

Aunt Tom's Department.

MY DEAR NEPHEWS AND NIECES, — I welcome your many cordial letters wishing me success and expressing the interest and pleasure you take in our little corner. Thanks to one and all; and now allow me to congratulate many of you upon the great improvement I find in your little letters, both in composition and writing. Your old uncle watches your progress with great pleasure. I have received some capital rebuses and puzzles this month, some of which you will find in this issue and others in after numbers.

The Boy for the Times.

We like an active boy, one who has the impulse of the age—the steam engine in him. A lazy, plodding, snail-paced chap might have got along in the world fifty years ago, but he won't do for these times. We live in an age of quick ideas; men think quickly, speak quickly, and slow coaches are not tolerated. "Go ahead and burst your boiler," is the motto of the age; and he succeeds the best in every line of business who has the most of the do or die about him.

"To all the prize is open,
But only he can take it
Who says with Roman courage
I'll find a way to make it."

Strive, boys, to catch the spirit of the times; be up and dressed always, not gaping your eyes as if you were fast asleep, but wide awake whenever you turn up, and you may besomething before you die.

Think, plan, reflect as much as you please before you act, but think quickly and closely, and when you have fixed your eyes upon an object, pull off your coat cheerfully, roll up your sleeves in earnest, and with a merry song spring at the mark at once.

"A cheerful spirit gets on quick,
A grumbler in the mud will stick."

But above all this be honest. If you intend to be an artist, carve it in the wood, chisel it in the marble; if a merchant, write it in your day book and spread it in capitals in your ledger. Let honesty of purpose be your guiding star.

PUZZLES.

18.—RIDDLE.

Made by man's hands, a wondrous thing,
With power he did imbue it;
For, while packed snugly in a case,
You may see right through it. JESSY.

19.—RIDDLE.

My first receives, but never tells,
The secret of a friend;
My second does upon my first
For its success depend.
My whole with pain the fair admit,
Yet gladly to receive sit,
And while they cringe with pain and fright,
They hail my entry with delight. JESSIE JOHNSON.

20.—CHARADE.

My first is seen in cloudless skies,
And in the rippling sea;
Oft, too, in woman's limpid eyes,
As they are bent o'er thee.

My second speaks in solemn tones,
Again with cheery voice;
Echoing now the saddest moans
Then bidding to rejoice.

I dance for joy through Summer days,
Ringing a fairy peal;
Whilst from my cheeks the sun's warm rays
Such wanton kisses steal.

I'm sweet, I'm pure, I'm true, I'm fair—
Ah, touch me tenderly!
Though trembling in a breath of air,
I'm type of constancy. MELINDA M.

21.—CHARADE.

Of all sorts and sizes my first may be seen,
And varied in color too—red, black and green.
My second you'll see on an early spring morn
In the field o'er the sundries the dew on the corn;
'Tis found in the garden and on the sea shore,
And anglers for fishing lay up in a store;
A student for knowledge is really athirst;
My whole he is called if he pores o'er my first.

MARY BOWMAN.

22.—CHARADE.

Rattling 'neath the hill,
Rumbling o'er the rill,
Many people fill

My first.

Frisking lamb, snow white,
Chirping bird at night,
Or dog that does not bite,

My second.

Princely mansion tall,
Vine-clad cottage small,
Alike where footsteps fall,
Claim my whole,
FREDDIE BELL.

23.—REBUS.

Complete I am a word of five letters, and cannot move without assistance, behead me, and I am part of the foot; again behead me, and I am a fish; again behead me, and I am a particle of Spanish grammar. SAM SLICK.

24.—PUZZLE.

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25.—A BURIED PROVERB.

1. If a man will not work, neither shall he eat.
2. Fine feathers make a fine bird. 3. Keep in your place; none dare turn you out. 4. Be honest, and the reward is sure. 5. Hold out the hand to help a struggling brother. 6. It is weak; but by patience great things are done. 7. Do you think it worth notice? 8. We start by the half-past two train. 9. Come in and see mother before you go. 10. The vessel was a total wreck. 11. Oh, dear, they have stripped my currant-bush! One word taken from each sentence in rotation will form a proverb. L. SIFTON.

25.—CONCEALED TOWNS.

I should be glad to assist you, but I cannot. Beware of woman in her power, O men of the nineteenth century! Do you see that chateau burning? How many perished under the Papal ban years ago?

26.—ILLUSTRATED REBUS.



27.—NUMERICAL ENIGMA.

