

Minnie May's Department.

Two Pictures.

An old farm house with meadows wide,
And sweet with clover on each side;
A bright-eyed boy who looks from out
The door with woodbine wreathed about,
And wishes his one thought all day:
"Oh! if I could but fly away
From this dull spot the world to see,
How happy, happy, happy,
How happy I would be!"

Amid the city's constant din
A man who round the world had been
Is thinking, thinking all day long:
"Oh! if I could only trace once more
The field-path to the farm-house door,
The old green meadows could I see,
How happy, happy, happy,
How happy I would be!"

MY DEAR NIECES,—It affords me much pleasure to receive so many nice letters this month, and I am happy to know my labors are so well appreciated. I thank you all for the many recipes you have sent me, which I know will be useful to some of our readers. Our Niece, Mrs. P., has favored us with her recipe for making elderberry wine, which she thinks is preferable to the one inserted in our last issue; however, you may have your choice, there is no test like trying, and experience is the best teacher.

MY DEAR NIECES,—No doubt many of you have a taste for decorating your homes with the elegancies which can be made from our grasses, mosses, ferns and leaves; such as bouquets, wreaths, picture frames, brackets, etc. All these can be made with very little expense, excluding your own labor and time. Of course it requires patience, but I think the most of you have a good amount of patience, particularly in the nice autumn weather, and in the long evenings it is so pleasant to work at something which looks pretty. Perhaps some of you who have experimented in pressing and preserving autumn leaves by means of varnishing, ironing, etc., are aware of your work proving unsatisfactory, from the fact of their changing color, becoming spotted, curling at edges, etc. I find old books the best as a receptacle for drying. It is a good plan, as soon as the trees begin to change their livery in the autumn, to begin making collections of all the various colors and shades of color, as the leaves gathered early retain their color the longest. Commence placing the leaves at the back part of the book, laying each one smoothly and never allowing them to touch each other, turn five or six pages upon these and place another layer, continuing this until the book is full, then place in a cool place to dry under a heavy pressure for twenty-four hours. Remove them the following day into dry books and again place under pressure. This change is made three times, allowing them to remain several days the last time, when they will be found in beautiful condition and ready to arrange.

The best time to gather ferns for winter use is September and October, as then the frost turns them white, and you can get them from deepest green to almost white, and they add so much to winter decoration. Also collect all kinds of wild grasses, of which you will find a great variety, and quantities of autumn berries. A person of taste can think of many ways to arrange these bright treasures of autumn.

DEAR MINNIE MAY,—I take much pleasure in writing you a few lines. The reason of my long silence is owing to being away on a visit some distance from home. I was much pleased with H. J. Warren's recipes for making blanc mange, and floating island. Will enclose my recipe for making an easy dessert, and for preparing quinces.

I remain, your niece,
J. D. HUGHES.

DELICATE DESSERT.
Lay a dozen crackers in a tureen; pour on enough boiling water to cover them. In a few moments they will be swollen to three or four times their original size. Then grate a little nutmeg and sprinkle some white sugar on them. Eat with cream, and you will have a simple and delicious dessert.

QUINCES FOR THE TEA-TABLE.
Bake ripe quinces thoroughly; when cold strip off the skins; place them in a glass dish, and sprinkle with white sugar, and serve with cream.

They make a fine-looking dish for the tea-table, and a more luscious and unexpensive one than the fruit made into sweetmeats.

DEAR MINNIE MAY,—I send you a recipe for dyeing ladies' gloves, ribbons, silks or cottons. It will dye from a pale straw to a deep orange color. The sun will not fade, nor boiling move it:

Boil two quarts of rain water; dissolve in it a piece of alum the size of a hickory nut. While hot, steep in it one or more leaves of horseradish, according to the depth of color required. Rinse the article dyed in rain water and dry.

MRS. W. BROUGHTON.

CLEAN A CARPET.

Shake and beat it well; lay it on the floor and tack it firmly; then, with a clean flannel, wash it over with one quart of bullock's gall mixed with three quarts of soft cold water, and rub it off with a clean flannel or house cloth. Any particularly dirty spot should be rubbed with pure gall.

HOUSE GIRL.

STEAMED PUDDING.

Three eggs; one teacup sweet milk; a pinch of salt; one teaspoonful cream tartar; one-half ditto soda; a little sugar, if preferred; one cup of fruit of any kind, and flour to make a stiff batter. Steam one hour, and eat with cream and sugar. Very nice; try it.

H. C. ABBOTT.

OFFENSIVE BREATH.

Take from six to ten drops of the concentrated solution of chloride of soda in a wineglassful of pure spring water. Taken immediately after the ablutions of the morning are completed will sweeten the breath by disinfecting the stomach, which, far from being injured, will be benefited by the medicine. In some cases the odour from carious teeth is combined with that of the stomach. If the mouth is well rinsed with a teaspoonful of the solution of alum in a tumbler of water, the bad odor of the teeth will be removed.

MRS. J. P.

ELDERBERRY WINE.

1 gallon of elderberries, and 1 gallon of water. Put them in a copper cold; let them boil one hour; then strain through a sieve; press the berries, and to 9 gallons of liquor add 28 pounds of Lisbon sugar, one-quarter of a pound of ginger, one-quarter pound of allspice, one-quarter pound of cloves; then put them in a clean copper; let them boil one-half hour; then strain it again and set it to work in a tub while warm. One-half tablespoonful of good yeast is enough for this quantity. Put in a cask when done working.

