

MINNIE MAY'S DEPARTMENT.

MY DEAR NIECES:—

The inclination to live beyond our means seems to be one of the evils of the day, and what calamities it leads to—mortgaged farms, harassing debt, interest unpaid, sleepless nights, uneasy minds, and a feeling of depression over all. Can all the luxurious living compensate for such misery? Then comes the end—the mortgage foreclosed, the home sold and passed into stranger hands, and all the labor of a lifetime gone. How much of this state of things are we responsible for, my dear girls? Have we never indulged in luxuries we felt we could not afford in food and raiment? Or did we protest as strongly as we might against the purchase of a costly piano which our limited knowledge of music did not justify; or that flashy top buggy, easy and stylish to drive in, but a decided extravagance? Now, is not peace of mind and a balance at the bank far better than the indulgence of all our appetites and fancies? And we must face the fact that debts contracted must be paid, though the credit system is very alluring. It would be well to know just what you have to spend, and spend nothing more; go without if you have not wherewith to pay. Let us live within our means; wear print dresses if we cannot get woollen; go without gloves if we cannot pay for them; wear a sun-bonnet rather than a hat we cannot pay for; in fact, show the true spirit of independence by getting just what we can afford, and always remembering a day comes when old age or disease will render us unfit to labor. How sweet to feel we have laid by enough to keep us the rest of our days without tasting the bitter draught of dependence. Spend what money you have to spare in necessities, and go without luxuries rather than get them on credit. Would that all my nieces could realize the freedom this course of action would ensure them, for debt in any form is simply slavery, grinding slavery.

MINNIE MAY.

P. S.—Minnie May offers a prize of \$2.00 for the best essay on "Eccentricities." All communications to be in our office by the 7th of August.

Fashion Notes.

Elaborate gowns are out of place, but a simple, neat looking dress made of gingham, print, or any other washing material, is serviceable for summer wear, and the styles are so varied—from the reefer-jacket to the surplice waist. All or any can be easily laundered, which is the object to be attained when making them. Sometimes the shoulder yoke is made of another color or covered with coarse lace. The bell skirt is not the best cut for washing-dresses, the round skirt is better, square all around, hemmed on the edge, and the top fitted to the waist by small gores as far around as the arm seams. The light-wear jersey undergarments are most acceptable for summer wear easily washed, and need not be ironed—thus doing away with much sewing machine toil and lessening the Monday's wash. Gloves of a most comfortable texture are to be had in all shades, cool, and do not cling to the hand when warm, with deep cuffs to protect the wrists from sunburn, and the very low price recommends them to the general wear at once. Sailor hats are much worn for knock-about hats and are often trimmed stylishly with flowers, and worn with a veil. Sunshades and parasols may be had in all colors and in all styles to match any costume.

Our Library Table.

Hall's Journal of Health: \$1.00 per year, N. Y. —The leading article upon Cholera is worth the year's subscription alone. All the rest is equally valuable.

Good Housekeeping: \$2.50, Springfield, Mass. —Our old friend keeps abreast of the times in all topics domestic, and it has become a necessary article in our household.

Our Animal Friends: \$1.00, N. Y. This is especially a child's book, and every number inculcates lessons of humanity to boys and girls.

Lippincott's Monthly Magazine: \$5.00 per year, Pa. —This month's number is especially good: the finished story by our Canadian author, Gilbert Parker, is one of his best efforts in fiction.

The Household: \$1.00, Boston. From cover to cover there is nothing that is not of use and interest to the busy housewife.

Jenness Miller's Illustrated Monthly: \$1.00, N. Y. —This useful publication is a treat that it claims: a reform dress journal. Women can dress comfortably, cheaply and healthfully by following the directions given from time to time in its articles on dress reform.

A girl in a Maine village, who made her home with her aunt, was often disturbed (says the Lewiston Journal) by evidences of the old lady's indifference to everything but the welfare of her own material possessions. One day, in going down cellar for some butter, she tripped and fell heavily quite a distance. The maiden aunt rushed to the door, and peering down into the darkness, called out sharply: "D'ye break the dish?" "No!" thundered back the niece, for once thoroughly aroused: "No! but I will!" and she shivered it with hearty good-will against the cellar wall. The old lady was so shocked by this dramatic exhibition of malice that she took to her bed and kept it for a week.

Suggestions for Breakfast.

