

Uncle Tom's Department.

MY DEAR NEPHEWS AND NIECES,—The evenings are growing longer and there are two or three hours of lamp-light before ten o'clock. These in most families are given to conversation, reading, and recitation, though there are those who work from an early hour till late at night, and rarely giving themselves an hour for amusement, nor will they allow their children to take a part in games or recreation. But your old Uncle Tom does not agree with such people. Children, both young and old, and parents too, would often be greatly benefited if they engaged in some sport or game, which would make them forget, for a time, everything but the amusement of the hour. Recreation is a necessary. If the brain is held steadily to one task, it will after a time give way and utterly refuse to work. The country is full of men and women whose brains are ruined from excess of work, and "an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure," if there is only a will to administer it. If parents would, instead of putting all their surplus money in the bank, invest in a piano or organ for the family, how great would be the pleasure for the wife and nieces to have a pleasant interview with its receptive keys! Chess, checkers, croquet, good books and magazines, and indeed, every innocent amusement should, as much as possible, be provided. If any of our nephews and nieces can favor us with any good games which will be amusing or instructive, we will accept with gratitude.

UNCLE TOM

PUZZLES.

128—DECAPITATIONS.

1. Behead a garment and leave a strong man.
2. Behead a chilice and leave a preposition.
3. Behead to cry loudly and leave a tool.
4. Behead a predicament and leave a luminary.
5. Behead to fetch and leave a circle.
6. Behead a promise and leave a ridge; behead again and leave a border.
7. Behead a massybody and leave a fastening.
8. Behead an article of dress and leave an implement.
9. Behead an eminence and leave misfortune.
10. Behead a portion and leave profession.
11. Behead a seat and leave a crossing; behead again and leave a gas.
12. Behead a part of a tree and leave a small chest.
13. Behead a hollow metallic vessel and leave a measure.

129—BURIED CITIES.

Chocolate is the best candy.
Keep it secret from every one.
Did you have nice times.
When in Mecca I rode on a camel.
I am feminine vehemently.
Remember "line upon line," etc.

130—INCOMPLETE SENTENCES.

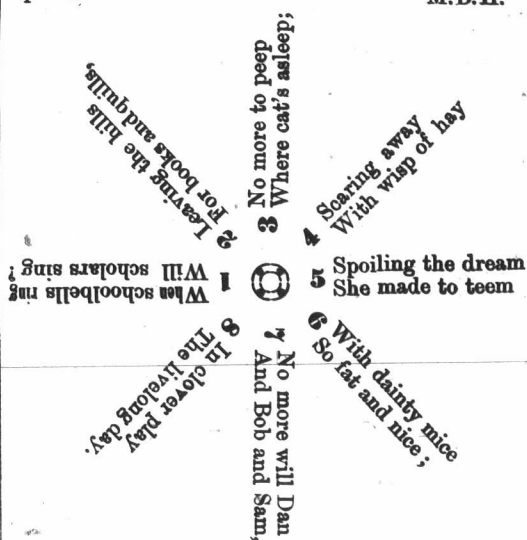
Fill the blank with a certain word and the second with the same word beheaded.

1. These were my great-grandmother's beads. They are very
2. It is not like a man to so about trifles.
3. All the rest are, I am the only left.
4. He told me a of the Revolution and of his ancestor who was a
5. Look at this beautiful necklace the gave it to me.
6. A dark covers the sky and I hear the roaring of the thunder.
7. Now through the clouds so Darts one bright, golden
8. See my robin happy Swiftly circling through the Now on leafy branches Then again their glad flight

PUZZLE BOY.

131—WHEEL PUZZLE.

A proverb of eight words. Find a word in each spoke. M.B.H.

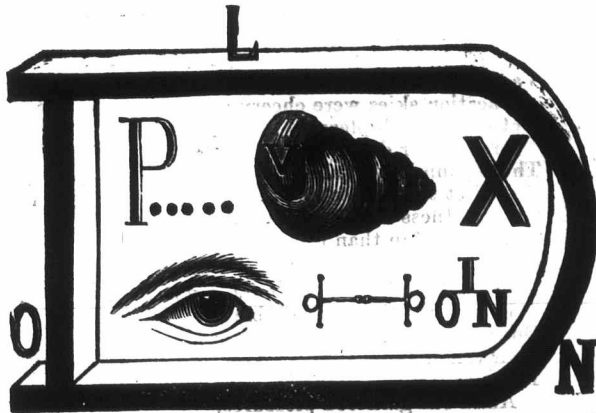


132—HALF SQUARE WORD.

1. A delightful language.
2. A mineral in common use.
3. One variety of dry goods.
4. A title.
5. A word expressing accent.
6. An abbreviation for one of the points of the compass.

JESSIE ANON.

133—ILLUSTRATED REBUS.



