## UNCLE TOM'S DEPARTMENT.

MY DEAR NEPHEWS AND NIECES,-

"Queen of the months of the year, Hour of her crowning and prime, Everything royal and dear, Comes in this bountiful time."

So sings the poet of the lovely month we are now enjoying, and surely we are almost willing to agree with him, for if not "everything royal and dear," at least a great many of Nature's beautiful treasures are opened to us in leafy June. How charmingly cool, fresh and inviting the shady woodland looks in its new emerald gown! Bryant has very beautifully described the prairies in a poem, of which I was always fond. You all know it most likely. It commences thus:-

"These are the gardens of the desert,—
These, the unshorn fields, boundless and beautiful,
For which the pride of England has no name—
The prairies."

The prairies may, and certainly do, have their peculiar attractions; but think for a moment, boys and girls, of what this country would be without a tree upon which to rest the eye, and tell me would you not soon be heart-hungry for your old friends. They have there, perhaps, a greater profusion and variety of wild flowers than we have in Ontario; but in this month of roses at least we have no cause to envy them; nor shall we who enjoy so many blessings covet those bestowed upon our own sister Province.

I read recently an excellent advice for discontented people, viz.: "The way to have everything you want is never to want what you cannot have and indeed there is quite an art in learning to do without;—fortunately, one that may be cultivated A spirit of contentment and cheerfulness is a noble patrimony, and I hope most of my dear nephews and nieces are blest with it. If, however, any of them are victims of the opposite spirit, they should try as speedily as possible to eradicate it, for discontent has far-reaching roots, and when once firmly established can not readily be removed, but holds the fort forever, permeating with its corroding acid every blessing, proving a veritable opposite to the philosopher's stone and transmuting gold to the hasest metal.

Instead of envying the few who are better situated than yourselves, think of the numbers who are infinitely worse off, and instead of repining, be thankful. Just make up your minds to look only

on the bright side of everything, to find the silver lining that hides behind every cloud, and soon you will find the habit grow upon you, and the dark, complaining frown yield to the softer and fairer smile of satisfaction. It is a sad thing to hear the young talk of the "coldness" and "wickedness" of the world, when most often it is just "as we make

t."

"Some say this world is a sad, sad world,
But it's always been glad to me,
For the brook never laughs like my soul when it quaffs
And feasts on the things to be.
The night comes on with its rest;
The morning comes on with its song;
The hours of grief are few and brief,
But joy is a whole life long.
This world is not old or cold;
This world is not told or sad;
If you look to the right, forgetting the night,
And say to your soul 'Be Glad."

The success in illustrating rebuses achieved

The success in illustrating rebuses achieved by our clever niece, Lily Day, causes me to think that perhaps some others might be able to do something in that line too, so as an inducement I will offer a special prize-a very nice book-for the best rebus received before August 1st.

#### Puzzles.

All puzzles should be sent direct to Ada Armand, Paken ham, Ont., who has charge of this department. 1-EXTRACT FROM LAY OF THE LAST MINSTREL

One word in each line.

One word in each time.

I will tell thee something I heard;
Just say thou wilt never tell;
Thou must not repeat the least word
Of this tale I know so well.
Be as still as the little mice,
As if 'twas to be your death;
As I said it's awfully nice,
Thou had best to hold thy breath.
Why, let me see! They're gone. Ah me!
A. P. HAMPTON.

2-A KINGLY QUINTETTE.

What king resulted in this rhyme?
What king is wanting all the time?
What king creates, what king destroys?
And what one's always making noise?
CHARLIE S. EDWARDS.

3-TRANSPOSITION.

My first is a poet,
My second is meat,
My third is to venture,
My fourth is to cheat,
My fifth is to move
In a manner quite fleet.
Char

CHARLIE S. EDWARDS. 4-SQUARE WORD. 1, having concentric bands; 2, drama; 3, in no degree; 4 unshaken; 5, weapons.

MORLEY SMITHSON.

5-NUMERICAL ENIGMA

My 9, 2, 6 is an esculent root.
4, 8, 5, 1 is a shred.
3, 7, 1, 9 is tenacious.

WHOLE is covetousness.

CLARA ROBINSON.

Firemen's

#### Answers to May 1st Puzzles.

-They were a parent (apparent). -Annie P. Hampton, -Notice.

-Leander. 6.-Sentimental. N unci O

7.— Nunci O

Dear Cousin Grace,—
I hope you will have a good time on your birthday.
Augusta says she will be up on Trinity Sunday, and will stay awhile, and I think young Cleveland will be with her. I would like if you and St. Clair could be here also. I am going to put a tent up at the river at the land's end. Father has just bought me a lovely picture of Queen Charlotte, and has promised me one of Queen Victoria; I will then have three pictures, for I now have a picture of Champlain. My brothers, St. John and Albert, are going to Northumberland, and Rupert is going to London.

8.—Attendance.

SOLVERS TO MAY 1ST PUZZLES.

J.S. Crerar, Charlie S. Edwards, Annie P. Hampton, Clara
Robinson, Joshua Umbach.

#### A Parrot That Was Original.

There was lately advertised a parrot who could make original observations—not mere slavish "copy," but the most apt remarks. A parrot-fancier answered this advertisement, and the advertiser brought his bird. He was not beautiful, and he did not look accomplished. He no sooner opened his mouth, however, than his genius discovered nis mouth, nowever, than his genius discovered itself. "Supposing that this bird is all that you say of it," inquired the possible purchaser, "what do you want for it?" "Fifty pounds," said the dealer. "Make it guineas!" exclaimed the parrot. The enraptured bird-fancier bought him at once. Weeks rolled on, and the bird never said another wordnot even that solitary sentence, "Make it guineas," which the purchaser naturally thought he had learned by rote. He sent for the dealer, and thus frankly addressed him. "Of course I have been taken in. This wretched bird is dumb—can't even say, 'What's o'clock?' or 'Pretty Poll!'" "He only professes to make original observations," put in the dealer. "Nonsense! He does nothing but scratch himself. You have got your money; at least tell me how he contrived to say Make it least tell me now ne contrived to say 'Make it guineas' at so appropriate a moment. I'll forgive you if you'll only tell me the truth." "Very good, sir; then he didn't say it at all—I said it for him. I'm a ventrilcquist. My parrots all make original observations, but only in my presence." Then the parrot-fancier shook hands with the dealer and gove him a list of other parrot-fanciers his new gave him a list of other parrot-fanciers—his personal friends—who also in due time were taken in which of course was very soothing.

For she's one o' them things as looks the brightest on a rainy day and loves you best when you're most in need on't. - George Eliot.



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Our Fence contains all the claims made by other companies, besides having the following exclusive points:—

ing exclusive points:—
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