

Nucle Tom's Department.

MY DEAR NEPHEWS AND NIECES,—The holiday visits are over, the feasting finished, the choice fruit of the choice Christmas tree stored among your possessions; the drums have been beaten, bugles blown, fresh games learned, glittering skates tested, gay sleighs enjoyed, nice books read, and new clothes worn. Vacation is over and your school duties recommenced; but I hope the memory of your good times will brighten the entire year.

The end of the old year meeting the beginning of the new one, gives us a point of much observation, of which most people are wont to avail themselves, either that they may gather up and review their past experience or else lay plans for the future, usually prefaced by a vast array of "good resolutions." I've been wondering, my dears, if you made some very emphatic resolutions, and if so, how you are getting on with them. Do you yet bound out of bed at the first call in the morning? Do you make your toilet expeditiously, carefully, thoroughly? Do you carry a smile-lit face and cheery voice to the breakfast table? Does Annie clear the table, wipe the dishes, dust the furniture, and care for baby, without even a hint from mamma? Does Tommy yet remember to hang up his hat, clean his boots, get the kindling, and look after his other duties? Are the teeth daily brushed? Are the diaries, so zealously commenced, still regularly written in? Not unless you are more resolutely persevering than many grown people. I would not recommend you to attempt to carry out a list of unreasonably rigid rules. But I do hope you have begun the year with a firm determination to conquer your chief fault, whether it be procrastination, carelessness, sulkiness, irritability, untidiness, or something else. Can you not write us about some new games or odd puzzles or unique presents, of this festival season?

UNCLE TOM.

PUZZLES.

I—GEOGRAPHICAL DOUBLE ACROSTIC.

The initials and finals form the names of two celebrated poets:

1. A town in Sweden.
2. A river in South America.
3. A State in North America.
4. An island in the Indian Ocean.
5. An island in the Atlantic Ocean.

FREDERICK W. PERRY.

2—WORD PUZZLE.

Five I's, three V's, C, N, D and E
Make three Latin words that in history we see.

HARRIET EDITH WALKER.

3—DOUBLE ACROSTICS.

I.
The initials and finals form the names of two Roman generals:

1. A covering for the head.
2. Latin term for "In the year."
3. A tree.
4. The juice of a tree.
5. A girl's name.
6. A town in Leicestershire.

II.

The initials and finals form the names of two colors:

1. To roar.
2. One of Jacob's wives.
3. A neutral salt.
4. Vault of a church.
5. A vegetable.

III.

The initials and finals form the names of two cardinal points:

1. The shining orb of day.
2. A river in North America.
3. Below.
4. A bird.
5. The mother of Samuel.

HODGSON.

4—DOUBLE ACROSTIC.

The initials form the name of a well-known poet, and the finals that of one of his poems.

1. A town in the north of France.
2. An ancient king of Norway.
3. A girl's name.
4. The land that was exempt from hail during that plague.
5. A fruit.
6. One of Tennyson's heroines.
7. An evergreen shrub.
8. One of the ten tribes.
9. The king of the fairies.
10. A beverage.

EDITH CHARLOTTE RILEY.

5—DIAMOND PUZZLE.

The letters read across form the name of a king of England.

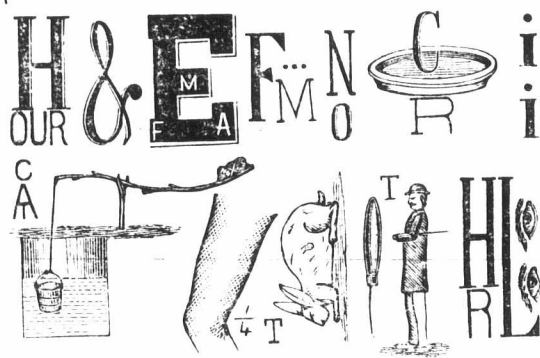
1. A consonant.
2. An article.
3. A sharp pain.
4. A king of the Stuart period.
5. An adjective.
6. A drink.
7. A consonant.

FANNY C. RENNELS.

6—CROSS.

Centrals read downwards and across, name of a sea bird.

1. Congealed water.
2. The tooth of a wheel.
3. Part of a circle.
4. To celebrate.
5. A sea-bird.
6. A rebel.
7. A covered cart.
8. A small insect.
9. Part of the verb "to eat."



7—ILLUSTRATED REBUS.

A good motto to remember and act on. It will do good to every one that attempts it. The answer will appear in our next issue. Five dollars is offered to the first Senator, M. P., M. P. P. or Member of the Provincial Board of Agriculture that will send in the correct answer, and fifty cents cash to any subscriber that sends in the correct answer accompanied with the name of one new paid subscriber.

8—CHARADES.

(1) My first is an article of furniture; my second a material; my whole is a British colony.
My first is a kind of gravel; my second is a sound: my third is the thigh of a beast; the whole is a village in one of the eastern counties, well-known to every one.

Whole I am a piece of furniture; behead me, I become capable; transpose me, I am a bundle of goods; once more decapitate me, I am a drink; transpose and curtail, I am an ejaculation.

