



It is always a genuine pleasure for me to hear from my young friends on any point on which they have anything to ask.—Ed. Post Bag.



ARTHUR ARMOUR.—There is no way of erasing the writing from a postcard and making it fit to write on again if you have spoiled one. I presume the cards are purposely made of material that will prevent the possibility of this. Not to avoid your correcting mistakes, but to ensure that the card cannot be used a second time. There are all sorts of people in the world, you see.

YOUNG SCULPTOR.—A very good design on an egg may be secured in this way. Smear the egg well with grease. With a steady hand and a needle then draw the design on the grease, running it clear down to the egg. Place the egg in a small bowl of vinegar. The acid, where it can reach the shell by the marks you have made, will eat away the lime and produce the pattern. Try it. The effect is very curious, and will interest you.

JANE ADAMS.—In using your graph, write your letter with prepared ink. When it is dry, place it, face downwards, on your graph. Press it lightly and all over equally. Peel it off. The impression is left on the graph. The impression, of course, is reversed. Lay your paper on it. Rub every bit of the paper. Peel it off, and your copy is exact. Let them each dry for a minute. If they are inclined to curl, put them under pressure. A hundred and more may be taken at a time.

MUSICIAN.—You should not use too much resin for your violin. It squeaks because you have not yet learned the knack of bowing properly, or perhaps you have a false string. When the autumn evenings come we shall give you some instructions on how to play.

STUDENT.—Slavery is not yet entirely abolished. There are still a few obscure countries where it exists.

ALLIE SIMPSON.—To entrap moths mix some treacle with a little rum, and brush it on the tree-trunks.

ROBBIE WATERS.—Aquariums are made with both fresh and salt water life. Goldfish may be kept all the year round, but our climate demands great care in the winter.

APPRENTICE.—A complete set of joiner's tools will cost you about \$100. But an amateur need not spend anything near that amount on the few articles he requires for ordinary work. "Amateur Chests of Tools" are not worth much. Better to buy a few individual tools and have them reliable.

MOTHER.—For the mail you should always pack the parcel properly, and never send anything through the post that is not done up to defy injury. A box containing insects can be sent, but I do not think that "with care" will be of much use. It goes into the bag with the rest of the mail, and takes its chance.

FLOWER POT.—Let the sparrows fly about your garden. They will do more good than harm.

SANDY.—If you do not want to sharpen your knife in the usual way by rubbing it on a stone, take a little water, and add to it a twentieth of its weight of sulphuric acid. Immerse the blade in the solution for thirty minutes. Lightly wipe it. After a few hours finish it off on a stone. The acid supplies the place of the whetstone by corroding the whole surface uniformly, so that you have only got to polish. You cannot injure a good blade by treating it in this way. You may improve a bad one, and you can sharpen anything from a razor to a reaping-hook.

HENRY WATT.—Pegs of stringed instruments can be prevented from slipping by using a little powdered resin. The hair of a violin-bow should be just tight enough to keep the wood from touching the strings when you are playing. Do not put too much resin on the bow—you will soon find out the least quantity you can manage with.

FARMER'S SON.—The object which you forward to us is simply the nucleus of a second egg. We are continually receiving similar specimens, the senders evidently thinking them very great rarities. Double eggs—i. e., one egg inside another, are very common, and there is no end to the extraneous substances which are found in eggs. Coins, rings, pebbles, and similar objects, are frequently found in them.

COLLECTOR.—Your egg was probably that of the blackbird, but we could not positively determine without seeing it. If you have a fine glass blowpipe you can blow the eggs by means of a single hole in the side. If not, make two holes, one slightly larger than the other, but both in the side of the egg (not at each end), and then blow in the ordinary manner.

SAILOR LAD.—It has long been a question of doubt as to how far beneath the surface the roll of the ocean could be felt. A diver at work on the Oregon at a depth of 120 feet found it so heavy that he could not keep his position while making fast to a trunk which was to be hoisted up.

ENQUIRER.—The holders for the YOUNG CANADIAN which we advertised in a recent number cost fifty cents, post paid. Will hold the full year's issue, and are very strong. Stamps will suffice, if you cannot enclose money. But the money is always preferred.

ALEXANDER MUIR.—Rubber stamps are made with ordinary type in the first place. Then this is pressed into a preparation of gelatine. This makes a mould for the rubber. You might try, and let me know if you succeed.

HELEN YOUNG.—You will take the stains out of your book most easily and with least risk by using a solution of oxalic acid or tartaric acid.

AMATEUR.—An amateur competitor at a race must never have entered into any race or athletic exercise for money, or remuneration of any kind, nor must he have competed with a professional. I should think, from what you say that you are still only an amateur. But your friend is decidedly a professional.

MARY ELIZA.—Your subscription always includes postage. The YOUNG CANADIAN is sent from the office *post free*.

HERBERT WILLIAMS.—You should think twice before you change your position in the country for one in a city. City life has many disadvantages, and especially to those brought up in the country. But in all cases, consult your parents or friends. Under no circumstances give up your present position till you have secured another.

YOUNG SCIENTIST.—There does not seem to me to be much difficulty in understanding the principle of Edison's phonograph. The hard matter is to apply the principle. We all can see that if certain sounds produce certain vibrations in the air, we ought to secure the identical sounds by producing the identical vibrations. But it took Edison to show us how.

YACHTSMAN.—When two boats, one with steam and the other with sail, are crossing each other, the steam must keep out of the way of the sail, for reasons that are evident. If both boats have sail, the one that is running free should keep out of the way of the one that is close-hauled.

BAD MEMORY.—Many expedients are resorted to. Put your knife in your wrong pocket. Turn the ring on your finger. But the best way is to write out, or spell over very often what you want to remember. If there are several things, write and spell them always in the same order. You will very soon acquire facility in remembering. There is no such thing as bad memory that cannot be thoroughly demolished by systematic determination.