

Children's Corner

Address all letters for this department to M. C.,
1588 MADISON AVENUE, NEW YORK CITY, N. Y.

Our Lady's Letter Box.

DEAR CHILDREN,—

I WONDER how many of you know what is the hardest work in the world? Let me tell you what I think it is. Doing nothing. Yes, like many, indeed all of God's punishments, labor is in truth a blessing. Even the little ones will say, that when they have something to do, be it only a game of "tag" or "hide and seek" they are happy; but this wishing the time away, and saying how dull and stupid everything is, that is indeed the hard work which comes to many in the long vacation. What is time dear children? "It is the purchase money of eternity." Think of that. People often say they cannot meditate. Now there's a little question which, with its answer, would give many a young and old head enough to think of for the rest of their lives. "How good is God! let us say it a thousand times," wrote a friend to M. Dupont, the Holy Man of Tours; and immediately, (we read in his life) he knelt down and repeated it a thousand times. Dear children so may you and I say of Him, who so wants us to have this pearl of great value, this eternity of happiness that He bought for us at a great price, that of His Precious Blood, and then when we lose it or sell it for a straw. He puts within our reach the golden hours, with which to buy again our birthright, our inheritance, our claim to the "house not made with hands," our home in Heaven. Did you ever hear your parents talk about "Lady Day in harvest"? Isn't that a pretty name for the Assumption of our Blessed Lady which we will celebrate on August 15th? The day for which she waited, oh! so longingly and yearningly, fifteen years after the Ascension of our dear

Lord. Think how many thousand times she sighed for the sight of His face. Let us offer each one of those longing desires of her's from the Ascension to the Assumption, through her most pure hands as a preparation for Holy Communion. And the little ones to whom our Lord has not yet come; the happy children who are getting ready to welcome Him for the first time; let them too tell Him that they long for Him to come even as His dear Mother Mary longed for Him all those fifteen years. Come, Lord Jesus, come! Come quickly. Beautiful prayer of the Beloved Disciple! Of him who leaned his fair young head on the Sacred Heart. No wonder that he should say "Come! come quickly!" Yes dear children, Our Blessed Lady and St. John loved our Lord. That is why they longed for Him. So let it be with us. Let us love Him who hath first loved us; then we will long for Him, first in time through the Divine Eucharist, and at last in Eternity. And be sure of it He will give us what we long for. "Like all good Fathers," says Father Faber, "He wants His children home." Let this be our prayer then on Assumption Day; that we may so use time as to win eternity; that we may keep our eyes and our hearts turned heavenward, longing for it. As the Germans say, we have the *Heimweh*—homesickness—for Heaven.

Devotedly,

CARMEL'S SECRETARY.

August, 1893.

PUZZLES.

XXXII

Why is a shallow person like a pane of glass?

XXXIII

Why is a gardener like a time-piece?

XXXIV

What precious stone is like a gate?

XXXV

What kind of a portrait can you spell with three letters?

Answers to Puzzles.

XXIX—Silence.

XXX—She is full of airs.

XXXI—Because they are regular, irregular and defective.

"SEC."