(2) I am a word of four syllables; my first a covering; my third a letter of the alphabet; my fourth is the fate of lazy people; my second a pronoun, and my whole is to do an action repugnant to every Englishman.

9—TOWNS ENIGMATICALLY EXPRESSED.

1. A tree and a weight.
2. A bird and a sheet of paper.
3. A man's name, and a piece of land surrounded by water.
4. A young girl and a mineral.
5. To exist, a consonant, and a piece of water.
6. A mark, and a corporate town.
7. One of the cardinal points, an adverb, and part of the earth.
8. A male deer, a preposition, a consonant, and one of Noah's sons.
9. A building and a weight.

10. A weapon, and part of the face.
11. An implement of husbandry, and an entrance.
12. Animals, and an entrance.

10—PUZZLE.

- My 1st, a celebrated ancient naturalist.
My 2nd, an admiral whose dying words were, kiss me.
My 3rd, the first Turkish Sultan.
My 4th, a Duke who fought the battle that decided the fate of Europe.
My 5th, a Spartan hero.
My 6th, a King who was a confessor.
My 7th, an ancient Persian King.
My 8th, a Pope who reformed the calendar.
My 9th, a modern King of Italy.
My 10th, an ancient Grecian Empress who put out the eyes of her son.
My 11th, an ancient Hebrew sage.
My 12th, an ancient English poet.
My 13th, an Englishman who plotted to overthrow the Government.
My 14th, the first English Reformer.
My 15th, a Spanish lady, mother of the Prince Imperial.
My 16th, a King of Rome who slew his brother.

Answers to December Puzzles.

- 104—Paper, Caper, C pe, Pace, Ape, Pea.
105—Beater, Canary, Catbird, Bluejay, Penguin, Robin, Titmouse, Ousel, Parrot, Lovebird, Pelican, Toncan, Starling, Bird of Paradise, Jacana, Diver, Eagle, Gull, Egret, Emen, Woodcock, Woodpecker, Cockatoo, Ibis, Nighthawk, Nightingale, Finch, Bittern.
106—Harebell; 2, Marrow.
107—Berlin, Redcar, Dover, (Verin, a small town in Spain) Navan, Denbigh, Arles, Thebes, Siam, Carlisle, Ushant, India, Eton.
108—Dombey and son.
109—Earn, Area, Reams, Name, Baal, Aula, Alas, Last.
110—I once had money and a friend,
On both I set great store;
I lent my money to my friend,
And took his word therefor;
I asked my money of my friend,
And nought but words I got,
I lost my money and my friend,
For see him I could not.
If I had money and a friend
As once I had before,
I'd keep my money and my friend
And play the fool no more.

- 111—Cowper, Lanark: 1, CarnivaL; 2, OkA; 3, Washing-ton; 4, Pennsylvania; 5, EaR; 6, ReikjaviK.
112—Embro.
113—Kircher, Nelson, Othman, Wellington, Leonidas, Edward, Darius, Gregory, Emanuel, Irene, Solomon, Pope, Oates, Wickliffe, Eugenie, Romulus.

Names of Those Who Sent Correct Answers to December Puzzles.

J W L Richardson, Ethel Richardson, J J Haylock, J C O'Connor, Addie M Lutz, Stephen Hull, Mary E Fountain, Mary McDermitt, Susan R Blair, Thos W Taylor, A D Macdonald, Josiah Worthington, J C Cameron, Rosie Whetter, P S McLaren, Frank Caswell, Hattie Haveland, John Adcott, Celia Pettit, Ellen Weston, Jas P Howe, Henry Kerby, G F Crawford, Oscar Orwood, Wm Meade, L W Lawson, Alice Walker, M J Green, Mono Duett, George Hanlan, J Murray, Jas McQueen, Henry McNab, Eva Jones, E D Parnell, Eliza Scott, Martin Sheak, S A Griffin, A J Franks, A Harris, Susie Jones, Chas Ribbon, M A Hammond, Sally Evans, S T Rutherford, Jos Scott, Normond Phillips, Jas Wood, Jessie Curry, A C Thompson, Robt Wisdom, Mary McNaughton, Herbert Rowland, Susan McBride, Randall Beecher.

Credit is due Thomas Wm Crawford for having answered the greatest number of puzzles correctly.

One of the most essential things in love affairs is truth and perfect frankness. Both parties should be true to themselves, and truthful to each other. How many uneasy, troubled, and anxious minds—how many breaking and how many broken hearts there are to-day in which content and happiness might have reigned supreme but for a want of frankness! Repentance inevitably comes for all these things; but it often comes too late, and only when the evil produced becomes incurable. In love, as in everything else, truth is the strongest of all things, and frankness is but another name for truth. Then always be frank. Avoid misunderstandings; give no reason or occasion for them. They are more easily shunned than cured; they leave scars upon the heart. You are less likely to be deceived yourself when you never try to deceive others. Frankness is like the light of the clear day, in which everything may be clearly perceived.

Precocious boy (munching the fruit of the date tree)—"Mamma, if I eat dates enough, will I grow up to be an almanac?"