree;
While the other birds that follow
Are not half so free.

Building their nests upon the tree tops, And the roofs and niches high; Fluttering around among the farmers'

crops; That their little ones might not die.

Picking the crumbs from off the ground That fall when dinner is done; Flying away at overy sound With a mouthful for a little one.

O, shame, shame on the little child, Who robs the nests of the birdies fair And ... uel it is to harm the sparrov Who are it is to and wild,
In the free and bracing air.

—Bertha Boland, 3

The cousins must be careful to write on only one side of the paper, and not too close together. Cousin Besthas effort came very near going these waste paper basket because a wrote it on both sides, and mixed the wrote it on both sides, and mixed the wrote it on both sides, and mixed it up with replies to diseppoint the cousins so I could it out, but I warn them that I shall not do it again, because it takes up too much of my time. Up to the present I have not received a poem that betrays much likerary excellence, therefore I will keep the competition open a week or two longer.

I have been wondering lately what the cousins are doing. None of them write to tell us anything about the good times they are having. The holidays will sooi be over, and when lossen time comes round again I suppose they will all be writing to Cousin Flo, just for recreation, so to speak, and on the principle that the more work we have to do the more we try to accomplish. Sometimes holiday time makes us get quite lazy. When we have nothing to do in the long, hot summer days except run about and amuse ourselves, we are apt to put off all sorts of things because it is too much trouble to set about doing them. "I'll do it in the atternuoun we say, then the atternuoun comes and we put it off till the morning, in the mring we don't feel like beguning it, and "anyway, it don't matter," so the thing nover gets done at all.

Now I believe there are makings of good many of the cousins who have no makings of good many of the cousins who have no makings of good many of the cousins who have no makings of good many of the cousins who have no makings of good many of the cousins who have no makings of good many of the cousins who have no makings of good many of the cousins who have no makings of good many to the cousins. The Carnotte Reservande to the rease, if they wrote it out and sent it one, they might see it printed, and know that it would amuse hundreds of other cousins. The Carnotte Reservang and the word read it! I sit not cannot be make anybody

enough to make anybody feel ambitious?

There was once—a good many years ago now—a little girl about 12 years old. She was very fond of scribbling verses and sales, and, in fact, anything that came into her head. Her mamma used to take a journal called "House-hold Words," edited by Charles Dickens, the son of the great noveliat. There was a children's department in it, and they used to have competitions pretty much like ours. One time the competitors were asked to write a verse describing their favorite poum and their reasons for liking it.

The little girl was very fond of Mrs. Hemans' poetry, and she selected the fine poem entitled," Henrard old Carpio" as her favourite, and as the verse were topin it is not very long I will gire it here.

"Only one muse, and poetry that one, Could sound the praises of the loyal

who humbled his proud head unto the ground
To that stern king who long his sire had

bound.
nardo del Carpio, thus thy fame
shall last,
ig with a power which none has yet
passed: assed :--rship at chivalry's fair shrine,--and

I love Hemans, and Bernardo del Car

pio.'"
Rather an ambitious effort for a little girl of 12 and I daresay most of the consins think they could not write like that. Well, you never know what you can do till you try, and if you ask me what is the secret of good writing, I will tell you; it is good reading, and plenty of it, not silly sensational stories and novels, but the classics, both prose and novels.

stry.
I wonder if any of you have
d who the little girl was?

With a fearless smile the laddic

mounted amid the cheers of the Populace.

"How old was it?" asked women of the fair young thing.
"Only a month! cried the distracted woman. "Oh, Heavens, ho's coming back without it?" "Madam," said the fireman saily.
"I could find no child." "Child !"she sereamed, "I said nothing about a child."
"Then what in the blankity blank did you wast me to sayo?" asked the puzzled laddie.
"The new chainless bike which I just "The new chainless bike which I just

ed laddie.
"The new chainless bike which I just
ught." And then she fainted away PUZZLES.

CHARADES.

