

Dear Puck and Beavers.—This is my second letter to "The Farmer's Advocate." As I saw my first one in print, I thought I would write again. My father still takes the paper. I go to S. S. No. 8, in the Township of Kingston. I have read a lot of books. On Saturday nights we play Blindman's Buff. We have six horses and one colt. We also have a lot of cows. We have five calves so far this year, and about forty-five hens. I live on a farm of three hundred and twenty-five acres. We are going to build a new barn this summer; papa is drawing the sand for it. We own a milk route, and my uncle runs it for us. I have to walk three miles to school. We go through the fields, and the snow is up to our knees. I will close now. GEORGINA BELL. Kingston, Ont.

Dear Puck and Beavers.—This is my first letter to your paper. I am always glad when "The Farmer's Advocate" comes, so I can read the story and letters. I like reading very much. My favorite books are the "Elsie Books." I have read three, and would be glad to get the rest. I have four brothers; no sisters. We all go to school, except the baby, who is one and a half years of age. Our teacher's name is Miss Housien. She is a nice teacher, and we all like her. I live on a farm near Orton, which is my post office, but we do not have to go to the post office, because we have the R. R. No. 1.

I would like if someone of my age will write to me; I will write back. Writing the Circle every success, I will close, or this letter will be going into the w.p. b. ELSIE M. JESSOP. (Age 10, Class III.) Orton, Ont., R. R. No. 1.

Dear Beaver Circle.—It is quite a long time since I have written to your Circle, but enjoy reading the letters very much. I go to school every day, and have a mile and a half to walk. Our teacher's name is Miss Fern Graham.

For pets I have a dog named Benny; a cat called Tiger, and a dear old horse called Net. She is twenty-seven years old, and I can drive her any place. Hoping to see this letter in print, I will close with a riddle.

What has its heart in its head? Ans.—Cabbage.

FLORENCE GRAHAM. (Age 11, Class III.)

R. R. No. 3, Glencoe, Ont.

Dear Puck and Beavers.—I enjoy reading the Beaver Circle very much. This is my first letter to "The Farmer's Advocate." I go to school nearly every day, and am in the Senior Second Reader. We all like our teacher very much. I have two brothers and three sisters. For pets, I have a little colt; his name is Joe. He is an iron-gray color. He has a white face with a brown spot on it. I am going to get his picture taken and send it to you. My father has a one-hundred-acre farm, and the Wabash Railway runs through it. I will close, hoping some of the Beavers will write to me.

WILLIE E. GATES. Glencoe, Ont., R. R. No. 3.

### Book Reviews.

A GARDEN BOOK.—Good, and cheap. Every farm should possess a good garden book, but many who would otherwise be glad to buy such books, are deterred by the high price, sometimes by the bulkiness of the ordinary gardening books on the bookstore shelves. A book that is at once terse, useful, and cheap, is "The Suburban Garden Guide," by Parker Thayer Barnes. (The Macmillan Company of Canada, Ltd., Toronto; price, 50 cents.) In it may be found information in regard to cultivation and best varieties of both vegetables and flowers, methods of eradicating insect pests, and the use of fertilizers. A prominent feature of the book is a comprehensive planting table, and it concludes with easily-understood tables for spraying and pruning.

A CONVENIENT COOK-BOOK.—Another book published by the same com-

pany, at the same price, which will be appreciated both by the housewife and her family, is, "Things Mother Used to Make," by Lydia Maria Gurney, which packs within 110 pages a collection of tried recipes covering everything, from bannocks to piccalilli, including a number of handy hints in regard to all departments of housework. . . In short, after examining these two books, we feel that a dollar could not be spent better than in buying them.

### The Ivory Snuff Box.

By Arnold Fredericks.

(Copyrighted.)

Chapter III.

THE SEALED LIPS.

When Richard Duvall and his companion entered the house of the French ambassador in London, it was evident that their arrival was expected.

The detective had no more than given his name to the butler who threw open the door, when the latter, with a bow of recognition, conducted them to a small reception-room to the right of the entrance, and informed them that M. de Grissac would see them at once.

They did not have long to wait. The ambassador, a thin, spare, nervous-looking man of sixty, with white hair and a gray-white mustache, came hurriedly into the room after but a few moments had elapsed, and greeting them excitedly, bade them be seated. He himself remained standing, his back to the fireplace, twirling his eyeglasses at the end of their black-silk ribbon, and observing his visitors keenly.

"M. Lefevre had informed me of your coming, gentlemen," he presently burst out. "We have no time to lose."

"Let us have the details of the affair, monsieur," Duvall remarked, seating himself comfortably in his chair. "So far we are completely in the dark."

"You know, do you not, that a valuable article, a small snuff-box, to be exact, has been stolen from me?"

"Yes. Of that I have been informed," the detective remarked dryly. "I am curious to learn why the loss of an article of so trivial a nature should be regarded with such seriousness."

The ambassador's eyes snapped; he seemed almost to resent the detective's attitude.

"It should be sufficient, monsieur, I think, that it is so regarded. The task before us is to recover it; not discuss the reasons for doing so."

"I disagree with you, monsieur. If the real value of the stolen article is kept from me, how can I draw my conclusions as to the probable object of its theft? Was it intrinsically valuable? Did it contain anything of value? In short, why should any one have taken the trouble to steal it? Tell me that, and I can act intelligently. Otherwise I shall be only groping about in the dark."

"I do not think so, monsieur." The ambassador bent upon Duvall a searching glance.

"The fact that the box is gone should be sufficient. All that I ask is that you recover it. You must trace its disappearance from the material facts of the case. Conjecture will avail us nothing."

"Is the box then of no value?"

"I have not said so. As a matter of fact its value is great. It has been an heirloom in my family for many years. At one time it belonged to Cardinal Mazarin."

"You think, then, that its intrinsic value alone might have promoted the theft?"

"I do think so indeed, I very greatly hope so."

"Why?"

The ambassador recovered himself with a start. Evidently he had said more than he intended. It was some time before he answered the question, and then he did so lamely.

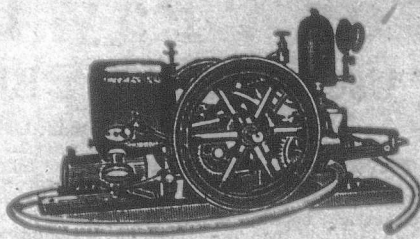
"Its theft by some one interested in its value as a curiosity would enable me to recover it most readily; by the payment, of course, of a sum of money."

"True. But I assume, from what you say, that there might be other reasons; that it might have been taken by those who suspected that it had it another value?"

For a moment M. de Grissac appeared confused. Then he waved his hand impatiently.

"There are those," he said, "who seek

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A. C. HALLMAN, Breslau, Ont.

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