

## Uncle Tom's Department.

MY DEAR NEPHEWS AND NIECES,—April has come again to find many of you leaving the schoolroom with books and slates, for spring is indeed here, and boys and girls are needed to help at home. Perhaps you have good intentions to keep up some favorite branch of study, but when the body is wearied with physical exertion the mind sympathizes with it, consequently books and slates are generally left on the shelf. Now I wish to suggest a plan whereby the mind may still be occupied without any undue strain, while the hands are busy at work. During the winter months, when my older nephews and nieces had leisure, I took you into my picture gallery, but now we must draw the curtain for a time and close the door, and when we have leisure again, months after this, I may invite you a second time into my studies to see what silent influences have been at work in the interval. If, however, the artist did not diligently use easel and brush himself, it would be but little profit to him to study the work of others, so I want my amateur artists to set to work. And what work do you suppose that I want you to do? Why, I want you to show me the pictures in your studio. "Oh, Uncle Tom, we have no pictures to show you," I hear you say. Yes, you have, my boys and girls, magnificent pictures—grander than you yourselves realize—perfect in grouping, color and harmony. We here in Ontario live in one of the fairest Provinces of God's creation. Did you know that the very name Ontario signifies "beautiful?" There is old Quebec to the east of us, so rich with historic association; and eastward still our three sisters by the sea. Westward we turn and kindly clasp hands with our little sister of Indian name. Then across the Rockies to hear the splash and roar of the majestic Pacific. In all this magnificent Dominion do you say there are no pictures? Across the ocean we have our nephews and nieces, and who does not gladly welcome pictures from over the sea. Under the Stars and Stripes, too, are your cousins; from the New England States, from the Gulf States, from the prairies of the West we would gladly see pictures. Few, if any, of us have the leisure or the means to go and see these pictures I speak of, so we must arrange an "art exhibition," to which all are invited to contribute. And where shall that art exhibition be held? Why, right here in the pages of the *Advocate*. Have you caught the idea? I want pen pictures of your own homes and neighborhoods. Now, as you are busy in field and garden, will you not look around you, and at your leisure write an accurate description of your surroundings? By so doing you will not only benefit yourselves, but give pleasure to others—two very important factors in life. As April is generally a very busy month, "house-cleaning" for my nieces and "seeding" for my nephews, do not bespeak much leisure, and as May is the month of beauty, when inspirations seem to re-create the who's being, we shall not hold our exhibition until June. That is, in plain English, I would like to have letters from my nieces and nephews by the 20th of May, containing the pen-pictures I so eagerly wait to see. As I want pictures from very tiny hands, I would ask each of my nephews and nieces to mention age, which will be published in connection with the letter. For further inducement I will give handsome prizes to all those whose letters of description are worthy of publication.—UNCLE TOM.

## Puzzles.

## 1—TRANSPOSITION.

s tawh het sue fo swalay fetnigt ta eth liars ew  
lahsl difn veer wenstr goaln uro haptayw ravetl no  
dan vener mind.

A. S. REEVE.

## 2—DROP VOWEL.

F-t-s m-y thr- -t-n, cl- -ds m-y l-w-r.  
-n-m- -s m-y b- c-mb-n-d.  
-f-y- -r tr-st-n G-d -s st- -df-st  
H- w-l h-lp y- -n-v-r m-nd.

A. S. REEVE.

## 3—STAR.

Diagram.

A  
\* \* \*  
B \* \* \* \* C  
\* \* \* \*  
\* \* \* \*  
D \* \* \* \* E

A to D—Expressable.  
A to E—A French measure of capacity.  
B to C—A dress sometimes worn by ladies.  
B to E—Savoury.  
D to C—To move at large.

FAIR BROTHER.

## 4—CRYPTOGRAM.

Jpncpg rw gud epnojpl mz n wrqhp muxgl.  
Mxd yp mxrhl djp hnlpe mz yjroj yp erwp.  
Keut djp buyhz pnedj du djp enxhdpj wsrpw.  
Ngl yp tuxgd du djp wxttrd euxgl mz euxgl.

FAIR BROTHER.

## 5—SQUARE WORD.

1.—A mechanical power.  
2.—A Roman magistrate.  
3.—A froward woman.  
4.—Chosen.  
5.—Fissures.

FAIR BROTHER.

## 6—BURIED ANIMALS.

1.—Please give this note to Ada, if she is in school.  
2.—The pup I gave my sister is called Rob.  
3.—I leave to-morrow for America to meet a friend (2).  
4.—The best soap to use is Sapolio. Nobody should be without it.  
5.—The master came late for school.

BEATRICE M. MATHIAS.

## 7—BURIED BOYS' AND GIRLS' NAMES.

1.—Do, Ralph, tell Harry not to make a noise.  
2.—Look at Ernest, how fast he runs.  
3.—The watch papa gave Bertie is lost. I dare say he will find it.  
4.—Mamma, my hand is very sore.  
5.—Make haste, Fred., Winnie is waiting.

MAY KIDD.

## 7—TRANSPOSITION.

A lemosn rummur ni hte luos  
Letls fo teh dlorw ot eb.  
Sa lletrarves earh eth lliowbs loir,  
Febeor yhet ceahr eth aes.

