

## CHILDREN.

Come to me, O ye children!  
For I hear you at your play,  
And the questions that perplex'd me  
Have vanish'd quite away

Ye open the eastern windows,  
That look towards the sun,  
And watch the circling swallows,  
And fish, where streamlets run.

In your hearts are the birds and the sun-  
shine,  
In your thoughts the brooklet's flow,  
But in mine is the wind of autumn,  
And the first fall of the snow.

Ah! what would the world be to us  
If the children were no more?  
We should dread the desert behind us  
Worse than the dark before.

What the leaves are to the forest,  
With light and air for food,  
Are their sweet and tender juices  
Have been hardened into wood—

That to the world are children:  
Through them it feels the glow  
Of a brighter and sunnier climate  
Than reaches the trunks below.

Come to me, O ye children!  
And whisper in my ear  
What the birds and the winds are singing  
In your sunny atmosphere.

For what are all our contrivings,  
And the wisdom of our books,  
When compared with your caresses,  
And the gladness of your looks?

Ye are better than all the ballads  
That ever were sung or said;  
For ye are living poems,  
And all the rest are dead.

LONGFELLOW.

## HABITS OF THE LIZARD.

There is one peculiarity about the common lizard that is rather startling. If suddenly seized, it snaps off its tail, breaking it as if it were a stick of sealing-wax or a glass rod. The food of the lizard is composed of insects, which it catches with great agility as they settle on the leaves or on the ground. One of the chief beauties of this animal is its brilliant eye; and this feature will be found equally beautiful in many of the reptiles, and especially in that generally hated one, the toad. In the winter time the lizard is not seen; for it is lying fast asleep in a snug burrow, under the roots of any favorable shrub, and does not show itself until the warm beams of the sun call it from its retreat.

THE DIFFERENCE.—“Doctor,” said a patient, a short time since, after reading over the prescription of a distinguished friend of temperance, whom ill health had obliged him to consult, “doctor, do you think a little spirits now and then would hurt me very much?”

“Why, no, sir,” answered the doctor, very deliberately: “I do not know that a little now and then would hurt you very much; but, sir, if you don't take any, it won't hurt you at all.”

MOTIVES.—is the motive that more than anything else renders an action good or bad. However fair the look of an action may be, if the right motive be wanting, the action is hollow; if the motive be a bad one, the action is rotten at the core. It is right to insist on the principles for their own sake; because the principles give their value to the action, not the action to the principles.

DANGEROUS PLEASURES.—I have sat upon the sea-shore and waited for its gradual approaches, and have seen its dancing waves and white surf, and admired that He who measured it with his hand had given to it such life and motion; and I have lingered till its gentle waters grew into mighty billows, and had well nigh swept me from my flimsiest footing. So have I seen a heedless youth gazing with a too curious spirit upon the sweet motions and gentle approaches of inviting pleasure, till it has detained his eye and imprisoned his feet, and swelled upon his soul, and swept him to a swift destruction.—*Basil Montague.*

TWO FOUNTAINS.—If men could find the fabled fountain that is said to restore health and beauty, with what eagerness would they rush to drink its waters. Yet with scarcely less eagerness do they now rush to drink of waters that bring upon them premature old age and disease and loathsome ugliness.

CURIOUS CUSTOMS.—The Chinese have been accustomed, as early as the ninth century, to have watchmen posted on towers, who announce the hours of the day and night by striking upon a suspended board. A similar custom still remains among the Russians.

Time past and time to come, are not;  
Time present is our only lot.

## MENTAL RECREATIONS.

Answers to the following questions will be given in next No. In the mean time we suggest to our young friends to exercise their ingenuity in solving them, so that they can compare the results of their efforts with the published answers, when their papers are received. All communications in connection with this Department of the Weekly Miscellany should be sent post paid.

## ENIGMA.

I am of all shapes: I'm short and I'm long;  
In colour I vary as well;  
But take me all ways, you will find I am  
strong,  
Likewise in impressions excel.

I sometimes am iron, copper, and brass,  
Of wood, and horn likewise, and tin;  
And though I've a head not easy to break,  
Yet, alas! there is nothing within.

I need not dilate any more on my whole—  
I'm a part of the body, 'tis true;  
But if you behold me, I then shall appear  
In a shape not so pleasant to view.

## CHARADE.

My first is a part of the day,  
My second at feasts overflows;  
In the cottage my whole is oft seen,  
To measure old Time as he goes.

## SOLUTIONS OF QUESTIONS IN LAST NO.

Rebus.—Live; evil; vile; Levi; veil.  
Arithmetical Question.—B's age is 2 years; A's 4; C's 16; and the Sister's 1 year.

## VARIETIES.

The head learns new things, but the heart for evermore practises old experiences.

Not that which men do worthily, but that which they do successfully; is what history makes haste to record.

Be wondrous wary of your first compartments. Get a good name, and be very tender of it afterwards; for it is like glass, quickly cracked, never to be mended, though patched it may be.

When at sea you look out for breakers; but on a railroad the breakers look out for you.

“Soldiers must be fearfully dishonest,” says Mrs. Partington, “as it seems to be an occurrence every night for a sentry to be relieved of his watch.”

An awkward man, attempting to carve a goose, dropped it on the floor. “There now!” exclaimed his wife, “we've lost our dinner.”—“Oh! no, my dear!” answered he, “it's safe, I have got my foot upon it!”

“Well, Mr. Richards, how does my son get on with his grammar lesson?”—“He surpasses any pupil that ever I had.”—“In what does he chiefly excel, sir?”—“In stupidity, sir. He surpasses any boy that ever I saw in that quality, sir.”