Ulncle Tom's Department.

MY DEAR NEPHEWS AND NIECES,-When reading your letters and trying to decipher your writing as well as your puzzles, it struck me that really the writing of nearly all of your letters was unworthy of a small boy or girl in the first or second readers. What with letters of all shapes and sizes, some sloping to the right, some tumbling over one another to the left-till the puzzles looked very much as though a spider had contrived to fall into the ink-pot, and then crawled over a sheet of paper until he had got rid of the ink that covered his body and legs. Surely you are not encouraged by your master in your carelessness and taught to consider bad writing a sign of genius. Nevertheless handwriting is not taught so carefully and industriously as in by-gone times, partly because the headlong speed which characterizes most of our daily transactions; there seems to be some fear lest penmanship may become as much a lost art as letter-writing. Our ancestors, who knew nothing of the frenzied rush of our nineteenth century life, regarded correspondence as a serious matter not to be lightly undertaken; but then what marvels of composition and caligraphy many of their letters were How often does it happen that a letter is received from a correspondent the very signature of which is not decipherable? Seek for information from the Post Office authorities upon this point. From this cause thousands of letters are posted annually with the signature of the intended recipient cut out and pasted on the What ordinary persons cannot envelope ! make out, let the Post Office people take it in hand; and, strange to say, they generally manage to solve the riddle. Yet surely such a state of things should not be possible amongst a nation which prides itself upon its system of education. Taking all the facts of the case into consideration, I have decided to arrange a competition amongst the young readers of the ADVOCATE, with a view to encourage beauty and legibility in hand-writing, and therefore I offer three prizes, one in each of the following 1. Ladies' Hand-writing, prize, a silver

- bracelet.
- 2. Girl's Hand-writing (under fourteen), prize, a pair of silver earrings.
- 3. Boy's Hand-writing (under seventeen),

prize, a beautiful pocket-knife. These competitions are open to all readers of

the FARMER'S ADVOCATE. In each of the classes 1, 2, 3, in which the candidates may enter, the following letter should be written: (Full address and date.)

DEAR SIR,-I have the pleasure of sending you a specimen of my hand-writing in competition for the prize offered by you in class (here give the number of the class). I can hardly hope to be successful, but, as the old proverb says, "Nothing venture, nothing win," so I take my chance.

I am, dear sir, faithfully yours,

UNCLE TOM,

"THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE,"

All specimens of hand writing must be in by the 25th of March; but because I give you this as a little variety I do not want you to neglect the puzzles. Send me some real good ones for UNCLE TOM. April.

Puzzles.

1-ANAGRAM. Drwso fo niskesnd rwsod fo nawirng Mede ont rvee pekso ni niva Neev ot hotes hyt nesoluc nocriusg Fot Ishal hyte rtenur nagia.

MARY ALLAN. 2-DROP VOWEL PUZZLE.

W- c-mpl- - n-fth- t-m-s B-t th y n.v-r w-ll m-nd T-ll w-l-v- ·p t- th- r-l-T- ·-rn m-r- th-n w- sp-nd. MARY ALLAN 3-ENIGMA.

From the depths of the sea, From the foot of a rock, am brought to the earth To do dirty work; have mouths to take in All the liquor I meet,

All the liquor 1 mos, And am given to drinking, Lizzie C. Watt. 4-ACROSTICAL CHARADE.

My first is found in the north, My second is found in the east, My third is found in the west, My fourth is found in the south, And my whole comes from all points of the FAIR BROTHER.

5-PICTORIAL REBUS.



6-PROPER DIAMOND.

1-In "Uncle Tom." 2—An insect. -A place for offerings. 4—One of the British Provinces. 5—(Ital.) a slow movement in music. 6—Meaning river Span.)
7—In the Advocate.

FAIR BROTHER. 7-HIDDEN CAPES. The thaw rather hindered us in our journey.

Can Sophia crochet neatly. She is able to read Latin. LILLIE STOVIN. Is life a rare blessing.

8-ENIGMA. My first is in Henry, but not in Sam. My second is in oyster, but not in clam. My third is in drum, but not in flute. My fourth is in shoe, but not in boot. My fifth is in eagle, but not in hawk. My sixth is in stroll, but not in walk. My seventh is in horse, but not in mare. My eighth is in look, but not in stare. My ninth is in stable, but not in stall. My whole is a part of Niagara Falls.

Names of those who have Sent Correct Answers to Feb. Puzzles.

R. P. Hogan, Frank L. Milner, Martha E. Jackson. Lillie Stovin, Fair Brother, Will Thirlwall. Becca Lowry, Robert Wilson, Minnie B. Ricketson, Adele La Pierre, Mary Burnett, Robert J. Risk, Lizzie C. Watt, Mary Allan, Ada Armand, Becca Forbes, Beatrice Gunn, Mary Marshall, May Coulson, Willie B. Bell, Henry Reeve.

Answers to February Puzzles.

1-Dee, Humber, Elce, Thames, Oder. 2-Meanness shun and all its train. Goodness seek and all is gain.

AWE WHOLE V A L U E W A V E S CENE WORTH GAILY SIGNIFY PRAYERFUL

4—The whole secret of good manners is to "Do unto others as you would that others do unto you."

DIN M ANOR WITNESS MINNIEMAY INEGAR HOMER $\mathbf{M} \cdot \mathbf{R}$ MONOGRAPHIC ITINERATE GRECIAN NIORT ONE TON RAISE INSTANT ABHORRENT NEEDLESTONE MOTHS TORCH SCOWL STORE TASTE

8-Be wise worldly, be not worldly wise.

SEA CADET SATIATE SANCTUARY RIGHTEOUSLY MEDITERRANEAN REITERATION BUCCANEER SCANDAL STEAM RAT

10-Swift=sift=W. Steam = stem = A.Store = sore = T. $\mathbf{Niece} = \mathbf{nice} = \mathbf{E}.$ Waterloo. Cord = cod = R. Flag = fag = L. Coast = cast = 0. Host = hot = 0.

THE BENEVOLENT OLD MAN. - Just as evening was closing in, a curly-headed little boy was standing on tiptoe on the door-step of a house in Chelsea, trying to reach the door-bell. Just then a benevolent old man passed along. He paused, and, with a kindly smile, patted the boy on the head.

"My son, that door-bell is a little beyond

your reach, isn't it!"

Yeth, thir. "Ah!" continued the old gentleman, musing ly. "It is a fit symbol of the striving of youth after the unattainable. How often in this world the thing we most desire is beyond our grasp! And when, after continued effort we have secured the object of our ambition, how often we find that it is not worth what it has cost! My little man, I am taller than you

Shall I ring the bell for you?" 'If you wanth to," replied the boy, looking at him out of the corners of his roguish eyes.

With another fatherly smile, the old gentleman gave the bell handle a vigorous pull. What was his amazement to see the boy jump from the steps and slide around the corner with

the words:-"You'd better hurry now, or they will be

after you!" The boy had scarcely disappeared, when an upper window opened and the contents of a bowl of water descended on the old man, accompanied with the words.

"Take that for your impudence!" There is one man in Che'sea who thinks he will not help any more little boys pull their neighbors' door bells-at least until after he has asked a few questions,