



Good King Kriskoss.

King Kriskoss has just come home from the royal races. "I'm growing tired of all this," he said to himself. "We have trials of skill, but how do men use their skill? They make the most of it to cheat each other. We have trials of strength, but the strong impose upon the weak. We have trials of speed, but the swift are not helpful to the slow. I'll have no more such nonsense! I'll have a trial of good deeds, and see if this will set people to thinking in the proper way. I'll give whatever the winner may choose for a prize, and let all try for it, young and old."

So a day was fixed for the trial, and on the next day all the people were to assemble at the palace, and one by one were to be received, to tell the king what good thing they had done.

When this day came, the king heard many queer stories. One said he had searched the kingdom over, and could not find any good to do.

"H'm!" said the king; "if you had mended your garment somewhat, it would have been better than nothing."

Another owned that he had seen many little things to do, but had hurried on all day in search of some great thing worthy to win the prize.

"Stupid!" cried the king; "not to know you could have come to the great only by way of the small."

One declared that he had given half his property to the poor.

"And if I award the prize to you, what is your choice?" asked the king.

"May it please Your Majesty," he said eagerly, "it is my dearest wish to possess your noble castle."

"Which you well know is worth one hundred and ninety-nine times all you have given," said the king. "The prize is not yours."

And so it went on all day. King Kriskoss repented of having offered a prize for good deeds. He saw that they could not be called good deeds that are done for a prize.

Last of all came a little girl that lived with her mother at the foot of Rosebud lane. And as she stood before the throne, in her plain, clean frock, with her neat hair and honest blue eyes, the king felt sure that she had done better than all the rest but together.

"Well, little daughter," said he, "what good deeds can you claim?"

"May it please Your Majesty," she replied, "I had no time yesterday to do any good deeds."

"No time to do any good deed?" cried the king.

"But what did you do all day?"

"Why, my mother was very busy indeed, so I fed the chickens, and picked up chips, and swept the porch, laid the table, and played with the baby to keep him still."

"Good," said the king. "And didn't you wish to try for the prize?"

"O very much," said she. "There was something I wanted very much, but I had to give it up, for I was so busy. And I don't know how to do good deeds anyway."

"But I think you do," said the king, "and I am going to give you the prize. So, my little girl, what is it you want so much?"

At this she blushed and stammered, quite overcome by surprise. It was only because of her great desire that she managed to say, very softly: "May it please Your Majesty, I wanted a little wagon for baby to ride in."

UNCLE TOM'S DEPARTMENT.

MY DEAR NEPHEWS AND NIECES,—

I have not had a real chat with you since last year (just think!) and already it is February. How time flies! We shall have only become accustomed to putting 1899 at the top of our letters when we shall have to change again to 1900. How strange it will seem to begin with 19 instead of the familiar 18 we have used so long. How long? Next year will be the last year of this century—an era of wonderful progress in all branches of science; so wonderful, indeed, that one scarcely knows what to look for next, and the word "impossible" bids fair to become useless: everything seems to be possible.

One of the latest inventions of which I have heard is an electrical apparatus to communicate, either by telegraph or telephone, with moving trains, no matter at what speed they may be traveling. It also automatically warns the engineer of obstructions, open switches, or other dangers ahead. When we can sit in our own homes and converse with people hundreds of miles distant, exactly reproduce a song or conversation years after it has been sung or spoken, and even see through the human body, surely nothing is impossible. The recollection of these wonderful achievements should give us courage when we are ready to despair of overcoming trifling difficulties.

These inventions have not been the result of chance, but have been secured only at the cost of unlimited research, untiring energy, and unwavering perseverance. It is told of Edison that he used to become so absorbed in his work that he forgot everything else, and that on the morning of his wedding day he was busily engrossed in some experiment when a friend entered and said: "Say, Tom, I thought you were to be married to-day." With an exclamation of dismay, Edison arose and said: "By George! so I am! I had quite forgotten." It is right to take an occasional holiday (especially when such events as the above are on the tapis), but if you mean to reach the top in any undertaking you must concentrate all your best energies and apply them to that end; and I advise you never to aim at anything lower than the top. The very fact that "every arrow that flies feels the attraction of earth," instead of deterring us from a lofty aim, should add an incentive to it, lest the earthly attraction should draw us too low.

