

### Ancle Tom's Department.

MY DEAR NEPHEWS AND NIECES,—This is a bit of advice which my old school-master gave to the scholars at school. It came back to me all at once the other day as I was watching a plump little darkey eating a sour apple and making a very wry face—a “sardonic” grin. The old master said:—Whenever you come across a word you do not thoroughly understand, do not rest until you have found out all about it. There is “sardonic” for instance. As applied to a grin it means one that a man makes if he is forced to laugh when he doesn't want to, or tries to smile when he is ready to cry out with pain. Now, in the island called Sardinia there used to grow a plant with a very disagreeable taste, and whenever a piece of it was put into anybody's mouth it made his face pucker up into a broad, unwilling smile—made him “laugh on the wrong side of his mouth” as I've heard boys say. Well, in course of time the name of the island was given to the plant, and then with a slight change it was used to describe the wry face the taster made. So you see, my dears, some words are like puzzles. Maybe you have heard all about this before, and in reading this may give a “sardonic” smile at your old Uncle Tom's version of it.

UNCLE TOM.

### Office Receipts.

We are in receipt of one of Mrs. Frances Hodgkin Burnett's famous novels called “That Lass O' Lowrie,” published by Scribner & Sons. It is needless to say the authoress has taken her place as one of the best novelists of our time. Her stories can be profitably read by all classes of people. They are told not only with true art but deep pathos.

### Answers to Enquiries.

GERTIE H. — We do not give prizes for answering puzzles unless specially mentioned. We merely publish the name of the one who answers the most puzzles each month.

### PUZZLES.

#### 95.—COMPLETE DIAMOND.

The centrals of the diamond are each the same word, of five letters, spelling the name of a Frenchman who became notorious during the great French Revolution. The remainder of the diamond is made of words formed from the letters of his name. The diamond encloses a hollow-square, either of whose perpendiculars or horizontals, read backward or forward, will spell a word; and, reading from the middle letter to either end of either of the centrals, a word will be spelled, which, when read backward, will spell another word. Make the diamond.

TREBONIUS.

#### 96.—EASY AMPUTATED QUOTATION

Two lines from Tennyson. Each word is beheaded and curtailed.

—RU— —EART— —R— —OR— —HA—  
—ORNET—  
—N— —IMPL— —AIT— —HA— —ORMA—  
—LOO— C. L. D.

#### 97.—EASY CROSS-WORD PUZZLE.

My first is in bee, but not in fly;  
My second in moon, but not in sky;  
My third is in scare, but not in fright;  
My fourth is in top, and also in kite;  
My fifth is in broad, but not in wide;  
My sixth is in ocean, but not in tide;  
My whole is all New England's pride.

H. A. S.

#### 98.—EASY SQUARE-WORDS.

I. 1. A band of singers. 2. A wandering troop of barbarians. 3. A plant with sweet-smelling root. 4. A simpleton. 5. Is quiet.  
II. 1. A spelled number. 2. A lazy person.

3. A dazzling light. 4. A marsh bird. 5. A river of England.

III. 1. Profundity. 2. To try. 3. A sacred song. 4. A claw. 5. Poems.

IV. 1. A noise that no animal but man can make. 2. The name of a letter of the Greek alphabet. 3. Part of a shoe. 4. A town of Belgium. 5. Deer. A. + B.

#### 99.—GEOGRAPHICAL ENIGMA.

I am composed of 20 letters:

My 10, 17, 1, 7 is a river of Asia.  
My 17, 15, 4, 9, 12 is a city of Ohio.  
My 2, 12, 4, 15, 18, 9 is a lake of N. A.  
My 11, 4, 13, 16, 18, 7, 12 is a peninsula of Europe.

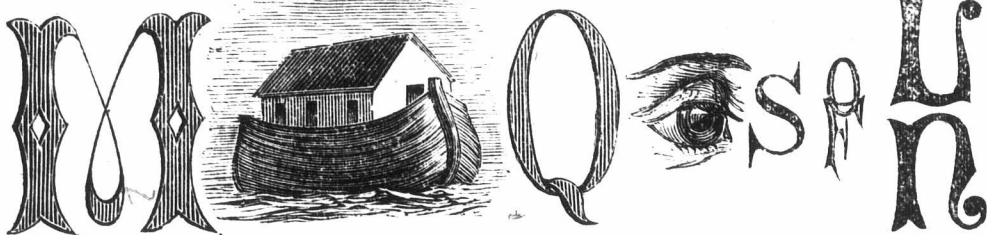
My 9, 3, 18, 12, 2, 6, 9 is a river of S. A.  
My 4, 2, 14, 9, 12, 4, 2 is a city of Canada.  
My 7, 3, 4, 18, 6 is an ocean.  
My 12, 2, 14, 4, 20 is a sea on the coast of Europe.

My 15, 4, 2, 13, 16, 18, 7 is a town of Ohio.  
My 4, 13, 4, 3, 15 is a mountain of Europe.  
My 13, 8, 18, 6, 15 is a bay of S. A.  
My 6, 20, 18, 10, 18 is a country of S. A.  
My 6, 13, 3, 8, 2, 16, 10 is a county of Illinois.  
My 12, 18, 10, 17 is a river of Africa.  
My whole is a State and its capital.

ROSA A. FROST.

#### 100.—ENIGMA.

Upon the fish's back I ride,  
Deep in the blue Atlantic wide;  
My form is round, and is as bright  
As burnished silver to the sight.  
Beside the bales of merchandise  
I'm found of varied form and size;  
In fact, in all the ways of trade  
Men very often need my aid.  
In music, too, a place I claim,  
And all musicians know my name.  
Now, as you strive the word to tell,  
I will inscribe the word “farewell.”