1. My first causes my second to grow. My whole is a large second and always turns towards my first.

2. My first is a bolt, my second is a receptacle, my whole is always round.

3. My first gives light, my second is a lawys acen in the street, my whole is also in the street.

PUNCTUATION.

Punctuation.

Punctuatothe following paragraph correctly: five marks credited for correct
answers.

Some persons believe there

rectly; five marks credited for correct answers. Some persons believe there are no longer any duties to be fulfilled belond the tomb and there are fow who are true friends to the dead the named and friends their glory their states as the would be guilt no enterties which it would be guilt no enterties the whole live still in our act by the custions which subsists there in our memory by our frequent thought of them in our voice by our culciptums in our conduct by our funtations of their virtues

Answers to puzzles of July 28th.

of July 2

ND ACROSTIC.

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S H E E P

I R E L A N D

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DEF

MISSING WORDS.

An old lady was crossing the street when his st. w a car coming; she stepped back and was knocked down by a cab, but was not hurt.

MARKS.

B. Boland, 5; G. E. Duffy, 8; F. J. Duggan, 4; T. J. Murphy, 2.

Strategic Value of Porto Rico.

Strategic Value of Porto Rico.

Mr. Frederick A. Ober writes an article for the August Contary on "The Island of Porto Rico." Mr. Ober say:
Until it was discovered that Porto Rico possessed great value as a "strategic conter" of naval operations, the fair side sumbered undisturbed, merely a link, and no important cone, lake sumbered undisturbed, merely a link, and no important cone, lake and the emerald chain that separace and the carribean. Stadenty naval folk became award to the torder an tipe Carribbean Sea, yet its importance; they saw that, with its beasts the rough Atlantic wast, which is breast the rough Atlantic wast, which is breast the rough Atlantic wast, which is half the distance from Cadiz; thirteen the distance from Cadiz; thirteen hundred find the contained of the sea of the canaries. It lies, in fact, at the very point that we should have selected for a coaling station, had we unrestricted choice of axion. All the arguments that have been advanced for the acquisition of the island of St. Thomas, airly miles distant, and for which at one time we were almost ready to pay seven million dollars, apply with tenofld force to Porto Rico, with its six good harbors to one of St. Thomas, and its commercial as well as strategical bear of the acquired and potentialities.

Former Salvation Army Brigader be a Nun.

New York, July 27.—Miss Susic F Switt formerly a brigadier in the Salvation Army, whose conversion to the Catholic fatth a year and a half ago caused a commotion in the army, is about to devote herself to, a religious life by retiring from the world and entering a convent. Miss Swift is the daughter of a lawyer of Pough keepsie and is a graduate of Vassar College.

Irish Local Government Bill Goes Through.

London, July 29.—The Irish Local Government bill passed its third read-ing in the House of Lords to day with some unimportant amendments.

Mr. Montague,

DUNNVILLE, Ont.

..Dr. Chase's Ointment. His suffering from Ulcerating Piles Cured.

The smoke curled out of the windows in thick black clouds, every now and then the red tongues of flame dated through it, lighting up the faces of the people opposite. Ves; the building was doomed

But the firemen were working bravely, and had averaged all the men, women and children.

Saddeuly a fair young thing, rushed up to one of the firemen. Her hair was hanging down ber back, and her beautiful eyes were wide open with horror.

"Oh, save it!" she cried, pointing to the second-story wisdow. "Bave it has been proven it, or die in the attempt."

"Their me where it is, and I will save it, or die in the attempt."

"That room up there shore's where I jeft it. Oh, save it."

Domestic Reading

The path of duty is the path to ple

vice alone truly gauges virtue's worth.

The unhappy must be employed or they will go mad.
Every situation has its privileges and its obligations.

its ubligations.

