

## Nucle Tom's Department.

My DEAR NIECES AND NEPHEWS,—It is beginning to feel something like spring. However, we must not be too certain, for the cold April winds will certainly roar about our windows yet, but they are only the notes of preparation for the joyous spring time, and soon the sweet twitterings of our birds will replace the rude whistling winds, and the snowdrops and violets will spring up to gladden our hearts. I can fancy the delighted faces of some of our nephews and nieces with the thoughts of their sugar and taffy making. You perhaps have already made some, or are now busy preparing for it, getting the buckets scalded, the spouts scoured, and wood ready, while others will be preparing for gardening and cleaning away all rubbish which has accumulated during the winter. We hope all our young readers will cultivate the taste for flowers and gardening; it improves the mind, and is a healthy exercise.

Almost every one who lives in the country can have a small piece of land. Of course dwellers in cities can not always have a garden, not even in their back yard, but are obliged to be contented with house plants. The culture of flowers opens the heart and lets in kindness, which is one reason we want you to have a garden. You will have beautiful flowers to enjoy, so that you may wish others to have them too. Sow the little seeds in the earth after the cold rains are over, covering them very slightly.

Some seeds will break the ground in four days, others will not sprout for a fortnight after they are sown. You will perhaps go and see if they are up many times before you see them, and might possibly be tempted to dig where they were sown to find out what the matter is. But do not do any such thing. This is another reason for having a garden, it teaches us patience. Wait, for you have committed the seeds to the care of mother earth, and she will not be hurried. So let us have gardens; the flowers will please the senses of all, and to the more thoughtful they will bring lessons of kindness, patience, faith and love.

UNCLE TOM.

## PUZZLES.

## 38—RIDDLE.

O! who can wonder at the sadness of my eyes,  
Or who can wonder at my mournful, piteous cries;  
For chains are ever most familiar things to me,  
And, tho' to letters given, I'm made to swim the sea.

## 39—NUMERICAL ENIGMA.

The 1, 26, and 24 is sport or merriment.  
The 3, 16, 25 and 8 is a beautiful flower.  
The 10, 6, 13 and 30 is a young wild animal.  
The 15, 23, 27 and 33 is a fragrant flower.  
The 18, 2 and 7 is a small cake.  
The 20, 29, 17 and 32 is a trick or artifice.  
The 24, 19, 12 and 21 is a gift or favor.  
The 28, 9, 4 and 11 is a large public room.  
The 31, 22, 14 and 5 is the stalk of a plant.

J. E. C.

## 40—EASY SQUARE WORD.

1. An aquatic bird.
2. In contact with an upper surface.
3. A series of laws.
4. One of the timbers used in building a ship.

## 41.—CHARADES.

## I.

My whole is part of my first, and  
My second is the same;  
Now try, and don't be very long  
In telling me its name.

## II.

Without my first I could not live,  
Much less by my second;  
But should I ever be my whole,  
A fool I should be reckon'd.

## III.

My first is all jockeys try to do  
When riding in a race;  
But, if they cannot do this, still  
They strive to gain a place.

My second is made of tin,  
For holding oils prefer'd;  
And hundreds of them would not weigh  
The one half of my third.

My whole a thriving market town,  
In Somerset is found;  
The main part of it being built  
On elevated ground.

## IV.

A beast of burden is my first,  
Of very stubborn will;  
My second many people do,  
And then they take a pill.

My third a busy insect see,  
For industry far fam'd;  
And for a lazy man she once  
A pattern was proclaim'd.

Nor, if a man should strike at me,  
And try to crack my poll,  
And you were near and witness'd it,  
You must then see my whole. W. H. P.

## 42—LOGOGRIPH.

A place of great mortality  
My whole will bring to mind;  
Behold me, and delirious  
I am sure you will me find;  
Again behold, and I become  
Part of a prayer, you see;  
Behold and curtail me again,  
A numeral I shall be.

D.

## 43—ENIGMA.

The sweetest, the dearest, the best;  
The nearest to angels on earth;  
No verse I could rhyme, no song I could sing,  
Would describe all my value and worth.  
In beauty, in virtue, in love,  
In honor, and truth, I've no fear;  
Search the air, or the earth, or the wave,  
You never will find my compeer.  
So loyal in sickness or health,  
So gentle in sorrow or pain,  
So tender, devoted and pure.  
But reverse this fair picture again;  
So deceitful, so artful, so bad;  
Cold, and false, as a wave of the sea;  
To be won by a gem, to be purchased by gold;  
The earth holds no sinner like me.  
I often caress where I hate;  
I am black, yet pretend to be fair;  
I drive men to horror, to death,  
To murder, to madness, despair!  
I incite to the bravest of deeds;  
I bewilder, cajole, and beguile;  
I freeze by the wrath of my frown;  
I repay by the warmth of my smile.  
Man claims the dominion of earth;  
And loftily calls himself free;  
He is bound by a thread, by a chain;  
He is vanquished, the victor is me!

M.