I am composed of 15 letters.
My 7, 8, 9, 2, 6, 1, means stout.
My 4, 13, 9, 8, is a kind of mud.
My 15, 2, 8, is a negative.
My 7, 12, 9, 5, 15, 1, is a cord.
My 7, 5, 6, to do wrong.
My 4, 13, 6, is a noise.
My 4, 3, 1, is a quadruped.
My whole may be always seen in the FARMERS' ADVOCATE. V. S. MCCOLLUM.

28.—SQUARE WORD.

A puzzle, an element, a creature without reason,
to speak, a fragment of broken earthenware. EDITH H. CUTTEN.

29.—SQUARE WORD.

Something pendant, a land measure, a metal, a religious season of fasting. NELLY M. ADAMS.

30.—ANAGRAM.

Oronsi teh item cahe hiedl hsloud rty
Ni elisf ghrtri usny norm
Ot aly chir setosr fo lkne droog yb
Plee trwiny aeg somec no.

32.—DECAPITATIONS.

1. Whole, I am a term used in music.
Behead, and I am a musical instrument.
Behead and transpose, and I am of equal value.

2. Whole, I am a kind of weight.
Beheaded I become an animal.
Once more behead and I become a preposition. MARY BOWMAN.

33.—POETICAL ENIGMA.

My first three letters as you will find,
Compose a nickname of a most common kind.
My second syllable you'll soon discover,
Is a word much used our country over.
My last four letters all taken together
Is sometimes used in very dark weather.
My whole much loves in the meadows to dwell,
Where its sweet and gay tones melliflously swell.

M. B. ADAMS.

34.—NUMERICAL ENIGMA.

I am composed of twenty-three letters.
My 11, 21, 2, 12, 10 is the sea shore.
My 17, 7, 22, 9, 10 is an infamous being.
My 16, 3, 8, 18 is a lively dance peculiar to Scotland.
My 24, 11, 20 is what we all require.
My 5, 23, 7, 15, 12, 10, 11 is what we like to obtain.

My whole forms a true saying. EMMA L. IRWIN.

35.—ENIGMA.

What a useful thing am I,
Daily used by low and high;
Colors I lay claim to three,
But their names I leave to thee;
Over land and sea I travel,
And many mysteries unravel;
Tales of misery I show,
And happiness I oft bestow;
I can tell of wonders great,
And deeds of men I illustrate;
I'm used in every point of law,
And much you've got to thank me for,
For often I defend the right
When victims of a cruel spite;
So thus you see I am your friend,
For in your trouble I attend;
Tho' void of speech, I must confess
Each person's mind I oft express;
I'm not far off, and that is plain,
So try and guess my simple name. HANNAH MCLEAN.

Signs of Prosperity.

Where spades grow bright and idle swords grow dull;
Where jails are empty, and barns are full;
Where church paths are with frequent feet outworn,
Law court yards weedy, silent and forlorn;
Where doctors foot it, and where farmers ride;
Where age abounds, and youth is multiplied;
Where these signs are, they clearly indicate
A happy people and well-governed state.

Answer to January Puzzles.

1.—Robin Tomtit. 2.—I must sleep now. 3.—A book case. 4.—Philadelphia. 5.—Edinburgh. 6.—Don't buy a pig in a poke. 7.—Lena, Don, Ohio, Ganges. 8.—Raisin peach. 9.—Kettle. 10.—Sackville, Fredericton, Chatham, Waterloo. 11.—Thomas Middleton Taylor. 12.—Paint. 13.—Dartmouth. 14.—Paper, wall paper, paper collars, note paper, paper blind, papier mache, tea tray, tissue paper for trimming grate, paper fan.

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17.—The wind.
The contributor of No. 14 puzzle will oblige by sending the answer, as it was mislaid.

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

Mary E. Woodworth, Jennie Johnson, Anthony McPhail, J. M. Taylor, N. A. Betts, Maggie Jane Johnson, A. J. Taylor, Mary Bowman, Nellie Johnson, John Barber Keady, Isabella Laing, Lottie M. Laing, Aggie Johnson, Henry Easdon, Hattie Harland, Mary A. Robinson, W. B. Eagleson, Arthur L. Reid, Tabitha Nest, Louise Fairbrother, A. J. Smith, Laura Gemley, Eleanor Nest, L. Sifton, George Leslie, Mary Jane Flock, Jane Dixon, T. Simpson, Joseph Grost, Abraham Willis, Samuel Herring, Jennie Godson, Lawrence Marshall, Harry Kennedy, Wm. Gould, Susan Jones, Minnie Morris, Chas. Flowers, John Wright, Helen Anderson, Dora McPherson, Fred. Baird, Nancy Neil, James Caruthers, William Ford, James H. Cross, Joanna Bell, Maggie Dunlap, E. J. Connell, Samuel Gunn, Harriet Cox, Octa Gibbons, Inman Johnston.