

Uncle Tom's Department.

MY DEAR NEPHEWS AND NIECES,—The letter budget is not quite so large this month, there being only about two hundred competitors for the corrected letter prizes, instead of five hundred, as there were last month. But I do not wonder at it, for I know how busy you all are in the spring, assisting in making your homes look tidy and attractive; and hundreds of little jobs seem to come up before our eyes, between the garden and the house and the studies, etc., etc. But how lovely it does seem to have the fine weather again with us. However, there is time for all things, and I have no doubt my letter drawer will be crowded next month with many nice letters, telling me all that you have been doing, and with so many good puzzles that it will be quite a task for me to choose the best ones.

The fortunate prize winners in the competition offered last month are as follows:—In the 1st class, Miss Ada Armand, Pakenham, Ont.; in the 2nd class, Miss Hettie Sheppard, Belhaven, Ont.; and in the 3rd class, William Carney, Sault Ste. Marie, Ont., whose letter we here give:—

To all or any trustees to whom this recommendation may be presented:

I, the undersigned, Chairman of the Board of Trustees for school section No. 1, in the Township of —, hereby certify that the bearer, A. B., has taught the public school in our section for the term of four months, and has given entire satisfaction both to pupils and trustees. During the brief period of our acquaintance with him his character has been that of a true gentleman. The school has been very orderly and well-behaved under his management, and his manner of conducting it all that could be desired. While under his tuition, the scholars have made as rapid progress as under any of his predecessors, and I can safely recommend any School Board requiring a trustworthy and efficient teacher to engage the services of the bearer, as he is a thorough master of his profession.

I'm sure you will all agree that the letter put in this kind of a form reads a great deal easier and in every way nicer than the original copy. In all our letters and writings we should endeavor always to express ourselves in a natural, easy and correct manner, without any superfluity.

UNCLE TOM.

Cote St. Michel, P. Q., April 13th, 1886.
DEAR SIR,—Permit me to acknowledge the receipt of the bracelet given as a prize for writing in competition No. 1. I feel very much pleased with it, and return you my sincere thanks for the same.

I am, dear sir,

Very respectfully yours,

M. P. SCOTT.

Uncle Tom, the FARMER'S ADVOCATE.

Thornbury, April 16th, 1886.

DEAR SIR,—I have the pleasure of thanking you for my prize, a silver pair of ear-rings. I think they are lovely, and I am sincerely grateful to you for awarding me a prize which I did not expect. This is my first attempt at anything of the kind, and I think it was a good beginning. My best wishes are with you for the future prosperity of the ADVOCATE, which my parents have taken since before I was born.

Yours respectfully,

ELLA McDONALD.

Uncle Tom, the FARMER'S ADVOCATE.

DEAR UNCLE TOM,—I was much surprised and elated to have won your valuable prize in

class 3rd. It is a handsome knife, and of extra quality. I thank you very much for it.

Yours truly,
JAMES E. FOSTER,
Clarksburg, Ont.

Puzzles.

1—CROSS.

- 1—Suspicious. ***
- 2—A shoemaker's tool. ***
- 3—Sick. ***
- 4—Loose in morals. *****
- 5—Acting by choice. *****
- 6—A young person. *****
- 7—Frequently. ***
- 8—A color. ***
- 9—To urge. ***
- 10—A forest tree. ***
- 11—Sorrow. ***
- 12—A number. ***

My centrals down name a celebrated author.
FAIR BROTHER.

2—NUMERICAL ENIGMA.

My whole, composed of 19 letters, is "our motto."

My 13, 1, 8, 17, 5, is a merry frolic.

My 15, 3, 10, 6, 18, is to ask earnestly.

My 4, 9, 2, 12, is to sow.

My 19, 14, 11, 16, 7, is a blockhead.

FAIR BROTHER.

3—NUMERICAL ENIGMA.

My 13, 8, 9, 4, means gravel.

My 7, 5, 1, 3, 5, 6, is to roll in mire.

My 1, 9, 12, 13, is a kind of fish.

My 7, 6, 11, 10, 2, is to express in writing.