As we have not received any correct answers to this illustrated rebus, we insert again giving the answer, which may enable some of our young nephews and nieces to solve them another time.

134—BEHEADED RHYMES.

I. I entered the door with careful —
For how it was made I had often —
And the Englishman shouted, "Mind your —,"

II. I love to think of that charming —
As sweet as a bird song, fresh as a —
That I heard in my dreams when once I was —

135—RIDDLE.

Very many mouths have I;
From morn till night in bed I lie;
I never walk—I always run,
And travel much beneath the sun,
A sailor I must surely be—
I'm always on the road to sea. A. V. V.

136—NUMERICAL ENIGMA.

I am composed of 17 letters:
My 2, 3, 13, 5, 6, is a fruit.
My 17, 12, 15; 5, is a title.
My 15, 14, 16, is a small animal.
My 16, 4, 15, 11, 16, 7, is a Canadian city.
My 9, 12, 15, 7, 1, is a title.
My 8, 6, 15, 4, was a Roman Emperor.
My whole is the name of a man celebrated in history for the important part he took in the affairs of the world, and his obscure death.

PEARLE NICOLSON.

Answers to September Puzzles.

116—Andes, Sedan. 117—Tobacco. 118—Kiddermister.
119—Barnstable. 120—Doctor Basilus, DianA, OnionS,
Cadi, Teal, Oil (Ohl), RuM (N), BrasS. 121—Watering Can.

122—If you your lips would keep from slips,
Five things observe with care:
Of whom you speak, to whom you speak,
And how, and when, and where.

123—King Richard the first. 1st Duke of Austria. Acre.
124—A Candle.

125—
A
DUES
HOSTESS
AUSTRALIA
ADVANCE
PILLS
PIT
A

126—Brake, Drake, Rake, Make, Wake, Cake.

127—Don't swallow intoxicating drink.

Answer to rebus in September Extra Number:—Provincial Exhibition in London.

Names of Those Who Have Sent Correct Answers to September Puzzles.

W. C. Pipes, Corinthia Creeper, Pearle Nicholson, Lizzie Strong, Henry Ptolemy, Harry N. Husband, Minnie Hyde, Alfred Brown, R. G. Boyes, William Broughton, Nora Hooper, Jane Shore, Maude Lynn, John Wright, Eleanor North, Kitty Lowe, Lucy Priddis, Maggie Johnstone, Louie Fairbrother, George Nast, T. Lothian, Maria Scott, Susan Jones, Stephen Williams, Francis Graham, Jennie Ford, Samuel Sutherland, Katie Dunn, Eva Spenser, Stephen Froman, Jessie Evans, A. McMillan, Lucy Niles, Edward Cruickshank, A. J. Seymour, Octavus Brown, Mary FitzPatrick, William Frost, Thos. Sidons, James McIntire, Nettie Maine.

The European Plan.

Yesterday evening a stranger, clad in a duster and carrying a carpet-sack, entered a hotel on Delaware avenue. He marched straight up to the counter, where the amiable landlord stood picking his teeth, and the moment he set his bag down the amiable landlord whisked it off and set it down with the pile of other baggage, in the rear of the bar.

"Please register your name," said the landlord, passing him a pen.

"How much is it, mister?"

"That depends on what you get. We keep hotel here on the European plan."

"I say, mister," said the countryman, all in a tremble, "please give me that bag; I'll get right out and not say a word."

The landlord glared at him, but made no movement toward the bag.

"Please, mister, give me my bag. There is nothing in it but a few shirts, indeed there isn't. Here's the key. I'll let you search it," continued the stranger, trembling still more violently.

The landlord passed him the bag, and, as the stranger instantly shot for the door, the former exclaimed:

"Well, blame me if I ain't puzzled to know what kind of a fool you are."

But the stranger paused to hear no compliments, and he was a good half-mile away before he took courage to lean up against an awning-post and mutter:

"Gracious! what an escape. Keeps a hotel on the you rope in plan, does he? I suppose he wanted to rope me in and perhaps kill me. Lord! what wicked places these cities are. I'll go home immediately." And he kept his word.

School Dress.

One of the best schools for girls in New York City publishes in its regulations, "Simple and easy-fitting dress required." The principals illustrate their precept by example, and wear, during school hours, calico dresses. A writer, in giving advice about school dress, insists that the school-room is not the place for the display of wealth or fashion, and therefore the school dress should be marked by simplicity.

"Anything which diverts the attention of the pupil from her school duties is an injury to her, but it will accord with the observation of teachers that fine clothes oftener work mischief to their wearer in this respect than mean clothes do. The highest-minded children are oftenest found in plain garb, while those be-rigged and be-ruffled and otherwise showily attired are generally quite destitute of intellectual home culture. Their mothers have been too busy with their clothes to pay much attention to their brains. This sounds severe; would it were not true!"

"While over-attention to toilet matters is a