Few women realize the importance of a good, well-cooked breakfast for men before starting on a day of toil. By good, I do not mean luxurious, but food plain, wholesome and nutritious. The average breakfast is a slap-dish affair, cooked over the first fire, some of the food overdone, some the contrary, but with a hurried feeling that it must be served as soon as possible. If porridge be served it will not boil in less than one hour; this can be steamed the day before when the fire is going for cooking dinner, and enough can be steamed to last several times. Toast will only take a few minutes, as it is better served as soon after making as possible. Bacon should be fried over a slow fire, or it gets hard. Scrambled eggs over a slow fire also, or scorching will spoil their delicious flavor. Pancakes must be carefully mixed, their ingredients properly measured to ensure success, and then cooked over a moderate fire. Potatoes require a full half-hour to boil, and one hour to bake. Raised bread and buns are better made the night before, as they are sometimes slow to rise, and they are just as nice warmed over, or split open and toasted. Pop-over gems and Graham muffins can be made within the hour—the oven will be the proper heat when you have them mixed. Fish of any sort should be fried over a slow fire in plenty of fat, and before dishing the hard outer skin removed. Tea, coffee or chocolate must not be hurried—the water must be boiling for all of them. Never draw tea with any but boiling water, and infuse for twenty minutes. Beefsteak will cook on a hot pan in twelve minutes, keeping it turned constantly. Dish on a hot dish with a pat of butter under it. Rice cannot be boiled under half an hour, and steamed it will require one hour over a good fire. Apples will bake in half an hour. Milk will boil in ten minutes. These are a few of the simple, wholesome dishes that can be readily prepared, and what a difference the proper preparation does make. A few sprigs of parsley, mint, celery, carrot or beet leaves around the breakfast dishes make so much difference in their appetizing appearance. I have not mentioned the large variety of cold meats that can be sliced thin, nor the left over chicken that can be dipped in batter, and fried in a covered pan with hot fat. We have all the materials for the most luxurious living within our control, for no first-class hotel could furnish more than mentioned here. One or other should be selected for breakfast the night before, then there is no delay in the morning. Lay your table neatly while the fire is getting warm, if you have to do this yourself, then when all is ready the breakfast can be brought in hot and tempting. Have your pitcher of milk or cream in a cool place over night. The appetites produced by fresh air and a night's refreshing sleep will want no appetizer to do justice to the breakfast you have set before them.

UNCLE TOM'S DEPARTMENT.

Honesty in School.

BY REV. NEWMAN SMITH.

Honesty among pupils is one of the possible school virtues. And honesty in study is a preparation for honesty in life. There is such a thing as honest study, and also there are habits of shirking lessons, inattention, and making believe to know, which are not honest habits. Then there is a still finer virtue even than honesty; or rather I should say the homely, substantial virtue of common honesty is capable of taking on a finer quality, as good iron may be tempered into bright steel. Honesty, when it is tempered and brought to its finest quality, becomes honorableness. The honorable man lives clear above the ways of the low-browed man who is just honest enough to keep his business under cover of the law; and the honorable boy at school will not be content just to edge along under the rules. School life offers many opportunities for tempering the soul to high honorableness. A boy can learn to be honorable in all things with other boys and towards his teachers, never telling an untruth, never taking a mean advantage, never speaking a base word, never hurting one weaker than himself. In school life one can gain a wholesome spirit of good comradeship, learning not to be shut up in himself, but to live heartily and happily with others. Opportunity also is afforded in school life for the exercise of pluck and determination, for gaining that strength of will which men and women need so much to acquire in order that they may live worthily.

To give up a school task half-mastered, to fail of putting all the child's will into the child's work, is as cowardly in the boy or girl as it would be cowardly for a man to be afraid of standing up for the right, or for a woman to hesitate to make a sacrifice of her ease in the service of love.

And if we are to have brave men and God knows how much the world needs them we must put value on child courage in standing up to the tasks and the duties of school life. It requires moral courage sometimes for a youth at school or college to keep himself clear from questionable customs; to refuse to join in anything unseemly; to risk giving offence rather than laugh at the coarse jest or listen to the vulgar song; to follow alone, if need be, the low, clear voice of duty and pure home love, and to do under any temptation the one right thing. But the making of men is in such valor of soul. *The Canadian Journal.*

Management of Lamps.