Moderation is the foundation-stone of

its obligations. Moderation is the foundation-etone of real enjoyment. There are times in one's life when days do the work of years. Half the misery in the world comes from straining after happiness. What is success, after all, but the flowering of the seed of stremuous and constant application? The fire of love for others is set ablaze by the last spark of the fire of love for self. Love nover dies. Sympathy is the bairs of life; without it duty would become a slave's burden, and life itself a cruel taskmaster. A soul without Christ is as a ship without a rudder; running easily because running with the current, but, for that same reason, every moment running to its doom.

running to its doom.

Man must dle—may, man must live;

'Its life we must think of—eternal life, whether it is to be a happy or a miser able one is a matter which is largely under a man's own control.

The meteor of genius may for a while dazzle the eye and illuminate the intellectual sky, but the star of application will remain on, to guide the wandering and enlighten the obscure.

We all, perhaps, say some wretched things which dwell on other people's minds long after we have forgotten them ourselves. It is one of the acts we shall waken up to as sins whenever we become qualified to review our lives dispassionately.

If it be true, as has been said, that there is ac good quality of a woman's heart and mind which is not necessary to perfect housekeeping, it follows that there is no power of the mind or afterion of the heart which may not be gratified in the course of its discharge.

Among the heart which may not be gratified in the course of its discharge.

Among the greater dead we shall find the records of those who have passel through harder trials and accemplished greater dec5s than those which are demanded of us. They have, many of them, won eternal farme. Be sure that it did not settle quietly upon their brows. It was won in the only way in which fame can be worth winning. It was won by labour; that is the path in which they trod. It is the path in which they condition the tests which it has successfully endured. The promises of God were enlarged to Abraham after he went from his country and his kindred, not knowing whither he went. They were enlarged again after he of fered Isaae upon the altar. So will it be with everyone. As the field of promise on largers, so will be unable to detect them. But let me take a magnet and sweep through it, and how it would draw to itself the invisible particles by the mere power of attraction! The u

is gold.

A formal politoness chills the affections and repels those who would naturally be drawn together; so also does no assumed manner which is instincero. The courtesy which ranks so highly. The courtesy which ranks so highly, and the lack of which is often deplored, is the natural and graceful expression of a kindly feeling. But it is tender and easily crushed; it is delicate, and must be nourlahed and cherished, or the rude storms of lik will sweep it away. Let us protect and honour it as it deserves, and it will in its turn protect and preserve for us some of the dearest and best possessions life has to offer.

dearest and best possessions life has to offer. The nearest approach to a new experience is to lie under a tree. Lie flat, face up, beneath a tree and you will realise that you nover appreciated arboral anatomy before. How light and strong it is! How full of lessons for engineers and builders and painters And it is so unaccustomed; the tangents in the boughs are so unexpected; the masses of leaf, flower, and fruit are so remarkable; it is so inspiring to see that castle in the air, so light, so fairylife, yet so sturdy and tough, with the birds and the boes and the butterflies seeking its entrances.—Charles M Skinner: "Nature in a City Yard." Misplaced devotion to the fancied

Misplaced devotion to the fanded needs of others is universal even among those who have never heard of the new names applied to the principles they put into practice. Sins are condoned which should be denounced; children are indulged to their own undoing: while wonen, especially, often Lacriffee themselves to the whims of others as soyfully as Eastern devote's throw themselves beneath the car wheels of an idol. Mix your altrulum as the pall ter did his colours—with common sense. Bear other people's burdens when you are sure that the result will not be weak spines, weak impulses, lassitude of conscience, and prostration of effort.—Louiss May Dalton.

The ripe, mature, full mind not only troapes the limitations of the time in which it sinds itself, it also escapes Misplaced devotion to the

