

## Uncle Tom's Department.

MY DEAR NEPHEWS AND NIECES,—Holidays will soon be commencing, and with them many enjoyments for our hard-working boys and girls—picnics, garden parties, and many other harmless pleasures as a reward for diligent study and patient perseverance, and will be enjoyed with much more zest after having been earned by self-denial and good conduct. I will now give you an amusing story I heard the other day, but hope none of my young nephews will venture to give it a trial:

Once upon a time a little boy observed his sister curling her hair around a hot poker, and when he saw her golden ringlets twist up like Georgia pine shavings, what he considered an over-bright idea struck him.

"The folks next door say their pug is better than our bull-dog, because its tail curls over its back so tight. I'll just curl the bull-dog's tail now, and run him up and down in front of their house, and make them feel mean."

So he called the dog, and heated a poker until it was almost red, in order to get a good curl. Grasping the dog's tail, he quickly wound it around the poker; but it was not wound around the poker half as quickly as the dog was wound around the boy. He picked him up by the small of his back, and shook him out of his clothes, and left nothing on him but his freckles and a look of terror. The boy was then obliged to lie in bed until his father could afford to get him a new suit of clothes, which was a month later.

The moral of this little fable teaches us two things; first, that bright, original ideas are dangerous in the hands of people who don't know how to use them, and, second, that when we experiment with a bull-dog, we should muzzle him before beginning.

You will all remember that prizes were to be given at the end of six months instead as formerly at the end of the year only. I have now summed them all up and find they stand as follows, for best original puzzles: 1st, Edward A. Fairbrother, Copenhagen, Ont.; 2nd, Ada Armand, Pakenham, Ont.; 3rd, Henry Reeve, Highland Creek, Ont.; 4th, Lizzie C. Watt, Kincardine, Ont. Best answers: 1st Henry Reeve; 2nd, E. A. Fairbrother; 3rd, R. J. Risk, Chesterfield, Ont.; 4th, Becca Lowry. I shall again offer prizes to be awarded at the 1st of January for best original puzzles:—1st, \$1.50; 2nd, \$1.00; 3rd, 75c; 4th, 50c, and for the most correct answers to puzzles, 1st, \$1.00; 2nd, 75c; 3rd, 50c; 4th, 25c. All puzzles and answers must be sent in by the 25th of each month.

Now I hope to hear from a great many new members and all the old ones next month. Hoping you will all enjoy the holidays and make the best of your young days.

UNCLE TOM.

## Puzzles.

## 1—NUMERICAL ENIGMA.

My whole is composed of 26 letters, and is being held at 11, 10, 13, 8, 12, 26, and 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 9, 6, 7, 15, 8, 5, both have 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, there, and all Canadians are taking an interest in my whole.

HENRY REEVE.

## 2—HALF SQUARE.

1—A wall for defence. 2—A mountain in Turkey in Asia. 3—Furious. 4—Parched up with heat. 5—A soft saddle or bolster. 6—And (FR). 7—A consonant.

FAIR BROTHER.

## 3—TREE PUZZLE.

1—A consonant. 2—To strike. 3—To crawl. 4—Common. 5—To place. 6—To bet. 7—Every one. 8—A kind of grain. 9—Likely. 10—For what reason. 11—A morsel. 12—To rot. 13—To disagree. Centrals read downwards, will name an ancient style of writing.

HENRY REEVE.

## 4—ILLUSTRATED REBUS.



## 5—DROP VOWEL PUZZLE.

Think t-r-l--ndth-th--ghtsh-lth-w-rld's  
f-m-n-f--d s p--h-tr-l-ynd--c b w-r-d-f t h-n  
Sh-l-l b--f-r--t-f-l-s--d  
L-v-tr-l-n d th-l-f-sh-l-l b--  
gr--t-and n-b l-c-r--d.

ADA ARMAND.

## 6—NUMERICAL ENIGMA.

My 10, 6, 5, 9, is to wither.  
My 12, 8, 7, 9, 11, is a chemical fluid.  
My 5, 4, 11, 7, is a weapon.  
My 16, 11, 13, is regard.  
My 8, 2, 7, 9, is to abhor.  
Of loyal hearts from far and wide,  
Fair total, thou art still the pride.

ADA ARMAND.

## 7—PROPER DIAMOND.

1—A consonant. 2—A female deer. 3—An evergreen tree. 4—Fault. 5—A figure having twelve sides. 6—A sort of pain in the head. 7—Without error. 8—A part of the body. 9—A consonant.

FAIR BROTHER.

