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MINNIE MAY'S DEPARTMENT.

I am very much pleased to have so many correspondents to aid me as I have this month. Every wife, and, I may almost say, every girl, has some peculiarity in which they excel. Some understand the cooking of meat, others the cooking of vegetables, others pastry or preserves, others clothing, others fancy work, &c. Now, you see how much good it will do all of us to have an interchange of ideas. We will have a Reciprocity Treaty—you will tell me what you know and I will try and help you in what you don't know. I am satisfied that by your help we will make this one of the most valuable and interesting columns in the ADVOCATE. Thanking you all for your kind letters,

I am your friend,
MINNIE MAY.

PARIS, Sept., 27, 1873.

DEAR MINNIE MAY,—Tell Maggie Knowlton that I have been trying to find a receipt for grease spots, but as yet have not been successful. When I do I will let her know. In the meantime the best thing I can furnish her with is care. For my own part I am not much troubled with them. For her benefit and others who think well to try it, I send you a receipt for

Starch Polish.

White wax 1 oz. spermaceti 2 oz. melted together with a gentle heat. Prepare your starch in the usual way. Drop in a piece of the preparation about the size of a pea, say for a dozen articles more or less. I have not time to write my opinion of John K. this time, but must reserve it for another letter; but I cannot refrain from saying that "Obey" shows itself in a wonderfully capricious manner.

Your friend,

LIZZIE ELKINGTON.

Ingersoll, Oct. 13, 1873.

DEAR MINNIE MAY,—I would like to be admitted into your columns, and I will do my share in filling them up. Here are two very good receipts

For Taking Out Grease Spots.

Take an ounce of ammonia and put it in a pail of clean water. Put the cloth in and let it soak five minutes, and then wash it in soap-suds and rinse. Iron it when damp. Another receipt is:—Take magnesia and sprinkle it on the cloth and put a piece of brown paper on it. Then put a warm iron on the paper, and let it stand awhile.

I would refer John K. to 1 Peter chap. 3, also Colossians iii., 19-20. The Royal House is ruled by the Bible.

HATTIE HAVILAND.

Preserving Autumn Leaves.

A new way of preserving autumn leaves is given as follows:—Iron them fresh with a warm (not hot) iron on which some spermaceti has been lightly rubbed. This method preserves perfectly their lovely tints, and gives a waxy gloss which no other one secures. The process is very rapid and very agreeable, and no lady who has ever tried the tedious and uncertain experiment of pressing will ever again resort to it after once trying this new and better way.

Mosa, Oct. 15, 1873.

DEAR MINNIE MAY,—I am much pleased with your column, and wish to be admitted as one of your helps. Here is a receipt for

Steamed Indian Pudding.

Take one teacup of sweet milk, half a teacup of buttermilk, half a teacup of molasses, two teacups of Indian meal, one of currants, one tablespoonful of saleratus and a little salt. Put it in a basin. Set in a steamer over boiling water for two hours. Serve with a sauce made of butter and sugar or sweetened cream.

I remain your appreciative friend,

MARY JACKSON.

Willowdale, Oct. 13, 1873.

DEAR MINNIE,—I thank you for inserting my letter in your column last month. I had not told James I was going to write to you, so, when he was looking over the ADVOCATE and saw my letter, he exclaimed, "Why, Eva, so you've been getting into the paper, hey? Well, you are a good wife, and I am so proud of you that I feel satisfied you will do me credit anywhere." James is a real good husband and takes an interest in everything that I do, and he says that since you have admitted me into your column he will get up a good club for the ADVOCATE. This is the way

To Cook Corned Beef.

Don't boil it, for corned beef should never be boiled. It should only simmer, being placed on a part of the stove where it may simmer uninterruptedly from four to six hours, according to the size of the piece. Let the meat remain in the liquid until it is cold, if it is to be served cold, or, if you want the meat tender, let it remain in the liquid until next day, and then bring it to the boiling point just before serving.

EVA J. ALLEN.

Effect of sunlight on flour.

It is maintained that the inferior quality of certain kinds of wheat and rye flour is frequently due to the action of sunlight on the flour. Even when in bags or barrels the gluten experiences a change similar to that occasioned by the heating of the mill. The tendency thus imparted to it to become lumpy and to form dough without toughness is similar to that of flour from moist grain or of flour when it is too fresh or made from grain ground too early or when adulterated with cheaper barley meal. Such flour can be improved by keeping for some weeks.

It has been discovered by the eminent botanist, Mr. Pynvert, that the *Lilium auratum*, besides being a beautiful plant, is a grand specific against house flies, and that a single specimen of it in an apartment will keep it clear of those troublesome insects.

Annie Long last month asked me to give her some idea about making up fancy notions.

