

## UNCLE TOM'S DEPARTMENT.

MY DEAR NEPHEWS AND NIECES,—

I very willingly yield to your Cousin's request for the loan of my column, as I know you will enjoy a good long cousinly chat more than the usual items, which lack of space necessarily renders brief. I must, however, express my earnest desire that all the old and very many new cousins will be regular contributors during '99, which will, I trust, prove a year of unparalleled happiness and prosperity to each one of you.

There, now, you mischievous youngsters, you have the game all to yourselves, and I promise not even to peep in through the window while it is in progress. Your loving—

UNCLE TOM.

MY DEAR COUSINS,—

Isn't Uncle Tom a darling to be so good-natured, when I'm sure he really wanted to talk to you himself? I must not abuse the privilege I have received, but proceed at once to business.

In a recent letter "Dickens" says: "I was advised not to send puzzles to the ADVOCATE, as I would receive no prize even if my puzzles were better than some of the winners. I did not think so and cannot yet unless"—"or I fail to receive a prize this time." I do not think I am mistaken in saying that I believe a large majority of the cousins will give me credit for fair dealing, and it is certainly immaterial to me who wins—as well Dickens as anyone else. I receive a certain remuneration for looking after the puzzle column, which I do to the best of my ability, showing partiality to none, nearly all (especially the winners for several quarters past) being perfect strangers to me. I shall be pleased if "Dickens" will have his friend or friends substantiate the statement quoted above, or give their reasons for making such an utterly false and contemptible assertion. This, at least, is due both to the ADVOCATE and to myself. If "Dickens" and his friend "cannot with pleasure contribute" under the existing circumstances, they surely know that we use no compulsion in our Corner. We always welcome willing workers, and are certain that they who work faithfully are in the very act reaping an ample benefit, apart from the prizes which Uncle Tom so generously offers.

"The reward is in the doing,  
And the rapture of pursuing  
Is the prize the vanquished gain."

I regret that anything should mar the harmony of our Corner, but it is better to be straightforward and have this subject settled as soon as possible.

H. C. G.—I promised to talk over your suggestions referring to setting different values on puzzles, according to their difficulty of solution, and also to publish once a month the standing of competitors. The first suggestion could not easily be carried out so as to give general satisfaction; as, for example, the puzzles you find easy others consider difficult, and vice versa. If, however, it meets with the approval of the majority of contributors, and if they can agree upon a scale of values for puzzles, I shall be happy to give the plan a fair trial. Personally, I do not approve of the second suggestion, because, though it would excite the few to greater efforts, it would discourage many beginners, who would not care to have everyone know by how much they had been outdistanced. Let me hear from all the cousins on these points.

Well, now, "Arty 'Awkins," that's great news you have, indeed. Accept my sincerest congratulations. I wonder how many of our cousins would recognize you, "old stager," as you call yourself, if they heard your real name.

B. V. C.—Your visits are like those of the angels—few and far between. Why not make them more frequent?

I have the pleasure of welcoming five new cousins this issue, viz.: Berta Bastedo, Esther Craig, G. Lawson, Marion Ashlee, and Ernie McIntyre. If we could only gain as many every issue, our circle would soon be what we wish it—crowded.

A matter to which I must draw your attention is the fact that we occasionally receive puzzles that are not "original." Some of these I recognize as old acquaintances at first sight; of others I am not quite certain, in which case I give the sender the benefit of the doubt; but frequently the solvers tell me they have seen some of these puzzles before. As I wish to be strictly just, I shall be glad to receive "proof" that any puzzle or puzzles have been previously published in this or any other paper. I also request all to be as prompt as possible in sending in work, as the dates set are the extreme limit we can allow, and one day late means considerable inconvenience to all concerned.

There are frequently misprints in some of the puzzles, which lead the solvers astray. These are generally due to the fact that the writers have not been careful enough in putting down their work. They have not preserved the distinction between letters somewhat similar in form, and thus the mistakes occur. You may send your answers on any sort of paper, in pen or pencil writing, on one or both sides of paper; but for the printer's sake write your "originals" plainly with pen and ink. As an additional inducement to do so, I shall offer a cloth-bound book for neatness and punctuality, allowing as a maximum five marks for each every issue, and awarding the prize to the person having the largest

number of credit marks up to June 15th, 1899, credit to commence when work for Feb. 1st issue is due; i. e., Jan. 15th. One half mark will be deducted for each misspelled word. I should have enjoyed a little chat with each of you, but having already occupied too much space, will conclude by wishing you all a very Happy New Year.

Your sincere cousin— ADA ARMAND.  
Pakenham, Dec. 16th, 1898.

## Puzzles.

[The following prizes are offered every quarter, beginning with months of April, July and October: For answers to puzzles during each quarter—1st prize, \$1.50; 2nd, \$1.00; 3rd, 75c. For original puzzles—1st, \$1.00; 2nd, 75c.; 3rd, 50c.]