MRS. J. P.

ACID UPON CLOTHING.

When acid has been dropped on any article of clothing, apply liquid ammonia to kill the acid; then apply chloroform to restore the color.

LEMON CHEESE CAKES.

Pare two lemons very thin and put the rind to soak in half a pint of water; put into an enamelled sauce-pan one pound loaf sugar, six ounces butter, six eggs, a little beaten, and the water in which the rind soaked; keep this mixture well stirred until it becomes as thick as honey; pour into a jar, and it will keep for weeks. Line dishes with puff paste and bake.

CLAIRE.

MARLBOROUGH PUDDING.

Beat one-quarter of a pound of butter to a cream; add a quarter of a pound of white sugar; beat well four eggs and add to the rest; mix well together; line a dish with puff paste, spread over it a layer of raspberry jam; then pour in the mixture, and bake nearly three quarters of an hour. This pudding is to be eaten cold.

CLAIRE.

HANDKERCHIEF FLIRTATIONS.

Drawing across lips—desire of acquaintance.
Drawing across eyes—I am sorry.
Drawing across cheek—I love you.
Drawing across forehead—we are watched.
Taking it by centre—you are too willing.
Twirling in both hands—Indifference.
Twirling in the right hand—I love another.
Twirling in the left hand—I wish to get rid of you.

Drawing it over the shoulder—follow me.
Folding it—I wish to speak to you.
Dropping it—we are friends.
Letting it rest on the right cheek—yes.
Letting it rest on the left cheek—no.
Holding over the right ear—you are changed.
Letting it remain on the eyes—you are cruel.
Winding it on the fourth finger—engaged.
Winding it on the third finger—I am.
Opposite corners in both hands—wait for me.

Uncle Tom's Department.

DEAR UNCLE TOM,—I am going to tell you about a very pleasant evening I spent a short time ago. It was in the country. The school teacher was about leaving and his pupils presented him with a beautiful writing desk. The pupils and their parents all assembled together at the school house, which was beautifully decorated with flowers and bushes. B. W. Crawford was nominated Chairman, then the pupils, with their teacher, were called up on the platform, then one little girl, Maggie Muterer, read the address, and another, Jessie Gerrie, presented the writing desk, for which their teacher thanked them very kindly. After that there was a general rush for the good things provided, which they had in abundance. I fancy, Uncle Tom, you would have liked to have been there about this time. As soon as all were satisfied, two of the pupils went upon the platform and read the address, which was in poetry and was very nice; they each had a wreath of flowers on their head. Professor Johnson then sang some very nice pieces, assisted by the pupils of the school; he is also a ventriloquist, and amused us very much for awhile; then we had several speeches by some of the gentlemen that were present. It was getting very late by this time, so the pupils bid their teacher farewell and all dispersed to their homes feeling that they had spent a very enjoyable evening.

I am ever your affectionate niece,
HATTIE HAVILAND.

Some of our nephews and nieces might aid the circulation of the ADVOCATE and make more money than in any other way if they only have the ability and perseverance to take an agency. For particulars, address W. WELD, FARMER'S ADVOCATE OFFICE. Apply before the territory is taken.

103.—CROSS WORD ENIGMA.

My first is in captain, but not in mate;
My second in love, but not in hate;
My third in rain, but not in hail;
My fourth in mast, but not in sail;
My fifth in wet, but not in dry;
My sixth in June, but not in July;
My seventh in seat, but not in chair;
My eighth in storm, but not in fair;
My ninth in wheat, but not in hay;
My tenth in rent, but not in pay;
My eleventh in flat, but not in round;
My whole but few have found.

—EDITH H. C.

104.— $\frac{1}{4}$ of mock, $\frac{1}{4}$ of lock,
And then $\frac{1}{4}$ of row,
 $\frac{1}{4}$ of zinc, $\frac{1}{4}$ of rink,
An article will show.

—A. J. I.

105.—DIAMOND PUZZLE.

My first is a consonant,
My second is an adjective,
My third is a boy's name,
My fourth is a precious stone,
My fifth is a foolish person,
My sixth is a person's name,
My seventh is trusting,
My eighth is what many young ladies wish,
My ninth is a kind of grain,
My tenth is good to eat,
My eleventh is a consonant.

—G. G. ENIGH.

106.—DOUBLE ACROSTIC.

A shrub, a woman's name, a kind of play, unfinished, a Spanish coin, a musical instrument, a man's name, a prognostick. The initials name a great battle and the finals one of the commanders.

J. M. FRAZER.

107.—ENIGMA NUMERICAL.

I am composed of twenty-four letters.
My 10, 7, 2, 3, 13, 22, 16, 20 is a city.
My 23, 4, 17, 3 is a town in Canada.
My 1, 11, 24, 10, 12, 22 is a village in Ontario.
My 11, 9, 15, 5, 16 is a river.
My 8, 19, 13, 2 is a kind of grain.
My 15, 18, 6, 14, 21, 12 is a pendent.
My whole is a popular Canadian Institution.

—E. E.

108.—DECAPITATIONS.

Complete, I am one suddenly raised to wealth, honor, etc.; twice beheaded, and I am a motion of terror; once more, and I am what little boys and girls like.

109.—Whole, in me a disunion you'll see;
Twice behead, a similitude then I shall be;
Behead me again, round a nice country village