Dear Aunt Becky:

I am very much interested in your corner. I often thought of writing before, but something always stopped me from doing so. I made my first Communion and was confirmed

the last Sunday of September, 1906.

I live in the country nine miles from church, and I go to a public school

am also very much interested in "Little Oddity"; everyone of us are

just waiting for each week's paper to come; we just feel as though we

knew Bonny just by reading about

I think a composition would b

Well, I must

Wishing to see lots of



fully pierce life's

Conjectures

aye beyond our art can snare.

ESS.

p hath chance

e infinite stair-

without labor, ience or art:

ghit out through

orn out of the

bble with plow-

gifts must be

ce truth is not

e unworthy, the in deeds;

haff at the seed-

but a harvest

ded of vapor is

out truth is for-

man's thought.

with a pur-

ess wrought and

ster of Singers:

it saying, "En-

he meadow, an'

are swellin', an'

are laugin', an'

ant blossoms all

an' balmy, an'

in is shinin' far

horn hedges, till

with fragrant

air spring morn-

nem—long ago.

sted over with

ny years, ed an' wrinkled,

dim with tears,

ung an' foolish,

wthorn hedges-

gold was grow-on every tree!

n were equal in

ot complainin'-

ould Ireland-

cross the sea!

eager pain

gs again!

eyes to be ould Ire

s brine,

E.

he rills;

winnow grain?

ain.

very nice for a competition anything you wish. Well, I close now. Wishing to see h se is evil: letters from this out.

Your loving niece MARY A. C. Vine, Feb. 16, 1907.

PUSSY AT SCHOOL.

One morning when 'twas mild and

Miss Pussy Cat ran off to school, To show the children just the way That kittens work and kittens play

First she washed her face so neat. Then she scrubbed her tiny feet, For kittens are so clean, you know, To school they never dirty go.

Her nails and teeth she polished, too, For well this clever kitten knew If mousies went to that same school She'd be in need of every tool.

When once in school she silent sat. Like any model pussy cat, And when she had a word to say She'd gently raise her paw this way.

Her teacher thought her very bright, She studied hard with all her might. And when she said her "A. B. C." Twas a tongue quite new to me

And when it came her time to read The children had to laugh indeed. For this is just exactly how She spoke our English: "Meuow

meuow, meuow!" She did not make one bit of noise. Like all the other girls and boys, For when her lessons got too deep

This clever cat nevertheless aked up the moment 'twas recess. She danced and jumped, and all de

She was the smartest scholar there. -Jeanette R. Murphy.

TOMMY'S WARM WEATHER.

Tommy's father owned an orange grove in the lake regions of Florida. One evening it seemed to be growing colder, and he made frequent trips to the thermometer on piazza north of the house.

"I do hope it won't get down enough to do any damage," Tommy heard his father say, as he returned for the fourth or fifth time from the piazza.

"How does it get down, papa?"

asked Tommy.

Mr. Williams explained that the silver line inside was called mercury, and that when it got down to a would freeze. certain point water and if it kept going down great would be done.

After his father left Tommy went to the piazza and climbed up on a

as gone.
"Oh, Tommy," he called, "where's cheeks. Ernest was ten, and clever as a carpenter; very "handy" and

"It's all right, papa," answered quick in learning. gleefully, as he danced towards him. "That mercury thing's gone up ever so higher'n it was you was here. It's just as and warm," and he led the way to the henhouse and drew out the hermometer from under a setting Sure enough! The hen. Sure enough! The mercury had gone up ever so high, and it indicated such warm weather that father was obliged to turn away his face to laugh.

LITTLE AIDS TO MEMORY.

enough
To make a little chap;
Add forty more, and you will have
The number to a rap.

Night red, morning gray, Sure to be a fine day: Might gray, morning red, Sends many shepherds back

Which should come first, the I



Our Boys and Girls

BY AUNT BECKY



The Secret of the Silver Lake

By Henry Frith, Author of "Under Bayard's Banner," "For King and Queen," etc.

anyone. But we should all go."

do without our housekeeper,"

she nestled to his side.

they loved her dearly.

"That is Ernest's opinion also,"

"No, indeed!" exclaimed both lads.

"We can't leave Amy. We should be quite desolate then!"

The boys, you see, valued their sis-

ter, though they often teased her.

good-tempered with them; so no

Then we shall decide to think

of it," said Mr. Belton. "Let me

see. The mail goes on Thursday. We

have two clear days to consider the

question. Uncle Manton will be de-

ed him a Maori tradition of a hid-

den cave and a silver lake, which

out, after darling mother's death.

The children, thus dismissed, slow-

ly quitted the room. It was in

"Of course not!" Ernest cried.

"Perhaps there are serpents there,

"But it is a bird," corrected Amy.

"Then it can't be a donkey.

"No, you little silly, it is under-

"Standing on our heads, Ernie! How funny! I am sure I should't

"And Collie, and Tip, and the cocks

"No, we must leave all the

"It will be fun!" cried Steph

Family Robinson."
"How can an English family

"We will write our adventures! We

shall be a Family Belton Robinson;

and hens?"

what kind of a place it is."

quadruped, Ernest."

be there," cried Ernest.

this over."

very hot.

nia, is it?"

did uncle hear of the place?"

