

## Uncle Tom's Department.

MY DEAR NEPHEWS AND NIECES,—Among my various friendly letters to you, I do not remember having attempted to impress upon you the danger which you are in of acquiring and nourishing prejudices or views of a narrow-minded or ungenerous character. Young persons who remain in a state of comparative ignorance from want of proper mental education, are usually filled with the most absurd notions. One of the first prejudices which children acquire is one of self-love. It is the notion that they are the best, the cleverest, the most knowing, and, if chastised for misconduct, the worst-used, of all boys and girls. His next prejudice is that the place where he was born and dwells is superior in excellence to all other places in the country. Another great leading prejudice is that the country to which he belongs is the greatest and most-to-be-lauded country in the whole world; he believes there is no country like it; that it could fight and beat any two nations on the globe; that the people of other countries are a poor, shabby, ignorant race, not nearly so strong or so wise as the people of his country, and only fit to be despised. Now, my dear young friends, all this is the result of sheer narrow-mindedness and want of knowledge. If those who think so foolishly would reflect a little, or read a little, or know a little, more of mankind, they would perceive that such notions are both weak and absurd. They would know that there are boys and girls far cleverer and much worse used than themselves; they would know that the place of their birth or residence is not only no better than hundreds of other places, but perhaps very much inferior in many points.

It is my wish that you should habituate yourself to the practice of suspending your opinions of any body, of any class, or of the people of any country, till you have read a good deal, gained experience of the world, or have had just cause for forming a mature judgment. By reading the works of travellers and historians, and comparing the facts detailed one with another, you will, I have no doubt, purify your minds from many such prejudices as I have here exemplified. Without reading, you will remain in a hopeless state of ignorance. Before closing, I want to remind you that next month's puzzles will be the last counted in this year's work, so I hope you will send some really good ones for Xmas.

UNCLE TOM.

## Puzzles.

## [1.—SYNCOPEATIONS.

A relation = An insect.  
A giver = An entrance.  
Reality = Plump.  
A large spoon = To load.  
A weapon = To fight.  
Small measures = Small, useful articles.  
To bend = To impede.  
A coin = A stamp.  
In these syncopeations you may detect  
The name of one we love and respect.

ADA ARMAND.

## 2.—NUMERICAL ENIGMA.

My 4, 5, 11, 18, is a wharf.  
My 9, 3, 2, 6, 12, means weak.

My 10, 8, 11, 17, means to ascend.  
My 4, 16, 2, 13, 12, is a kind of bird.  
My whole is a statesman. HENRY REEVE.

## 3.—ENIGMA.

My 1st is in sabre, but not in gun.  
My 2nd is in three, but not in one.  
My 3rd is in language, but not in speech.  
My 4th is in orange, but not in peach.  
My 5th is in king, but not in queen.  
My 6th is in scarlet, but not in green.  
My 7th is in document, but not in check.  
My 8th is in mouth, but not in neck.  
My 9th is in canter, but not in trot.  
My 10th is in blemish, but not in blot.  
My 11th in harrow, but not in plow.  
My whole is a vain, boasting fellow.

FAIR BROTHER.

## 4.—RIDDLE.

A word of five letters, take four away and leave five.  
ALICE M. HUME.

## 5.—DIAMOND.

A consonant, a deer, a bird, prospers, a famous outlaw, elders, reading matter, an enemy, a consonant. EDMUND PEPPER.

## 6.—ILLUSTRATED REBUS.



## 7.—DIAMOND.

A consonant, an animal, a boy's name, a leader in the N. W. rebellion, a color, a vehicle, a consonant. MARY BLACK.

## 8.—TRANSPOSITION.

I l h o d t i e r u t e a w t h e r' f e l b a  
I l e f e t i h w n e I r o s s o w o s m t  
I s t t e r t e b o t v a h e o e l d v n a d s o l t,  
A h t n r e n e v o t v e a h e v l o d t a l a l.

MAGGIE F. ELLIOTT.

## 9.—DROP-VOWEL PUZZLE.

T h - b - s t m - d - c - n -  
J - y - n d t - m p - r - n c - - n d r - p - s -  
S l - m t h - d - - r - n t h - d - c t - r s n - s -

HARRY WOODWORTH.

## 10.—DOUBLE ACROSTIC.

A shell fish, a painter, a well known bird, a snare, a small river in Europe, greenness, an open surface. HARRY A. WOODWORTH.

## 11.—WHAT I KEEP IN MY AVIARY.

A heavenly body and a kind of fish.  
Equality and decay; near, a metal, and a storm.  
To punish, mean, and inclination.  
To fight, and a quarrel.  
A girl's nickname, and a kind of pastry.

ADA ARMAND.

## Answers to October Puzzles.

- 1.—The fool who loves the law too well,  
Will lose the nut and gain the shell.
- 2.—An honest yeomanry is our country's pride,  
When once destroyed can never be supplied.
- 3.—William the Conqueror.

4.— Home—hoe—M.  
Hoist—host—I.  
Halt—hat—L.  
Peter—peer—T.  
Cance—cane—O.  
Many—may—N.

5.—How long we live not years, but actions tell,  
That man lives twice who lives the first  
life well.

6.—London, Toronto, Chatham, Quebec,  
Kingston.

7.—

A  
A M Y  
S P E A R  
M E R I C A  
W H I T E  
A C T  
A

8.—This life is not so bad a life  
As some would choose to make it;  
But if you are pressed by care and strife,  
Just firmly stand and take it.

9.—New-s-paper.

10.— P A N  
A C R E  
I R I S  
N E S T

11.—By ignorance is pride increased;  
They most assume who know the least.

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

E. W. Hutcheson, Chas. H. Foster, Wm. Webster, Jane L. Martin, Mary Morrison, Wm. A. Laidman, Edmund Pepper, Tillie Hodgins, Wm. Jackson, Georgia Smith, Alice Mackie, Lottie A. Boss, Mary Black, Robt. Kerr, Thos. J. Lindsay, Robt. J. Risk, Alice M. Hume, Will Thirlwall, Ellen D. Tupper, Frank L. Milner, Henry Reeve, Joseph Allen, Ada Armand, Robt. Wilson, I. J. Steele, Emma Dennee, Edward A. Fairbrother, Becca Lowry, Henry Willson, J. E. Bennet, Chas. Simpson, Agnes Leslie, Minnie Smith, G. C. Gordon, Sherman Fortner, Henry Willson.

Spurgeon tells an amusing story of the old lady who started up when her grandson was about to take her umbrella, exclaiming,—

"No, you don't! I've had that umbrella for about twenty-three years, and it's never been wet yet; and you aint going to begin!"

There is a church in Michigan which has been struck by lightning a dozen times, and now, when the preacher shows signs of getting long-winded and passing from his seventhly to an eighthly, the organist slyly imitates the sound of approaching thunder on the pedals. The way that the preacher dives into the conclusion, says the *Independent*, and rushes through it and starts the Doxology, is a caution.

Perseverance.—If you wish to do good, do good; if you wish to assist people, assist people. The only way to learn to do a thing is to do it; and that implies, before you learn to do wrong—you will make blunders, you will have failures; but persevere, and in the end you will learn your lessons, and many other lessons by the way.