

Uncle Tom's Department.

Millbank, January 12th, 1875.
My Dear Uncle,—To-night I received the papers and the picture inside of them, and last week the chromos, for which I shall forever be grateful. You cannot tell how delighted my little brother was when he saw them. He danced around the house like a little mad man. His name is Sammy. He says that if you are my uncle you must be his also. He is only four years old, but I shall soon take him to school with me.

The other day I caught a nice little owl on the fence and brought it home. I thought a great deal of it until Saturday night, when it got out of its cage and killed two pet canaries which father got in Buffalo and paid \$4.00 for them. I did not think so much of the owl after that, but I put it down in the cellar and it died last night. But I am beginning to ramble a little, as no doubt you will think. You will please send two more of the January numbers of the *Advocate*, as I have got two more subscribers. We publish a paper in school now, but it is not in print. Every week one of the scholars has to be editor; the rest send in scraps and he or she reads it out on Friday afternoon. They have appointed me to be editor this week. We call the paper *Hash*, being composed of many scraps. WILLIE A. RUTHERFORD.

Seal Fishing.

Among the Esquimaux, and those inhabitants of the northern countries, seal fishing forms one of their chief occupations. At certain seasons of the year the seals flock in immense numbers on the shores of the ocean, where the waters are very shallow, and by a little strategy, on the part of the inhabitants in search of them, quite a number are sometimes captured. The engraving we have procured for our young readers this month, shows some of the means adopted to secure them. This is the Esquimaux "harvest," as the seal furnishes both food and clothing, and they endeavor, during those visits of the seals to the shores, to lay in sufficient provisions to keep them during the inclement winter of the northern climes. Many of the inhabitants of Newfoundland and the Maritime Provinces are engaged in seal fishing, and frequently make expeditions to the coasts of Labrador, returning well laden with their booty, and sometimes accumulate fortunes very fast. Lately this has become quite an industry, and is attracting much attention.

Puzzles.

No. 8.—HIDDEN RIVERS.
Some brothers do not agree.
Can men get myrrh in Egypt.
WILLIE PICKLE.

No. 9.—HIDDEN CITIES.
My first is in kitten but not in cat;
My second is in Willey but not in Pat;
My third is in eye but not in sight;
My last is in river but not in light;
My whole is a town in Europe.
E. L. BOWMAN.

No. 10.—In Lancashire there is a town
Whose natives think of some renown.
Curtail me twice, and then you'll find
An instrument as swift the wind.
Transform me now and you will trace
To mark, to stain, or to disgrace.
Behold me now, and I will be
A man of very high degree.
Curtail me now and you will see
An interjection you've made me.
When of another tail bereft
You will find that there is fifty left.
FRANCIS E. LAWSON.

No. 11.—HIDDEN COUNTRIES.
No. 1.—When you see an ape rush to the door.
No. 2.—Two pipes make a tun I see.
No. 3.—Jane is as big a rascal as Kate.
No. 4.—My burnt fingers pain me greatly.
W. A. RUTHERFORD.

No. 12.—SQUARE WORDS.

1.—Something used in a railway carriage; a song; a money of account of the United States; a mantle of state.
2.—Trespasses; one's imagination; close to; one of the channel islands.
3.—Made by birds; a woman's name; to shut with violence; docile.

No. 13.—PUZZLE.

No book is without me of that I am sure,
A person I am often seen at the door;
Its certainly funny, but still it is true,
There never was one without there was two;—
And two is a portion of every tree;
You'll find it correct when the answer you see.

Answers to December puzzles:—283, Liquorice; 284, Bellows; 285, Violet; 286, Jack and Jill went up the hill, to get a pail of water; Jack fell down and broke his crown, and Jill came tumbling after. 287, Red; 288, Black; 289, Pink; 290, Green; 291, Blue; 292, Ingrate, granite; 293, throne, Hornet; 294, Short, shorter; 295 Level.

We have received answers to Dec. No. from the following: Chas. McKenzie, Monckton; Henry M. Zinn, E. L. Bowman, Nobleton; W. A. Rutherford, Millbank; M. L. Linton.

ANSWERS TO JANUARY PUZZLES.