CHAPTER I .- A SUDDEN SUM-MONS.-A VOYAGE AND A WRECK.—CAPTURED!

"I say, Stephen," said Ernest Belton to his eldest brother, "have you heard the news that father's had?' "No," said Stephen, who was just then practising some new conjuring tricks in the school-room; "tell it at once: we have so seldom anything funny here."

"It is not very 'funny,' " replied his brother, as he watched the conjuring; "it is rather serious!"

Stephen immediately stopped, and ooked at the speaker anxiously. "Father has not met with an ac-

cident? You don't mean that, Ernie?" he said gravely. "No, no: we are all right. You emember Uncle Manton, who went

out to New Zealand some time ago?' Yes, on some wild-goose chase after a silver mine or a silver lake. What of him? Has he turned "No; but he has turned up some lighted if we do go—and suppose we buried secret," said Ernest. "More do find this mysterious lake! Eh?" lighted if we do go-and suppose we

than that, he has written to father to go out-what do you think of that, King ?" Stephen was often called "King"

by his brothers and sisters, he being the oldest, and Stephen a king's "And is father going? What shall

we do here all by ourselves? This is serious, Ernie: you are right. Have you told Amy?" 'Amy is with father in the study.

I don't think we shall be left behind, King!" was the joyful reply. Stephen stared at his brother as if he were a natural curiosity, and then gasped out-"Are we to go too? To New Zea-

land? Is it Australia? I forget. phen. Those places somehow get mixed up. But seriously-"

'Seriously, Stephen: grave as a judge; father sent me to tell you that he wanted you-and-"

'Why didn't you say so before?" cried Stephen as he rushed away, leaving his conjuring box and his brother to amuse each other.

Stephen found his father and sister in the study. Mr. Belton was a tall fine man, about fifty-four years old, hale and hearty. Amy was a pret-ty dark child, about thirteen, tall and well-grown for her age. She was Jackass!" brave and fond of all sports, but was an excellent cook and house keeper. Since her mother's death, eighteen months before. Amy had as sisted her father; and having been well-trained and being very energetic she quickly mastered the routin work. She also found time to learn lessons and to practise, and so set an excellent example to her brothers in early rising and punctuality. Stephen was almost a "young man," very fond of his sister, and, chair to see if the mercury was still going down. And then a bright fish and shoot, though Robin, the going down. And then a bright idea came to him.

When Mr. Williams returned to examine the thermometer once more it was gone.

Was gone.

> Stephen entered the study when Ernest sidled in, and listened to what his father was say-

ing.
"Your uncle has sent me this lstter," continued Mr. Belton, looking over his glasses at the children. "He ays: -'You laughed at me, Bob, for going up country and searching for the hidden lake—but I am convinced that I am on the track! Some Maoris have told me the legend—an old story which agrees with my own information. Now I have a proposi information. Now I have a proposi-tion to make. Come out to me and bick; bring the boys, if you like, the elder ones certainly, and I think it will do you all good instead of mop-ing in your mouldy old Grange in a wet winter. Let your house; send Amyl and the little lad to school; and do something out here. You and I will surely find the Silver Lake," Swiss, you silly thing!" cried Ernest scornfully. "But we have not made up our minds yet."

"I have," said Amy. "I think we shall go, and I hope we shall. It will cheer' father up, and do us all good."

Lake,""
"There is a great deal more," said Mr. Belton, after a pause, "but I need not read it. Now, boys, and Amy my child, we have never been parted since darling mother's death." He passed his hand over his eyes and went on—"You hear what your uncle says. I have full confidence in you all. Shall are

Two days passed, and Ernest's faith in Amy's prediction was quite

justified. Before Wednesday night the family had determined to go abroad; and the Grange was adver tised to be let within a few days af-The servants agreed to main for the year, or eighteen months that the family expected to be away. But more than two years elapsed before the Beltons returned home again, as we shall see.

"All right, King-only # Amy says we shall go, I expect we shall, that's

There is no need to tell you all suggests, or remain in the Grange about the preparations, the packing all winter? Stephen, you are the up, the "good-byes" to the cows, about the preparations, the packing the pigs, the poultry, the dogs and "Let us go, father. We are get-ting rather moped. We hardly meet the animals had treats; and then one morning the Beltons quitted the old Grange and started for London, said Mr. Belton, smiling. "We can't where they found the ship Kiwi, in he which they had secured berths. All continued, looking down at his little their heavy luggage had already daughter, and kissing her fondly, as been forwarded on board, so they had not much trouble.

The Kiwi was a fine trader, and was bound for New Plymouth. There were some other passengers on board, and a full cargo. The weather was fine, and everything tend-She was, however, very active and ed to ensure a pleasant trip. All went well during the voyage until wonder they were fond of her. She the Monday when land was sighted. was never cross or petulant, and On that evening some of the passengers had a service of thanks ing in the cabin, and afterwards Mr. Belton and his children, except Robin, went on deck. The wind was fair: the night was clear.