## 8—DOUBLE LETTER ENIGMA.

In "Beauty," but not in "Looks."  
In "Papers," but not in "Books."  
In "Sell," but not in "Buy."  
In "Laughter," but not in "Cry."  
Read down, my first is very mean,  
In "Webster" it can be plainly seen;  
My last in shape it should be round,  
It often falls upon the ground.  
My whole is counted very fine,  
When played by a "Professional nine,"  
And when played by little boys,  
They sometimes make a lot of noise.

FAIR BROTHER.

## 9—POETICAL PUZZLE.

"Silently, one by one, in the infinite meadows of heaven,  
Blossomed the lovely stars, the forget-me-nots of the angels."

"The orb'd maiden with white fire laden,  
Whom mortals call the moon,  
Glides glimmering o'er my fleece-like floor,  
By the midnight breezes strewn."

"Each purple peak, each flinty spire,  
Was bathed in floods of living fire."

These quotations are taken from three popular poets. Who are they? BEATRICE GUNN.

## 10—ANAGRAM.

Ot nkwo, teseme nda velo, nad htne ot rapt,  
Kneas pu sfiel leat of nym a lefegni rehta.

## Answers to June Puzzles.

1—Be zealous in a proper cause,  
The way thy heart directs thee;  
Let not but good thy will perforce,  
Crush all that ill affects thee.  
2—Advocate.  
3—Senselessness.  
4—Handsome.

7—

F  
MAD  
MIRTH  
MERMAID  
MAGNETISM  
MURMURINGLY  
MIDDLESTONITE  
FARMER'S ADVOCATE  
AGGRANDIZABLE  
ABBREVIATED  
AUTHORITY  
ABACIST  
ALARM  
ATE

5— V  
BET  
BONUS  
VENISON  
TUSSELE  
SOLVE  
NEED  
6— SOLAR  
OSAGE  
LADEN  
AGENT  
REN T'S

8—Acrobat.  
9—He who fights and runs away,  
May live to fight another day.

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

Chas. E. Smith, Ada Armand, Emma Dennee, Minnie E. Brown, May Monk, Lillie Stovin, Henry Reeve, Robt. J. Risk, Frank L. Milner, Becca Lowry, R. Wilson, Mary Morrison, David A. Moore, Maggie Whiteford, Lizzie C. Watt, Minnie Carpenter, Geo. L. Gustin, Spencer Nightingale, Wm. E. McLean, Fair Brother.

## IF.

If men cared less for wealth and fame,  
And less for battle-field and glory;  
If writ in human hearts, a name  
Seemed better than a song and story;  
If men, instead of nursing pride,  
Would learn to hate it and abhor it;  
If more relied on love to guide,  
The world would be the better for it.

If men dealt less in stocks and lands,  
And more in bonds and deeds fraternal,  
If Love's work had more willing hands  
To link this world to the supernal;  
If men stored up Love's oil and wine,  
And on bruised human souls would pour it;  
If "yours" and "mine" would once combine,  
The world would be the better for it.

If more would act the play of Life,  
And fewer spoil it in rehearsal;  
If Bigotry would sheath its knife  
Till good became more universal;  
If Custom, gray with ages grown,  
Had fewer blind men to adore it;  
If talent shown for Truth alone,  
The world would be the better for it.

If men were wise in little things,  
Affecting less in all their dealings;  
If hearts had fewer rusted strings  
To isolate their kindly feelings;  
If men, when Wrong beats down the Right,  
Would strike together and restore it;  
If Right made Might in every fight,  
The world would be the better for it.

## Courage in Every-day Life.

Have the courage to discharge a debt while you have the money in your pocket.

Have the courage to do without that you do not need, however much your eyes may covet it.

Have the courage to make a will and a just one.

Have the courage to tell a man why you do not lend him your money.

Have the courage to out the most agreeable acquaintance you have when convinced he lacks a principle. "A friend should bear with a friend's infirmities," but not with his vices.

## Pearls of Thought.

Plow deep while sluggards sleep.

Take care of your character; your reputation will take care of itself.

Whatever you dislike in another person take care to correct in yourself.

Men love to hear of their power, but have an extreme disrelish to be told of their duty.

Let friendship gently creep to a height; if it rush to it, it may soon run itself out of breath.

When a person has only learned how to read, and not what to read, he is in great peril.

A good word is an easy obligation; but not to speak ill requires only our silence, which costs us nothing.

The wise prove, and the foolish confess, by their conduct, that a life of employment is the only life worth leading.

That which is good to be done cannot be done too soon; and if it is neglected to be done early, it will frequently happen that it will not be done at all.