Toilet Tidy.

Take prepared cardboard about a quarter of a yard square, shaped as in Figure A, worked in Berlin work, with a border formed of crosses and a neat pattern in the centre. A strip of perforated cardboard about half a yard long and half a quarter wide is patched to match the back. Figure B is worked to match the back of Figure A. Both pieces are bound with scarlet ribbon. Then take a piece of card-board a quarter of a yard long and half a quarter wide, round off two of the corners, as in Figure C, and bind all round with narrow scarlet ribbon. Sew the strip of cardboard (Figure B.) to the rounded part of Figure C., and sew the two ends to Figure A. at G. & H. Ornament with scarlet bows. Hang at the side of the toilette on the wall.

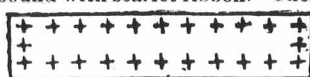


Figure B.

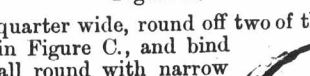


Figure D.

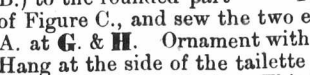


Figure F.



Figure H.



Figure J.

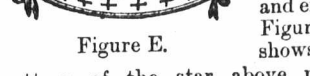


Figure L.

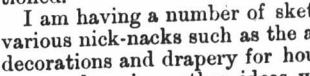


Figure N.

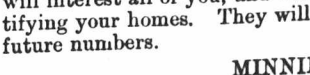


Figure P.



Figure R.



Figure T.



Figure V.



Figure X.



Figure Z.

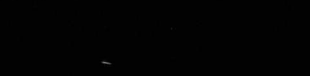
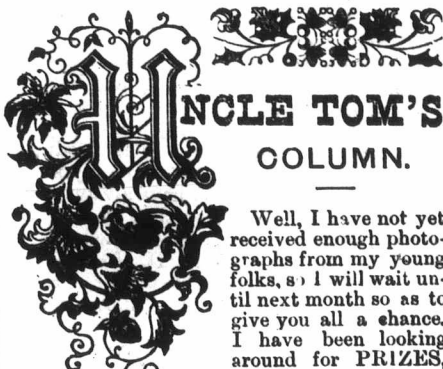


Figure BB.



UNCLE TOM'S COLUMN.

Well, I have not yet received enough photographs from my young folks, so I will wait until next month so as to give you all a chance. I have been looking around for PRIZES, but cannot find anything so nice as the chronos, so I offer one of Vick's beautiful chronos to the boy or girl who sends me the best lot of indoor games before the 20th of this month. Winter is coming on with its fine long evenings, and all of us youngsters will be gathering around the fire or fun and frolic. I for one mean to enjoy myself, so I want each of you to tell me the best games you know of. You have all played "Consequences," I have no doubt, and "Post," and "Puss in the Corner." Well, these are what I mean by indoor games. Next month I will offer a prize for the best collection of FORFEITS for such games as require them, so be collecting.

My niece Lillie Gaskin, of Olinda, asks: 138.—What is larger for being cut at both ends?

Ingersoll, Oct. 13th, 1873.

Dear Uncle Tom,—

I suppose you think I have forgotten you, but such is not the case. I was very sick last month so that I could not attend to the puzzles, but I shall try this month. I am in favor of Hattie R.'s plan, and shall send my photograph as soon as I get it taken, which I think will be next week.

Good bye, dear uncle. I am your affectionate niece,
HATTIE HAVILAND.

I am very sorry to hear that you have been sick, Hattie, and will forgive you for not writing last month.

Frank Smoke, of Paris, wants to know if *butte* is not of the feminine gender, as his teacher says it is neuter. Frank can tell his teacher that it generally belongs to the feminine gender.

William E. Anderson, Rednersville, sends some very good puzzles:

139.—What trade would you recommend a short man to adopt?

140.—Why is a present of coal sure to be received thankfully?

141.—When may people said to be half-witted?

Thanks to Lizzie Elkington for a very nice letter and her photograph. We will be able to tell next month if we will have enough to get up the picture. I have handed her other letter to Minnie May.

Jessie Philp, Dundonald P. O., sends answers to puzzles.

Thomas Freethy, Rob Roy, asks: 142.—Why is a newly hatched chicken like a cow's tail?

Jacob M. Sherk has been some way overlooked, and hauls me over the coals for it. He is not very mad, however, for he sends in answers to October puzzles. If he will send in some good games in competition for the prize this month he will not be forgotten. I have handed his other letter to Minnie May.

Another bright boy, one of my nephews, hearing his father say that a man ought to stick to his business, rubbed some tar on the handles of the plough, and when his father took hold of them he did stick to his business. His father rewarded him for his smartness by taking him on a whaling expedition.