This column is open to all who comply with the following rules: Puzzles must be original—that is, must not be copied from other papers; they must be written on one side only of paper, and sender's name signed to each puzzle; answers must accompany all original puzzles (preferably on separate paper). It is not necessary to write out puzzles to which you send answers—the number of puzzle and date of issue is sufficient. Partial answers will receive credit. Work intended for first issue of any month should reach Pakenham not later than the 15th of the month previous; that for second issue not later than the 15th of that month. Leave envelope open, mark "Printer's Copy" in one corner, and letter will come for one cent. Address all work to Miss Ada Armand, Pakenham, Ont.]

## 1.—CHARADE.

Now, cousins, take warning!  
The New Year is dawning;  
May it be one of the brightest and best  
For Uncle Tom, cousins, and all the rest.

ONE will be the meetings,  
And many the TWO greetings,  
Before the old year yet is gone,  
And the bright New Year is come.

Christmas box and New Year's gift,  
Christmas tree and New Year's drives,  
If this were the only cast  
We could all live THREE lives.

A happier reunion could not befall  
Than of Uncle Tom and cousins all.  
Oh! what a lovely sight 'twould be;  
It would extend from sea to sea.

If we this FIVE cannot unite,  
May we all ever strive to write,  
And send FOUR puzzles to the ADVOCATE,  
And everything will be first-rate.

Before my verse runs into prose  
I will draw the poetry to a close.  
Wishing cousins and Uncle Tom  
The "compliments of the season," which is "COM."

## 2.—HALF SQUARE.

1. to lodge; 2. to empower; 3. a flower; 4. observatory (abbr.); and a consonant; 5. insidious; 6, that is; 7. a consonant.

## 3.—DOUBLE ACROSTIC.

(1) a giraffe; (2) Mohammedan pilgrim to Mecca; (3) spicy; (4) to search; (5) pertaining to a hare; (6) ambiguity of speech; (7) conveying blood.

Initials and finals, read downwards, spell a great English prose writer.

## 4.—AMERICAN CITIES IN CHARADE.

1. (1) A mineral; (2) a large body of water; (3) a large town.  
2. (1) Total; (2) example (abbr.); (3) a barnyard fowl; (4) a letter.  
3. (1) A kind of shoe; (2) a boy's name; (3) crude metal.  
4. (1) Happened; (2) a door fastener (curtailed); (3) a common weight.  
5. (1) An angel; (2) a boy's name (abbr.); (4) a preposition; (5) an adjective.

## 5.—REBUS.

M  
E  
Little white eye, little blue eye,  
How I love you!  
Bathed in colors from the sky  
Up above you.

"OGMA."

## 6.—PROGRESSIVE NUMERICAL.

She was in trouble, and sat down to 1-2-3 the situation and pondered 2-3 means of relief. The 4-5-6 on the hearth-rug yawned, but nothing else disturbed her reverie until the clock struck 6-7-8. If the 8-9-10-11-12-13 had been depending on the result of her deliberations she could not have been more serious. But when she arose she had formed a plan to meet and overcome the strange 1-2-3-4-5-6-7-8-9-10-11-12-13 of events that had threatened her.

## 7.—CHARADE.

Though sent off to school with little ado,  
He had a bad way of returning ONE TWO;  
At ONE they would say, at the sound of his feet,  
"Here comes that TWO boy, but he is only COMPLETE."

"OGMA."

## 8.—CROSS-WORD ENIGMA.

My First is in Corn but not in Beans,  
My Second is in Wheat but not in Peas,  
My Third is in Straw but not in Hay,  
My Fourth is in Spring but not in Fall,  
My Fifth is in Shovel but not in Hoe,  
My Sixth is in String but not in Ball,  
My Seventh is in Mill but not in Grind,  
My Eighth is in Stable but not in Door,  
My Ninth is in Horse but not in Mare,  
My Whole is always welcomed by all.

MARION A. ASHLEE.

## 9.—PHONIC PLACES WE NOW READ ABOUT.

(1) Ran by steam or electricity, and a grain.  
(2) A girl's name and a boy's name.  
(3) A vowel, a musical instrument (transposed), and to fortify.  
(4) To regard and a girl's name.  
(5) A puppy and an article.  
(6) A man's name and tropical fruits (abbr.).  
(7) A relation, a pronoun, price, and a pronoun.  
(8) A species of earthenware.

"ARRY 'AWKINS."

## 10.—RIDDLE.

What is that which runs and runs, but never gets away?

ESTHER C.

## 11.—RHOMBROID.

Diagram.  
Across.—1, a runner; 2, females of a cavalry quadruped;  
3, what your big shoes are;  
4, comes close to you;  
5, to form letters.

Down.—1, a consonant; 2, expresses determination; 3, a fruit cell; 4, Ireland; 5, to make new; 6, to cauterize; 7, a title (transposed); 8, street; 9, a vowel.

"DICKENS."