To insure a good light the burners of petroleum lamps should be kept bright. If they are allowed to become dull the light is uncertain, and owing to the absorption of heat by the darkened metal, smoke is the result. Once a month place the burners in a pan, covering them with cold water, to each quart of which a tablespoonful of washing soda should be added, and also a little soap. Boil slowly for one or two hours, and at the end of this time pour off the blackened water. Then pour enough boiling water into the pan to cover the burners, adding soap and soda in the same proportions as before. After boiling again for a few minutes, pour off the water, rinse the burners with clear hot water, and rub dry with a soft cloth. The burners must be perfectly dry before the wicks are introduced.

Should the wicks become clogged with the particles of dust floating in the oil and new ones not be desired, they may be boiled in vinegar and water, dried thoroughly, and put back in the burners. If wicks have done duty all winter they should be replaced by new ones in the spring. Nickle burners may be boiled as well as brass ones. Time spent in the care of lamps is never wasted. A perfectly clean lamp that gives a brilliant light is a great comfort. What is more cheerless or depressing than an ill-kept lamp, which gives forth an unsteady, lurid, sight-destroying flame? The paper roses, guelder roses, and chrysanthemums so popular for decorative purposes are admirable for placing in the lamp chimneys to keep out the dust during the day, and the wicks should be turned a little below the rim of the burner to prevent exudation of the oil. *The Housewife.*

Puzzles.

1—DECAPITATIONS.

I am a small animal. Change my first and I am a covering for the hand. Change again, and I am part of a verb. Divide me, and I am part of a horse's harness, and a number. THOS. W. BANKS.

2—CONCERNUM.

Why did he do it?

Two farmers were working one fine spring day. One seeding, one putting a gate post down. When there happened to pass along that way a man who lived in the neighbouring town. "Why do you put that post there, friend?" The farmer answered, "Tis very plain, I put it here for the very same cause." That my neighbour yonder sows his grain. ADA ARMAND.

3—PUZZLE.

My 1, 2, 3, 4, 20, 22, is "destitution" or "scarcity of food." My 10, 14, 23, 24, 5, 15, is a building dedicated to Christian worship. My 16, 7, 9, 8, 11, is a milk farm. My 18, 19, 21, is a small bed. My 12, 13, 6, 25, 17, are small fish found abundantly on coast of New England. My whole is a true saying. LILY DAY.

4—CHARADE.

My cousins dear, how diligently You work to aid the Dom, I pray you toil still harder yet And be a first of Uncle Tom.

May others join our happy sphere, As for this year it is late, But you need not fear if you are in The good LAST ADVOCATE.

And now the summer days are long, I hope you will advantage take, And write to-day to Uncle Tom, E'en send just one for ENTIRE sake. ADA SMITHSON.

5—DIAMOND.

My first is in "malapert," My second is "obscure," My third is "between two hills," Thus far you can see clear, My fourth is "a person" we all know, My fifth "a kind of plant," My sixth is "a bag" for a liquid, My seventh is a "consonant." ADA SMITHSON.

6—CHARADE.

A puzzler new is PRIME US, called T. W. Banks, In writing of him I wish to be frank; That he will soon appear LAST in the front rank, Is the opinion of I, a puzzling crank.

'Tis plain to see he has true puzzling genius; And for all being prosy or mkyng a fuss, A welcome I give him among us, And wish him every success. H. REEVE.

7—DECAPITATION.

Oh, yes! you bet it is fine, The photo group of this puzzling band; With "Uncle Tom" right in the middle, That he is noble, one look will you tell.

In this group there be Ladies six, very comely and fair to see; A Lily rightly named, one Flossie, Two Adas, a Clara, and a pretty May.

But of us boys least said the better, You TOTAL two extremes always go together; This group no exception to the rule, LAST, boys, 'tis so, don't kick like a mule. H. REEVE.

Answers to 15th June Puzzles.

1 Although, 3 The letter S.
2 M E T A L 4 Inalterable.
E L A T E 5 Sour, our.
T A S T E 6 There three.
A T T I C
L E E C H

Names of Those Who Have Sent Correct Answers to June 15th Puzzles.

Oliver Snider, Addison Snider, Josie Sheehan, Geo. W. Byth, L. Irvine Devitt, Ada Smithson, Morley Smithson, Joshua Umbach, Lily Day, A. R. Borrowman, Henry Reeve.