143.—An act well done, to land a claim, Backward or forward spelt the same; The essence of sweet flowers I in me, Forward or backward still the same; The world I shun, its joys disclaim, Backward or forward 'tis the same; A woman, yet no parent's claim, Forward or backward spelt the same; An ancient instrument of pain, Backward or forward still the same; A foreign kingdom next I name, Forward or backward spelt the same; The even surface like a plain, Backward or forward still the same. Now, these initials take and place, And you'll an Irish county trace.

ANSON ADAMSON.

144.—I 8 0 2 D A Y.

JOSEPH RAY.

145.—I am composed of 12 letters: My 12, 3, 10 is a girl's name, My 1, 2, 4 is something used in writing, My 7, 11, 1 is a part of the face, My 5, 9, 7, 8, 2 is a kind of medicine, My 2, 6, 2, 5 are parts of the face. My whole is one of the middle States.

W. DICKIE.

My nephew, Willie A. Rutherford, is always on hand to keep on my work. He sends his photograph to go into our big picture, for which I thank him, as I want all my steady-working nephews and nieces in it. Willie says he is going to work for the prize this time, and he looks like a boy that had lots of fun and games in him.

How is it that I have not had a letter from Louisa Haviland for some time. Hattie is a capital girl and writes often, but it looks as if Louisa wanted to drop my acquaintance. Now I want her to try for the prize this month, and I would like to have her in the picture.

146.—Why do you always take off the left boot last?
AGGIE BENSON.

Francis Nelson asks: 147.—What has two ends and a middle, and the middle goes first?

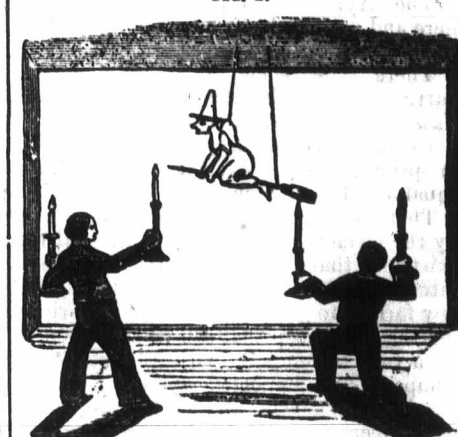
The following is a very good puzzle, and will require lots of study:

148.—3 farmers, A, B and C, went to market to sell eggs. A had 10 eggs, B 30, C 50. They each sold their stock at the same price per egg, and after all were sold, they found that each had the same amount of money. How was that?

THE PERFORMING SHADOWS.

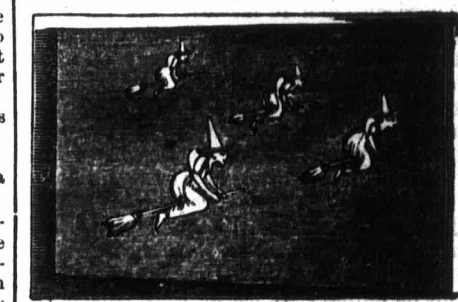
Cut same figure as the witch below out of a piece of heavy card; then take two threads and tie them in back and front, as shown below.

FIG. 1.



Hang up sheet between your figure and the audience. The figure will hang just behind the sheet, and two or more of you take lights in your hands and go behind the figure. Have no light where the audience is. Each light properly held throws a distinct shadow upon the curtain, and several figures appear to be moving upon it.

FIG. 2.



Emma L. Hanes, of Morrisburg, is not doing as she promised. What about the long letter I was to receive from her? Will somebody find out what is the trouble

149.—My first is in fish that live in the lakes, My second is in quails that live in the brakes; My third is in moles that live in the ground, My fourth is in wolves that live all around; My fifth is in mermaids that live in the sea, My sixth is in wonder what all this can be; My whole is a metal as you can see.

KATIE R.

How a London girl got twelve commercial travellers into eleven bed-rooms, and yet gave each one a bed-room:—

"Now," said she, "If two of you gentlemen will go into No. 1 bedroom and wait for a few minutes, I'll find a spare room for one of you as soon as I have shown the others to their rooms."

Having thus bestowed two gentlemen in No. 1, she put the third in No. 2, the fourth in No. 3, the fifth in No. 4, the sixth in No. 5, the seventh in No. 6, the eighth in No. 7, the ninth in No. 8, the tenth in No. 9, the eleventh in No. 10. She then came back to No. 1, where you will remember she had left the twelfth gentleman along with the first, and said: "I've now accommodated all the rest and have still a room to spare, so if you will please to step into No. 11, you will find it empty."

Of course there is a hole in the saucepan somewhere, but it is for you to determine exactly where the fallacy is.

Now, boys and girls, here is some fun for you.