Received from—F. E. Dawson, Nilestown; E. L. Bowman, Nobleton; I. R., London; Mary Amos, Winnipeg; W. A. Rutherford, Millbank; M. L. Linton.



SEAL FISHING.

No. 1.—Uncle Tom; 2.—Naples, Lyons, Toronto, Venice. 3.—Titusville.

No. 5.—S A I L
A L O E
I O T A
L E A D

No. 6.—A young lady saw a man eating an orange at an Inn, and she remarked to a companion that the man was very Yellow. The man exhibited much Wrath, and walking away knocked a Turkey off the table muttering you are anything but a Darling.
No. 7.—Chocolate.

As one out of the hundreds of instances where this paper penetrates into the far-off outskirts of our Dominion, and to show how pleasantly Uncle Tom's Department is appreciated, we offer the following:

Victoria, British Columbia, Dec. 27, 1874

DEAR UNCLE TOM.—I don't know how we would get along here on the wilds of the Pacific Coast, if it were not for UNCLE TOM'S COLUMN to smooth down the rough edges of life. If agreeable I will contribute a mite to it:

"On my way home from Church one Sabbath with a son of the Green Isle, and talking of the uncertainty of life, he speaks of the good pious wife he had; she had promised to bury him if he died first, and desired him to do the same for her; if the case was reversed; "and," said he, "if she does die first, and I'm alive, I'll do it."

A Key to a Person's Name.

By the accompanying table of letters the name of a person or any word may be found as follows:—

A	B	D	H	P
C	C	E	I	Q
E	F	F	J	R
G	G	G	K	S
I	J	L	L	T
K	K	M	M	U
M	N	N	N	V
O	O	O	O	W
Q	R	T	X	X
S	S	V	Y	Z
U	V	V	Y	Z
W	W	W		
Y	Z			

Let the person whose name you wish to know inform you in which of the upright columns the first letter of his name is contained. If it be found in but one column, it is the top letter; if it occurs in more than one, it is found by adding the alphabetical numbers of the top letters of these columns, and the sum will be the number of the letter sought. By taking one letter at a time in this way the whole can be ascertained. For example, take the word Jane. J is found in the two columns commencing with B and H, which are the 2nd and 8th letters down the alphabet; their sum is ten, and the tenth letter down the alphabet is J, the letter sought. The next letter, A, appears in but one column, it stands at the top. N is seen in columns headed B, D, and H; these are the second, fourth and eighth letters of the alphabet, which added give the 14th or N, and so on. The use of this table will excite no little curiosity among those unacquainted with the foregoing explanation.

Words of Puzzles.

The following funny puzzles in spelling and pronunciation may amuse some of our readers:—

There is one word of only five letters, and if you take two of them away, ten will remain. What word is that?

It is often. If you take away of, ten will remain.

There is a word of five letters, and if you take away two of them, six will remain. What is it?

Sixty. Take away ty, six will remain.

There is a word which, if you change the place of one of its letters, means exactly the opposite of from what it did at first. What is the word?

It is united. Place the i after the t, and it becomes untied.

Can you tell me what letter it is that has never been used but twice in America?

It is a—it is only used twice in America.

Can you tell me when there were only two vowels?

It was in the days of Noah, before you and I were born—in the days of no a before, u and i were born.

I suppose you know how to spell heiress?

Perhaps you can tell me why a hare is easier to catch than a heiress?

It is because an heiress has an i and a hare has none.

What is a word of one syllable, which if you take away two letters from it, will become a word of two syllables?

You must try and guess that, for it is my last puzzle. It is plague; take away pl and it becomes ague.

Wedding Anniversaries.

The marriage anniversary celebrations are given as follows:—

First anniversary—Iron.
Fifth anniversary—Wooden.
Tenth anniversary—Tin.
Fifteenth anniversary—Crystal.
Twentieth anniversary—China.
Twenty-fifth anniversary—Silver.
Thirtieth anniversary—Cotton.
Thirty-fifth anniversary—Linen.
Fortieth anniversary—Woollen.
Forty-fifth anniversary—Silk.
Fiftieth anniversary—Golden.
Seventy-fifth anniversary—Diamond.