Many of my boys and girls have become men and women and are filling responsible positions—no position lacks responsibility—in different walks of life. To them I would say, do the very best of which you are capable, make your employers' interests your own, and further them by every honorable means in your power. He who tries to do as little as possible soon finds his services no longer required, while the faithful employee is indispensable and is happy in the consciousness of having done his duty. Young people going out into the world are in danger of being thrown into company of but indifferent reputation. As nothing more accurately portrays one's character than the choice of associates, be careful in the selection of such. Wealth or poverty cannot guide you here, for often "virtue peereth in the meanest habit." A fairly safe rule to follow is never to associate with anyone whom you would not bring as a friend to your mother or sisters. See to it that your own character is such as will admit you to the best society, and avoid whatever might debar you from it. To explain what I mean by "best society" I will quote from a modern writer: "The best society is that in which the virtues are the most shining, which is the most charitable, forgiving, long-suffering and modest . . . that in which there is the least hypocrisy and insincerity of all kinds, which recoils from and blasts artificiality, which is anxious to be all that it is possible to be, and which sternly reprobates all shallow pretense, all coxcombry and foppiness, and insists upon simplicity as the infallible characteristic of true worth."

Your loving—

UNCLE TOM.

Puzzles.

[The following prizes are offered every quarter, beginning with months of April, July and October: For answers to puzzles during each quarter—1st prize, \$1.50; 2nd, \$1.00; 3rd, 75c. For original puzzles—1st, \$1.00; 2nd, 75c; 3rd, 50c.]

This column is open to all who comply with the following rules: Puzzles must be original—that is, must not be copied from other papers; they must be written on one side only of paper, and sender's name signed to each puzzle; answers must accompany all original puzzles (preferably on separate paper). It is not necessary to write out puzzles to which you send answers—the number of puzzle and date of issue is sufficient. Partial answers will receive credit. Work intended for first issue of any month should reach Pakenham not later than the 15th of the month previous; that for second issue not later than the 15th of that month. Leave envelope open, mark "Printer's Copy" in one corner, and letter will come for one cent. Address all work to Miss Ada Armand, Pakenham, Ont.]

1—CANADIAN TOWNS IN CHA-RADE.

1. (a) expresses determination; (b) a pronoun; (c) saint; (d) a village.
2. (a) a tree; (b) to fire; (c) a kind of meat.
3. (a) a man of dress; (b) a boy's nickname; (c) not; (d) a verb.
4. (a) a consonant; (b) to count; (c) skill; (d) a preposition.
5. (a) total; (b) a pronoun; (c) a consonant; (d) party.
6. (a) a title; (b) a pronoun; (c) a pronoun; (d) used in making liquor.
7. (a) a vehicle; (b) a kind of sweet; (c) part of the head.
8. (a) a pronoun; (b) cunning; (c) a consonant; (d) to know; (e) to probe.

2—CHARADE.

My first is a body of water
On which many people do sail;
My second a vessel to carry
O'er my first in a blinding gale.

My whole is like a constructure
That is made for the water or gale;
'Tis kept for the use of the people
Who can go through the storm and sail.

UNA SHEPHERD.

3—

I am something complete. Behead me, I am an opening.
Behead me again and arrange my remains different, and I am a boy's name.

4—

Etl em otn ni fmolunru sbemur,
effi si ubt na yeptm mraide!
ofr eht olus si ddac atht submerl
nad ignhts rae ont tawh ehty mese.

ESTHER C.

5—DROP-LETTER.

Early explorers.

1. a-d-v-l-e. 5. -ol-m-w-
2. a-o- 6. C-r-e-e-l.
3. m-r-o-o-o. 7. a-t-e.
4. -e-r-z-u- 8. -h-m-l-i-.

"DICK."

6—BIRDS TRANSPOSED.

1. cealg. 4. brthsu.
2. jybteu. 5. braowln.
3. relvutu. 6. yraach.

ESTHER B.

7—DOUBLE ACROSTIC.

1, to charge; 2, sweet smell; 3, the Turkish council of state; 4, the first letter of the Greek alphabet; 5, the angular curve formed by the crossing of two arches; 6, a place of public contest; 7, temperate; 8, a Mohammedan pilgrim to Mecca; 9, nimble (curtailed); 10, the relation of one thing to another.
Initials—An island in the Eastern Hemisphere, especially noted for the export of spices.
Finals—The largest city on this island and its capital.

"DICKENS."

8—ANAGRAM.

"I can tan acher Ade!"