from the limitations of the place in which it had ens to be. A man of deep culture cannot be a provincial; he must be a citizen of the world. The man of provincial tastes and ideas owns the active man of culture commands the landscape. He knows the world beyond the hills; he sees the great movement of life from which the village seems almost shut out; he shares those inclusive experiences which come to each age and give each age a character of its own. He is in fellowship and sympathy with the smaller community at his doors, but he belongs also to that greater community which is coterminous with humanity itself. "Agentzing Heart of Jesus, have mercy on the dying." By a decree of February 2nd, 1850, an indulgence of 190 days is granted each time this prayer is recticed, and a plenary indulgence to those who during the month rectice it, at intervals, three times a day, after having approached the Sacrament and prayed for the intentions of the Soverlein Portific. These indulgences are applicable to the souls in Purgatory. If we do not enrol ourselves in this archeonfraternity, let us at least add the foregreing short prayer to our other devotions, so as meerifully to assist the dying and increases the number of the locet:—"O Jesus! I hrough the most pure heart of Mary, I offer Thee all the prayers, work, and sufferings of this day, for all the intentions of Thy Diline Heart, in union with the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, in reparation of all sins, and for all requests presented through the ray of the dying of every day. Amen."

an sias, and for air requests presented through the AP theship of Prayer; in justificular for the dying of every day. Amen."

Truth has many powerful enemies against which to struggle, and to which it is too often savificed. Fear, passionate desire, envy, malice, greed, shame, and a host of other emotions come into conflict with truth, and prove tis deadly foes. When they take possession of the mind justice departs, and truth is often ruthlessly stricken down. It has, however, another opponent which is less apparent and less open to criticism, but not less effective in its assaults. This is the desire of being forcible, emphatic; of creating an impression, of heing interesting in conversation, brilliant in writing, eloquent in oratory, successful in debate. These are all good things, and worthy of he ang striven for in their respective places. At first sight it does not appear that they need ever interfere with truth or demand that sho be sacrificed to them. Yet they often do, and the reason is not far to seek. The desire for forciblo utterrance tends towards emphasizing only one side of the question, whereas truth is many-sided. Ho who would tell a good story is strongly templet dtwards exaggeration, whereas a faithful adherence to truth would roderate or tone down his remarks, taking away, perhaps, much of their sparkle and brillance. Those who love to shile in conversation have a dread of the commonplace, whereas truth is often very commonplace. Thus there is collision, and the stronger desire is generally victorious.

THE DUKE AND THE POST-MISTRE

THE DUKE AND THE POST-MISTRESS.
The Duke of Norfolk, England's Catholic Postmaster, is courteous and self-possessed as well as kind-hearted and plous. Not long ago he visited the postoffice for the purpose of sending a tle-gram, and, while writing it, noticed the impudence with which the clerk, a young woman, treated all who approached her. When his turn came she seized his telegram, looked at it, and flung it back to him, saying:
"Put your name to it. What's your name, anyway?"
The Duke pointed to his signature, "Norfolk."
"That isn't the name of a man," she said, "that's the name of a county."
"I will trouble you for another blank," raid the Duke, and wrote a fresh despatch, which read:—"Permanent Secretary G. P. C., London: Clerk at this office exceedingly insolent to the public. Reprimand severely. Discharge one second complaint. The Postmaster-General."

As he handed it to her he said: "This is official, and will so free."

General."

As he handed it to her he said: "This is official, and will so free."

The offender nearly fainted, and begged his pardon over and over. So the Duke, who had only intended to give her a lesson, administered some good advice, lifted his hat, and walked out.

Mermen an' Mermaida.—Sallors of antiquity were firm believers in the existence of beings half fish and half human, and they produced so many apparent profes that the so-called scientific writers of old gave credence to these improbable tales. Of course, three never was nor could be such creatures, yet these startling stories were not purely fictitious creations. The dugong, a species of marins mammal, found in the waters of both great occans, but especially off the coast of Australia, in the Pacific, is believed to have furnished the basis upon which all mermaid and mermen stories have been founded. Its average length is from 5 feet to 20 feet. It has a head nuch resembling that of the human species, and brathes by means of lungs. It feeds upon submiratine beds of seaweed, and when wounded makes a noise like a mad buil. Long hair in the tennate species, and hair and beard in the male, add to the human resemblance of the head and neck. The less in this rea animal is used for food, and is raid to have the flavour of pork, mustum, or beef, according to the parts of the hody from which the meat is taken.

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A good laugh is sunshine in the

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