

Uncle Tom's Department.

MY DEAR NEPHEWS AND NIECES,—The sweet September days are at hand once more. Boys and girls who have been off for their holidays are trooping back to their homes and beginning to think of school, feeling ever so much stronger, fresher and brighter to begin the lessons that have for a time been banished from the mind.

There is great excitement among the boys and girls at present over Forepaugh's great circus, which is exhibiting all over this country. How well I remember the first show I ever saw—the huge elephants, the giraffes with their long necks, the very wild and savage animals, and all the different kinds of living creatures that walk, fly, creep and crawl over the earth! I think such shows are very instructive, and I hope all my nephews and nieces will ask their parents to take them to the circus when it comes to your town or city, and to whichever one of you that sends me the best description I will give a handsome prize.

UNCLE TOM.

Puzzles.

1—BURIED ADAGE.

- 1—A man cannot serve two masters.
- 2—If he be a defaulter, why retain him in your service?
- 3—You must confess, Edgar, you gave up first.
- 4—When I saw his sad condition, I could not restrain my tears.
- 5—Oh, Alfred, I thought you would never come.
- 6—Has not the storm ended yet?

ADA ARMAND.

2—DROP-VOWEL PUZZLE.

cl-u h-s-and sm-l-ng
f-c-will br-ng g-d l-ck t-
ny pl-c-

ADA ARMAND.

3—CHARADE.

Obedient to a mute command,
My first flies far and fleet,
Frantic across the listening land,
Unhelped by wings or feet;
And often bears from love's fond hand
My second dear and sweet.

WM. WEBSTER.

4—SQUARE WORD.

1. Belonging to the sky.
2. A rent.
3. Dementia.
4. To bring up.

S. F. REDMOND.

5—HIDDEN TREES.

- 1—How that young man tries to cut a shine.
- 2—Florence dare not go so near the well.
- 3—On the return of the boys the royal arches were removed.
- 4—If you will give me a pea, Charlie, I will show you a nice trick.
- 5—Tell the girl to pin everything on the line.
- 6—Marco and Will, O what will become of us.

LOUISA F. REDMOND.

6—ARROW-HEAD.

Diagram:

1. A letter.
2. A cave.
3. A piece of poetry.
4. A rival.
5. A list of names.
6. That which mitigates.
7. Complete.
8. To envelop.

My primals is an intercessor, and my centrals is a meteoric stone.

FAIR BROTHER.

7—CIPHER.

Snt tfsot fee sua dahosn wato aa iedn d asii
ae giisls an hbtath htws rlia.

FAIR BROTHER.

8—TRANSPPOSITION.

Fo ruyo ssandleg denl a melag
Tuno oluss atht vesirh;
Wosh meth ohw kard sworors marset
Dlesbn tihw 'shepo gritbh evirr.

FAIR BROTHER.

9—NUMERICAL ENIGMA.

If we 11, 2, 20, 7, 23, 12 to win a prize.
We must 5, 15, 1, 25, 18, 21, 14 to do our best;
Work with a will and spirit too,
'Twill put our 16, 3, 6, 24, 19, 26, 9 to the test.

Now always keep this thought in view,
Our 13, 8, 4, 22 we should improve;
As moments lost will ne'er return,
We should keep on the move.

Now, if "this motto" you would know,
Just take your pen and ink,
Write one, two, three, and so keep on,
Till you have found each link.

FAIR BROTHER.

10—ILLUSTRATED REBUS.



Answers to August Puzzles.

- 1—Better late than never
To amend endeavor,
Ere the chance is gone;
Time lost we can't recover,
The past is past and over,
The present is our own.

2—Thomas Moore.

3—

A P T
R U E
I N K
S I X
T E R R E S T R I A L
O P H T H A L M Y
C A R M I N E
R E E K Y
A N T
T

- 4—Now gold is oft for silver changed,
And that for copper red;
But these two went away to give
Each other change for lead.

- 5—If every one who's played the fool
Had died and turned to clay,
How many people would be left
Alive and well to-day?

6—Locomotion.

- 7—Silver moonlight winds are blowing
Softly o'er the summer sea,
Lovely stars in beauty glowing,
Watching o'er my love and me.

- 8—Gold may be bought too dear.

9—Cowper—Goldsmith.

Names of those who have sent Correct Answers to August Puzzles.

Dariah A. Moore, Chas. Edward Smith, William Boynton, Robert Wilson, Robert J. Risk, Emma Dennie, Ada Armand, May Gertrude Monk, Priscilla A. Fairbrother, Ella Simpson, Geo. L. Montgomery, Frank Gordon, Mary Anderson, Annie Newcombe, Thos. H. Murray.

Throwing Rice at Weddings.

Why do people throw rice about at weddings? Some persons seem to think that rice is an emblem of a future family or of future plenty, others that the throwing of the rice is a symbolic attack on the bridegroom by the relatives of the bride. The same explanation is given of the throwing of old shoes, but that is done at the commencement of any expedition, and has nothing hostile in pretence or intention. As to the rice throwing, this, it seems, was an old custom in Macassar. While the marriage service is going on, says Garvaise, in "Discription du Royaume de Macagar" (Paris, 1688), "one or two of the men servants secretly open a window and keep throwing rice out into the air till night-fall, to divert the attention of the devil, according to their account, and prevent his coming and interfering with the amusements of the wedding." But why the devil's attention should be so easily distracted is left unexplained. The custom in England must be borrowed, as rice is not indigenous, and no one throws wheat.—Longman's Magazine.

The Origin of News.

"What do you understand by the word news?" This is a question that was asked me the other day. "Why! something new that has

occurred, I suppose," was my reply. "But do you know how the word originated?" I was obliged to confess my ignorance, and imagining my young readers may be as much in the dark, will tell them my friend's ingenious explanation, which she said she came across in an old book, printed long before you or I were born. N, you know, stands for north; E, for east; W., for west; and S, for south; so the four letters were combined together to form the word NEWS, now used for all that is happening north, south, east and west. A newspaper, therefore, tells us by its very name that it is a chronicle of events in all parts of the world. A. C.

A Lesson in Pronunciation.

"How do you pronounce d-o, Mr. Featherly?" said Bobby at the dinner-table.

"Do, Bobby," replied Mr. Featherly, indulgently.

"How do you pronounce d-e-w?"

"D-u-e-w," and Mr. Featherly put on a genteel air for the benefit of Bobby's big sister.

"Well, then, how would you pronounce the second day of the week?"

"Teweday, I think."

"You're wrong."

"Wrong? How would you pronounce the second day of the week?"

"Monday."