Her tooth ached; oh my! how it pained,
Yet in no way did she show it.
She quite handily the grim toothache feigned,
So that we hardly did know it.

Her name was Ada—nice and plain,

As a Total she was good;

I called her "Ade," a rude nickname,

But I hardly think that I should.

"DICKENS."

9—LIVING LETTERS.

What letter, when born in Holland, becomes a lady of high rank?
Why would the letters a, c, n, o, s, t, prove faithless lovers?

What letter, if named Samuel, would be unchangeable, but if named Thomas its many changing "characters" seem endless? When it has its hat on it is very disagreeable, being always at enmity, but with a cap on it is a most comfortable companion to have around.

When a drunkard takes a certain letter into partnership he is sure to be shot.

Another letter will make everyone appear exalted and lifted up when it is before them.

What letter makes men mean and puts a stop to their prayers if they happen to see it before them?

What letter, when suddenly addressed in an exclamatory tone, will change into a huge animal?

"OGMA."

10—HOURGLASS.

1. Hollow like a pipe.
2. A click.
3. To put in circulation.
4. A man's name.
5. A consonant.
6. Always.
7. The white of an egg.
8. To vie with.
9. Pertaining to the hand.
Diagonals—From left down, "one who deals in fruit;" from right down, "trick."

11—SYNCOPE.

1. Take a word meaning "pain" from "stranded" and leave "a piece of furniture."
2. Take a "catch" from a "spectator" and leave a "liquor."
3. Take "one and one-quarter yards" from a "roar" and leave "part of a ship."
4. Take a "planet" from "a plant" and leave "mire."
5. Take a "young woman" from "negligently" and leave "to confide in."
6. Take "past tense of a verb meaning to flow" from "notorious" and leave "skill."

12—WORD SUBTRACTIONS.

(Example—Take an animal from crying and leave to guess: weeping—pig=weon.)

1. Take a female from the remains of a burnt body and leave a preposition.
2. Take ourselves from defeats and leave to decay.
3. Take a portion from a separate office and leave infatuated.
4. Take the last of anything from despatching and leave to utter with melodious sounds.
5. Take repetition of words by memory from changing shape and leave a utensil.
6. Take a demon from hopped and leave instructed.
7. Take a bed for insects from uprightly and leave pious.
8. Take a slight coloring from a strict disciplinarian and leave a female horse.
9. Take a number from to advance and leave a barnyard fowl.
10. Take to destroy from a hand and leave one of the sex that begets young.
11. Take a cave from a sum and leave to join something to another.
12. Take Oriental from gay and leave a model.
13. Take a girl's name from babyhood and leave a preposition.
14. Take to make brown from the study of plants and leave a child.

(Primals of words subtracted spell "a prominent person of a society.")

13—SQUARE.

1. A fluid. 4. To blot out.
2. To venerate. 5. To lease again.
3. The whole. "OGMA."

14—OBLIQUE.

Diagram. Down and across the same.
x x x 1. A vowel.
x x x 2. Evening.
x x x x x 3. Shun.
x x x x x 4. Prepares.
x x x x x 5. Air.
x x x x x 6. Portable chair.
x x x x x 7. To untwist.
x x x x x 8. At no time.
x x x 9. Allow.
x 10. A consonant.
"OGMA."

SOLVERS TO JANUARY 2ND PUZZLES.

"Dick."

COUSINLY CHAT.

"Dickens."—Yes, your puzzles are good now. You will find several of them in this issue.

"Margaret."—A misunderstanding about the time for sending in work for the Christmas number was the cause of the non-appearance of our customary budget. I do hope your brothers will get you to work again. "Mai," I presume, will be quite too sedate to take part in anything so frivolous as our corner, but I hope not. Indeed, I think we should have two contributors now instead of one. What do you think, Mr. J.—I No, "Margaret," that was not printer's copy.

H. C. G.—Where are you this time? I expected another consignment of your clever originals. Yes, I'm the same circle as you, "Cassa," etc. I wonder where that wonderful packet is now. The absence of puzzles in the Christmas number has made an unpleasant break in our work, but now we are in running order again.

Not the Truth.

It is easy to say to men, "Be original;" but it is better to say to them, "Be true." There is no affection more disagreeable than a conscious effort at originality. It is better to say a true thing which needs to be said, even though a similar thing has been said before, than to seek to attract attention by a startling utterance which is not the truth.—Sel.