"What is that bright light over there?" asked Amy. "Is it a light-

"Oh, that will be something like an "Yes," replied one of the ship's adventure!" cried Ernest. "But how officers, "it is the Sandspit Beacon, down Nelson way." "From an old settler who had come to England. This man show-"We shall soon be ashore, then,"

cried Ernest. "I hope not," laughed the mate. "Rather an unpleasant experience for legend he had translated; and, with all of us!

his cousin Dick. Uncle Manton went "What! Going ashore unpleasant!" cried Stephen. "I don't want to be Now you know as much as you need rude, Mr. Morgan, but I am awfully know. Run away, I want to think tired of this voyage!"

"No, I meant running ashore-not going ashore in the usual way. said the mate, smiling at the notion July, and the day was lovely, but "And this is New Zealand at last!" said Stephen. "Well, perhaps "What shall we do?" asked Ste-shall enjoy ft. Are we near Nel-

son?' "Let us get the Cyclopaedia and "I can't say," replied his father, read all about New Zealand," sug-"but we shall surely reach our port gested Amy, "I am not certain about gested Amy, "I am not certain about to-morrow; so Amy dear, and you it. It is not the same as Tasmatoo, my lads, had better turn in. It is past ten c'clock; to-morrow we may have a stiff hreeze. I expect "Tasmania is Van Diemen's Land, we are only about sixty or seventy the convict place-New Zealand is

niles from our destination." two islands. But I am not sure The young people bade their fatther "good night" and went below. In the saloon they stayed for a few minutes chatting, and Ste-

and alligators," said Amy.
"And wild beasts, too!" cried
Ernest. "Fancy meeting a laughing "I will just look after my traps, for we may reach Nelson very early. I want to see the place. Shall I "I saw a picture of it: it is not a call you, Amy?"

"Yes, please, King," she said: 'quite early; before sunrise, mind!" suspect we shall find things rather topsy-turvy in New Zealand. Here's They parted, and Mr. Belton paced the deck, thinking of his past our Robin. Well, Bob, would you picturing the future. The red light of the beacon flashed in his eyes "Where is that?" asked clubby as he turned away to go down, wher Robin; "is it where Cousin Mary at that moment he received a shock which nearly sent him head fore most down the stairs to the cabin. neath the world: right under our Instantly the alarm flew through feet. If we turned round we should

should the ship:—"We are ashore!" "We are wrecked!" "All hands on deck!" Such a terrible scene ensued. Lalike that! Shall we drive there? Is dies and young people came rushing out of the cabins, half dressed, some

"As far as Australia, where Uncle Manton is," safd Amy, kissing the child. "A beautiful place, Robin; far across the sea in a big ship!"

out of the cabins, half dressed, some carrying useful things, some holding the first article they could smatch up.

"Steady, all of you!" cried the

"Are you going too, sissy?" asked the captain. "We are only aground. We shall get off. Gently there! Don't shall get off. Gently there! Don't launch that boat. Steady, men!"

Steady, all of you!" cried the captain. "We are only aground. We shall get off. Gently there! Don't launch that boat. Steady, men!"

PLAIR AND DECORATIVE

PAPER-MARGER

The captain was quite quiet and calm; but the passengers Amy amongst them-implored him to save them. Mr. Belton quickly resumed mals. We may take Neptune, per-haps, and Bandy. We cannot take the cows and fowls, you know." his presence of mind and said-

"Amy, Stephen, do not be cowardly! Come here. The sea is calm and still. We are in no danger yet. Have faith in Providence. Be firm and brave, Amy; you generally have pluck enough. dear ones; let us stay together and pray for preservation."

The children were soothed, after a while Stephen and Ernest as-sisted in sending up rockets, and the gun was fired. Some of the crew were sent away in a boat to seek help.
"I wish they would give us a

"I wish they would give us a boat," safd Ernest; "we might reach land, father." "Wait until daylight," said Mr.

"Be as quite as you can."
passengers had calmed down
e, but when dayingse same
ne looked pale and haggard,
h had armed himself with a

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> SELF-RAISING FLOUR SELF-RAISING FLOUR

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had packed up a bundle for who was dressed and well wrapped up. All this time the Kiwi was bumping on the sands, and by degrees the sea rose and the wind got sel was very unpleasant, and made

some people quite ill.
"What shall we do, father?" asked
Amy. "Shall we be lost? It will be terrible if we are wrecked; really wrecked!"

wrecked!"

"Yes, my dear, but we must have patience; help will come," replied her father.

"But all day no help came. The boat with the second mate and the fourmen offd not return. The wind became very boisterous, and the sea was high. At length, after another terribly anxious night, the captain told the sailors to get their boats, launched. This was no easy task,

and, unfortunately, two lives lbst; one passenger and a sailor fell into the rushing waves, and were drowned!

There were three boats, into which fifteen of the crew and ten pagers were placed, with some visions. The captain behaved boat was much smaller than others, and in this Mr. Belton bis family, with two sailors, safely put. They rowed away together, very miserable, iil, unhappy at such a commenceme their expedition.

(To be continued.)



Boil it down. rticle for

Boil it down.