## 44—SQUARE DOUBLE ACROSTIC.

My first commands a mighty force,  
His country to defend;  
And he that would my second do,  
Can never prove a friend.  
I hope we ne'er be term'd my third,  
So negligent and slow;  
Nor even be impeached with fourth;  
A word so base and low.  
As long as we have got a fifth  
Of victuals laid in store,  
We scorn to think a dearth would then  
Come to our cottage door.  
My sixth will give a female name,  
Also a man that's brave;  
Why, then, are we so prone to seventh,  
Since none are bound a slave?  
See yonder fabric how it stands  
Stretch'd across the foaming deep;  
And all upon the eight depends,  
To hold that work complete.  
These parts before you now so plain,  
Pray scan them o'er with care,  
You'll find two ways they'll read the same,  
When formed into a square. J. A. I.

"Whatever made you marry that old woman?"  
said a mother to her son. "Because you always  
told me to pick a wife like my mother," was the  
dutiful reply.

## Answers to March Puzzles.

28—1 K'nigh. 2 Wait. 3 Turn. 5 Prised. 6 Peel.  
7 C'log. 8 D'ice. 9 D'ash. 10 S'nail. 11 S'nov. 12  
Prussia.

29—  
P O R C H  
O P E R A  
R E B U S  
C R U S T  
H A S T E

30—1 Wolf, ram. 2 Now, here.

31—1 Thomas Lord Macaulay's "Lays of Ancient Rome."  
2 Sir Walter Scott, Bart.'s "Lay of the Last Minstrel." 3  
George Lord Byron's "English Bards and Scotch Reviewers."  
4 Alfred Tennyson (Post Laureate's) "Idylls of the King." 5  
Robert Burns' "The Cottar's Saturday Night." 6 James  
Montgomery's, "A Voyage Round the World."

32—Wolf, fowl. Lobster, bolster. Ape, pea. Sole, shoe.  
Rat, tar. Leek, keel. Palm, lamp. Canoe, ocean.

33—Keep no more cats than will catch rats.

34—  
L a s H  
O p e r A  
F a u l t  
E y r e

35—  
E  
E A R  
H O R S E  
P A R D L E Y  
P H I L O N  
E E L  
Y

36—  
C u P i D  
H a n A p e R  
R a n N U  
I n T e R  
S O Y  
T r a M m e L  
M a n I l l A  
A f f i r M a t i o N  
S E

37—Intemperance.

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

H B Howell, Eliza Douglas, Herbert Kitchen, G R Anderson,  
Minnie Hyde, Jas Miller, Fanny Sawyer, Joseph Wil-  
liams, Susan Jones, Amelia Mann, George Chambers, Henry  
Frankfort, John Ferguson, Jessie Curry, Mary E Cameron,  
Theodora Summers, James Turnbolt, Evans Darnell, Emily  
Cunningham, Ellen Roundy, Charles B. Jane Taylor, Emily  
Anderson, A J Willard, Edwin West, Thos Saunders, Henry  
Marling, George McKay, Sarah J Dutton, Noah Bayley, J K  
Kerby, Jennie Bradley, Alex McMullen, Maud Kinnon,  
Niven Cox, Agnus Harris, Henry Marling, Jane E Freshman,  
Eva Sinclair, Joseph Skinner.

Honorable mention is made of Minnie Hyde having  
answered the greatest number of puzzles correctly.

## HUMOROUS.

When General V. was quartered in a small town  
in Ireland, he and his lady were regularly besieged  
as they got into their carriage by an old beggar  
woman, who kept her post at the door, assailing  
them daily with fresh importunities. One morning,  
as Mrs. V. stepped into the carriage, the woman  
began, "Oh, my lady! success to your ladyship,  
and success to your honor's honor; for sure I did  
dream last night that her ladyship gave me a  
pound of tea, and your honor gave me a pound of  
tobacco." "My good woman," said the general,  
"dreams go by the rule of contrary." "Do they  
so?" rejoined the old woman; "then it must mean  
that your honor will give me the tea, and her  
ladyship the tobacco."

A SLIP OF THE TONGUE.—"Martha, my dear,  
said a loving husband to his spouse, who was  
several years his junior, "what do you say to mov-  
ing to the far West?" "Oh, I am delighted with  
the idea! You recollect when Mr. Morgan moved  
out there, he was as poor as we are; and he died  
in three years, leaving his widow worth a hundred  
thousand dollars."

A nigger servant sweeping out a bachelor's  
room, found a sixpence on the carpet, which he  
carried to his master. "You may keep it for your  
honesty," said he. A short time after he missed  
his pencil-case, and inquired of his servant if he  
had seen it. "Ees massa." "And what did you  
do with it?" "Keep it for 'im honesty, massa!"  
replied Sambo, exhibiting his ivory. His master  
exploded.

The other day, in Western New York, a would-  
be fashionable lady called at a neighbor's at what  
she thought would be supper-time. "Come in,"  
said the neighbor; "we are having tableaux."  
"I'm so glad," said the visitor; "I thought I  
smelt 'em, and I like 'em better than anything for  
supper."

An old lady on the deck of a steamboat observed  
two men pumping up water to wash the deck; and  
the captain being close by, she accosted him as  
follows: "Well, captain, got a well aboard, eh?"  
"Yes, ma'am, always carry one," said the polite  
captain. "Well, that's clever. I always dislike  
this nasty river water, especially in dog days."