My whole is a sadly neglected art,

'Tis a pity that such should be so;

For formerly it was very much prized

By our ancestors long ago.

ADA ARMAND.

4—ILLUSTRATED REBUS.



5—ANAGRAM.

Het nep fo eth trauho dna tatsmsan,

Eth bleno dna siwe fo rou dlan,

Eth doswr nad eth hlsie adn laetep

Hslla eb dehl yb teh tillet worbn ahdn.

ADA ARMAND.

6—CHANGED HEADINGS.

To remodel=To contrive.

To pretend=To rule.

To penetrate=Wicked.

A basket=To vex.

To increase=The forehead. ADA ARMAND.

7—CROSS-WORD ENIGMA.

In house, not in land.

In ribband, not in band.

In mouse, not in rat.

In lean, not in fat.

In roll, not in play.

In glue, not in clay.

In fail, not in win.

In noise, not in din.

Total's the subject of much debate

Both with the humble and the great.

ADA ARMAND.

8—DROP VOWEL PUZZLE.

Th-r- s n- l-ck- f k-ndn-ss

n th-s w-rld- f- -rs

-nly- n- -r bl-ndn-ss

W- g-th-r th-rns f-r fl-w-rs.

LIZZIE C. WATT.

Answers to April Puzzles.

1—Keep your head clear and fingers nimble all the year.

2—Tar-tar.

3—

O
B U N
S E R V E
E N V O Y
R O O M Y
V A L U E
A M U S E
T U N I C
I N T E R
O C E A N
N I E C E
A S T R I D E
L A N D S C A P E

4—The sea hath its pearls,
The heaven hath its stars,
But my heart hath its maiden,
My heart hath its love.

5—Gave, save, sale, sole, sold.
Cold, wold, word, ward, warm.
Work, cork, cook, colt, clot, cloy, clay, play.

6—Though troubles perplex you,
Dishearten and vex you,
Retarding your progress in sombre array;
To shrink back with terror is surely an error,
For where there's a will there's a way.

7—Penmanship.

8—M I R A
I D O L
R O O M
A L M A

9—Pansy, tulip.

Names of those who have Sent Correct Answers to April Puzzles.

Gurden Brown, Henry Reeve, Mary Ann McDonald, Jennie Scott, Nellie Jarvis, Patrick L. Shortall, Julia Brown, Charles E. Smith, Laura Z. True, Hettie Sheppard, Minnie E. Brown, Geo. Albert Best, Eleanor Farlinger, Minnie B. Ricketson, Wm. Webster, Robert J. Risk, Mary Morrison, Will Thirlwall, Willie B. Bell, Maggie Whiteford, Ada Armand, Lillie Stovin, W. H. Harvey, Mary Burnett, Becca Lowry, Lizzie C. Watt, Emma Deanne, James F. Stewart, Robert Wilson, Edward A. Fairbrother, Frank L. Milner.

May Day.

BY MRS C. W. SCOTT.

Welcome; thrice welcome, thou glad May Day,
We'll be off to the woods with hearts light and gay.
We know there are flowers a-blossoming there,
Which God in His bounty has planted with care.

Yes! now we behold them, so modest and neat:
We'll gather them carefully, here at our feet.
How sweet their perfume, their beauty how rare,
Not one of art's products can with them compare.

Come, one and all, and join in our lay;
Let us rejoice on this glad festival day.
With birds we will carol a song full of cheer,
And welcome our May of this happy new year.

Give and Take.

Don't ever go hunting for pleasures;
They cannot be found thus, I know,
Nor yet fall a-digging for treasures,
Unless with the spade and the hoe!

The bee has to work for the honey;
The drone has no right to the food;
And he who has not earned his money
Will get from his money no good.

The ant builds her house by her labor;
The squirrel looks out for his mast;
And he who depends on his neighbor
Will never have friends, first or last.

In short, 'tis no better than thieving,
Though thief is a hard name to call;
Good things to be always receiving,
And never to give back at all.

"Men often jump at conclusions," says the proverb. So do dogs. We saw a dog jump at the conclusion of a cat, which was sticking through the opening of a partly closed door, and it made more disturbance than a church scandal.—[Oshkosh Advance,