## 8—STAIR PUZZLE.

\*\*\*\* The steps form five half  
\*\*\*\* squares.  
\*\*\*\* 1. To teach. 2. To fall  
\*\*\*\* in drops. 3. To help.  
\*\*\*\* 4. Part of the head. 5.  
\*\*\*\* To check. 6. Direction.  
\*\*\*\* 7. To enchant. 8. Over-  
\*\*\*\* throw. 9. Atmosphere.  
\*\*\*\* 10. A kind of cement.  
\*\*\*\* 11. A sign. 12. To place.  
\*\*\*\* 13. A country in Eu-  
\*\*\*\* rope. 14. An ache. 15.  
\*\*\*\* Disorder. 16. Within.  
\*\*\*\* 17. A consonant.

HENRY REEVE.

## 9—CHARADE.

As I sat musing o'er the first,  
A night last two ago;  
I thought of what our TOTAL said  
About girls having a beau.

"Now, girls," I've heard him say, "The boys  
Will ask for your company;  
Just choose the one you love the best,  
That is, if you choose any."

But love the one with morals pure,  
The upright and the true;  
Who loves our God with all his heart,  
For he'll be kind to you."

FAIR BROTHER.

## Answers to March Puzzles.

1.—Charity.  
2.—The next dreadful thing to a battle lost is a battle won.  
3.—Cat. Cow. Dog. 2 (Goat) s. Horse.  
4.—Lark. Sparrow. Robin.  
5.— There is nothing so kindly as kindness,  
And nothing so royal as truth.  
6.—When we get to yonder home—when we've  
travelled through life's fair,  
May we see the welcome throne, where we  
shall be rid of care.  
7.—(1) Dora. Otto. Tom. (2) Eva. (3) Kate. (4)  
Ida. (5) Amy. Ada. (6) Edwin and Asa.  
8.—Blend. Lend. End. And.

## 9.—

PIG  
ODD  
AGO  
EMULATORS  
EDGARAPOE  
ENCLOSURE  
APE  
POD  
EEL

10.—All is not gold that glitters.  
11.—Within.

12.—My negro slave said to me one day, let us have a hunt. *Alright*, says I; we will *traverse* the woods and have a *grand* one. We saw a *nice white hare* and a *fox* have a *race* in the *cedar swamp*; they ran into a *mire* and got all *mud*. As we were going up a *long, steep hill* we saw two *lions* and a *buffalo* have a pitched *battle*, but we killed them, which soon made *peace*. We found a *black bear* in *Aden*, and my man shot him with his *bow* and *arrow*. We also saw a *beaver* taking a *bath*, but a *wolf* came along chasing an *elk*, which frightened it, and we saw it no more. I lost my *powder horn*, and as the *rainy season* was at hand, the *fair-weather* being at a close, we had no *desire* to go further.

## Names of those who have Sent Correct Answers to Mch. Puzzles.

Bloomfield Jordan, Hattie Robinson, Anita S. Cole, Helen Connell, David Winter, Dora Lawlor, A. T. Reeve, Emma Dennee, Nettie Ryckman, Mary Morrison, Henry Reeve, D. M. Carstairs, Libbie Hindley, Douglas Japp, Bessie Pearce, Carrie Sheers, Frank Riddle, Anster Snider, Isaac Irvine Devitt, Burt Cole, Allie McCredie, Frank Eaton, Carrie Eedy, Cecelia Fairbrother, May Kidd, Clara Wetmore, Libbie Denike, Edith Robinson, A. H. Stewart, Ida B. Ames, Wm. B. Anderson, A. Hawkins, E. Eulalia Farlinger, Russell Boss, Geo. H. Stokes.

## Origin of Things Familiar.

## DRINKING HEALTHS.

The drinking of healths originated during the Danish occupation of Britain. The Danes frequently stabbed Englishmen while in the act of drinking, and it finally became necessary for the English, in view of the constant repetition of this dastardly mode of assassination, to enter into a compact to be mutual pledges of security for each other's health and preservation. Hence the custom of pledging and drinking healths.

## A FEATHER IN ONE'S CAP.

In the Lansdowne M. S., British Museum, is a description of Hungary in 1599, in which the writer says of the inhabitants:—"It hath an ancient custom among them that none should wear a fether but he who had killed a Turk, to whom onlie yt was lawful to shew the number of his slain enemys by the number of fethers in his cappe."

## DUN.

This word, generally supposed to be derived from the French "donnez," owes its origin, according to the British Apollo of Sept., 1708, to one Joe Dun, a famous bailiff of Lincoln, in the time of Henry VII. He is said to have been so extremely shrewd in the management of his rough business, and so dexterous in the collection of dues, that his name became proverbial, and whenever a man refused to pay his debts, it grew into a prevalent custom to say, "Why don't you Dun him?"

ORIGIN OF THE ENGLISHMAN'S SOBRIQUET.—The name John Bull, as applied to the English people, is first found in Arbuthnot's *Ludicrous History of Europe*, a book sometimes erroneously ascribed to Dean Swift. In this satire Arbuthnot calls the French Lewis Baboon and the Dutch Nicholas Frog. "John Bull," a comedy, by George Coleman the younger, was performed in 1805. The John Bull, a Tory newspaper, supported by Theodore Hook, was first published in 1820.

The man who is humble enough to acknowledge that others' opinions are sometimes better than his own, is wise enough to be seldom wrong.