#### 101.—ILLUSTRATED REBUS.

#### 102.—DROP-LETTER PUZZLE.

Wh - r - r - n - w - t - h - p - s I v - ch - r - sh - d. Fill the blanks with vowels, and find a song from the Opera of Norma.

#### 103.—GEOGRAPHICAL ENIGMA.

I am composed of 31 letters:

My 17, 9, 24, 14 is a river in England.  
My 20, 13, 26, 7, 15, 11 is a large town in France.  
My 6, 12, 25, 10, 31, 3, 19, 1, 28 is a cape on the west coast of Europe.  
My 16, 18, 20, 21 is one of the United States.  
My 22, 20, 14, 27, 3, 13 is a river that empties into the Georgian Bay.  
My 5, 23, 15, 3, 30, 2 is a county in Ontario.  
My 4, 25, 14, 20, 26, 11, 8 is a mountain peak in Asia.  
My whole is a proverb that is very often verified.

P. N. B.

#### 104.—RIDDLE.

There is in, on, and round this earth  
A Power clothed with light,  
A wonder-working, airy thing,  
Yet neither fiend nor sprite.

Man feared, then chained, this dreadful Power  
By force of stronger law;  
Oft dazzled by its raiment bright,  
Its self man never saw.

Now, tamed and harnessed, it is sent  
On errands night and day;  
It tells ten thousand messages,  
Yet not a word can say.

It travels through the ocean's deep,  
Green valleys still and dim;

'Tis fleetier than the fleetest fish—  
And yet it cannot swim!

It pierces through the soundless seas,  
And slips beneath the sky;  
But though it passes through the air,  
It has no wings to fly.

And while it cannot walk, nor talk,  
Nor eat, nor drink, nor sleep,  
There's scarce a thing in all the world  
Has made more people weep.

Than any herald on this earth  
It has a fleetier fame.  
Now, just put on your thinking-cap  
And tell me what's its name.

### Answers to October Puzzles.

No. 96.—  
TIGER CLOVE UNDA  
GEM IVEY AIM  
R E A M

#### 87.—DOUBLE WORD-SQUARE.

Across:—1. Gone. 2. Aver. 3. Leer. 4. Ends. Down:—1. Gale. 2. Oven. 3. Need. 4. Errs.

88.—Bridle.  
89.—1. F-ool. 2. S-pear. 3. F-eel. 4. S-ledge. 5. S-tag.  
6. B-one. 7. G-oat. 8. B-raw. 9. G-alley.  
90.—1. Subtle, Bustle. 2. Shah, Hash. 3. Shearer, Hearers.  
4. Sharper, Harper. 5. Resorted, Restored.  
91.—1. B-eat. 2. C-andy. 3. S-he, Y-our. 4. T-able. 5. P-ink. 6. S-cent. 7. B-rain. 8. O-range. 9. S-kate. 10. H-elm. 11. C-row. 12. H-ash. 13. B-owl. 14. S-care. 15. B-rush.

92.—Diamond.  
93.—1. Brass, bass. 2. Bread, bead. 3. Chart, cart. 4. Clover, cover. 5. Crane, cane. 6. Farce, face. 7. Horse, hose. 8-9. Mouse, muse. 10. Peony, pony.  
94.—Provincial Exhibition in Toronto.

95.—“But, O! for the touch of a vanished hand,  
And the sound of a voice that is still.”  
Tennyson's “Break, break, break.”

### Names of Those Who Sent Correct Answers to Oct. Puzzles.

Robt. Bowes, Sarah Miller, Harry P. Smith, Maggie Manning, Miss Carlisle, Joseph Hepworth, Charles Wright, Dan H. Burritt, Annie and Ella Walker, Mrs. Whitesides, John H. Stephenson, Jas. Bennet, Susannah Richardson, D. A. Ghent, J. H. C., Amelia G. Palmer, L. F. Hardy, George Woodhouse, M. J. Davis, John J. Shier, Catherine E. Guest, Jeannie Laird, Lillian M. Osborne, Henry Cowie, R. Rennie, William Wood, W. Dale, C. W. Warren, J. Sanely, James L. Brown, Ellie Beatty, E. L. Moln, Amos Fowkins, Geo. Kerpost, H. J. Fry, Edie Armstrong, R. French, John Scott, Minnie Hyde, Mary Johnston, S. Sutherland, George West, M. Sanburn, Mathew Doyle, Alice Dunn, C. B. Carr, Sarah Duffield, J. R. Fraser, Mrs. Alonzo Fick, Amanda Norris, C. T. Duke.

We take pleasure in announcing that Amanda Norris is victorious, having answered the greatest number of puzzles correctly.

### The Snow-bird.

BY DORA READ GOODALE.

When the leaves are shed,  
And the branches bare,  
When the snows are deep,  
And the flowers asleep,  
And the Autumn dead,  
And the skies are o'er us bent  
Gray and gloomy, since she went,  
And the sifting snow is drifting  
Through the air;

Then, 'mid snow-drifts white,  
Though the trees are bare,  
Comes the snow-bird, bold  
In the Winter's cold;  
Quick, and round, and bright,  
Light he steps across the snow,  
Cares he not for winds that blow,  
Though the sifting snow be drifting  
Through the air.

Scribner for November.

Some men mourn that they have made and broken so many resolutions. It is sad that you have broken them, but thank Heaven that you made them.