## 12.—SUBTRACTION PUZZLES.

Example.—Subtract one thousand from to conquer and leave a flower. Answer: master-m=aster.

1. Subtract fifty from a tree and leave an opening.
2. Subtract fifty from a tower and leave an infant.
3. Subtract one thousand from a fur and leave a writing material.
4. Take one thousand from a man and leave a beverage.
5. Take one thousand from a disguise and leave to enquire.
6. Subtract five hundred from a woman and leave a song.
7. Take one thousand from spite and leave a girl's name.

BERTA BASTEDO.

## 13.—FLOWERS—DROP VOWEL.

1. sh-mr-ck.
2. n-nl-ly.
3. c-ct-s.
4. l-v-nd-r.
5. t-r-s.
6. sw-tb-lm.

ESTHER B.

## 14.—ANAGRAMS.

- (1) Since he was an urchin of five or six  
He has been a most miserable gilly;  
He's had "Mint hen sup" so much  
I wonder it don't knock him silly.
- (2) It's just twenty years since he stole some fruit,  
And the owner he raised an objection,  
And, "As Tim C he sent" over the fence,  
His pants caught on a projection.

"ARRY 'AWKINS."

## 15.—ANAGRAM.

We had a little girl  
And to school we sent her;  
When she got there she said,  
"Let MINNETTA ENTER."

H. C. G.

## Answers to December 1st Puzzles.

## 1.—B i f a r i o u s

m A t u r a t e d  
t a W n y s C o w  
m a n d a T o r y  
t o r p I t u d e  
u n b O u n d e d  
h a N d i n e s s  
h A r d i n e s s  
L u c i d n e s s

Diagonals.—bawdiness; sectional.

2.—Good manners are made up of petty sacrifices.  
Courtesy and kindness will never lose their charm, while all spurious imitations of them are to be despised.

## 3.—Acknowledgment.

4.—1, Porter; 2, Hardy; 3, Hogg; 4, Bacon; 5, Lover; 6, Sterne; 7, Black; 8, Shelley or Crabbe; 9, Fox; 10, Hook; 11, Yonge.

## 5.—c o n f i n i n g 6.—U n f e d

o r d i n a l N e i c e  
n e i v a C o m i c  
d i d L o d g e  
I E p s o m  
a i m T h u m b  
t r i b e O x e y e  
o p p i d a m M i s e r  
r e c e i v e s t

## 7.—Imagination. 8.—Sunday.

9.—Minneapolis, Annapolis, Biddeford, Alleghany (Allie-guinea), Winnipeg, Cheboygan, Philadelphia, Cincinnati (sin, at, i), Hamilton, Halifax.

## 10.—Fry-day—Friday. 11.—Planet; plane, plan.

12.—Bill, wing, tale, I, clause (claws), foul, head, toe, board, crack.

## SOLVERS TO DEC. 1ST PUZZLES.

"Arty 'Awkins"; Ernie McIntyre; G. Lawson; "Toledo"; M. R. G.; "Dennis."

## ADDITIONAL SOLVERS TO NOV. 15TH PUZZLES.

"Arty 'Awkins"; "Dennis"; "Toledo"; "Dick"; M. R. G.; H. C. G.; B. V. Chisholm.

## Answers to Nov. 15th Puzzles.

1.—Dear-ara; filly-flit; simplest-slept; meter-met; poet-Poe; best-set.

## 2.—Own, aver, invalid, die, crop, base, lie.

3.—Listowel, Meaford, Seaforth, Kincardine, Acton, Aurora, Guelph, Orillia, Brantford, Paris, Bradford, Bracebridge, Goderich, Wingham.

## 4.—(1) Insects; (2) the vowels.

## 5.—F i c t i o n

i n a r c h  
c a r e e  
t r e e  
i c e  
o h  
n

## 6.—Well begun is half done.

## 7.—Too many cooks spoil the broth.

Better to go to bed supperless than to rise in debt.  
Better is a small fish than an empty dish.  
Better have some of a pudding than none of a pie.  
Light suppers make long lives.

## 8.—a L e

g i n

e v e

## 9.—s e v e n

r e c h e r c h e h a b i t  
L i v e r p o o l n o t a l  
c h e a p n e s s n e p e s  
b o y r e g a l  
c o t

## 10.—K N and I C (Cayenne and Icy).

## 11.—Orthographer. 12.—Hallowe'en.

## SOLVERS TO NOVEMBER 15TH PUZZLES.

Mary Nagle; Howard Kersey.

## ADDITIONAL SOLVERS TO NOVEMBER 1ST PUZZLES.

A. F. F.; Mary Nagle; M. R. G.; "Dick"; "Toledo"; "Dennis."

Also Una Shepherd for October 15th.

WILLIAM MACKLIN, Glenora:—"I came from England quite a greenhorn at farming, but by studying the different experiments published in the FARMER'S ADVOCATE from time to time have made it the means of helping me. I would not be without it for five times the amount."

W  
HAMILTON

TEN CH

FIFTEEN

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