

The Mounted Police of the Northwest are invaluable in keeping people honest. Their duties keep them constantly in the saddle, riding and reporting from station to station, hearing all complaints and seeing that they are rectified; also in order that the headquarters may know he is doing his duty, the mounted policeman has to have papers signed every day at different houses far apart, on pain of dismissal from the force.

A most interesting, though not beautiful, sight is the Indians one comes across, and of these we give illustrations: The Sarcees, the Blackfeet and the Stony tribes are chiefly found near Calgary, their natural beauties added to by paint, feathers, leather, blankets, and dirt. Laziness and thriftlessness are their characteristics, and riding and driving a great herd of ponies, they camp for days wherever their fancy leads them, and we must suppose they enjoy life.

The Noble Redskin.

In feathers and leather and paint,
He certainly looketh most quaint.
And he's quite an expert
In blankets and dirt,
And his manners are free from restraint.

UNCLE TOM'S DEPARTMENT.

MY DEAR NEPHEWS AND NIECES,—

The merry holidays are over, and my boys and girls who have the good fortune to still be students have returned to their work. How I envy them, despite the (to them) dull routine of ceaseless lessons! My school days were among the happiest in a life which knew but little shadow, although I sometimes got into trouble, as all boys will. I can scarcely understand the make-up of a child who does not like to go to school. Granted that the number of studies demanded by present educational rulers is somewhat appalling, yet the modern methods of imparting knowledge so far eclipse those of earlier periods that the undertaking is not so very difficult.

All cannot absorb and assimilate knowledge in a like degree, but even the dullest, by faithful everyday application, can accomplish a great deal. To many of my nephews and nieces, the school term just ended is their last, but they should bear in mind the fact that not to advance is to go backward, and that it will require frequent brushing up to keep their already-acquired knowledge bright, fresh, and ready for use. Then, do not pile away your books and slates, as things for which you have no further use, but make it a rule to spend at least half an hour every day reviewing the work you have already gone over. This will be amusement, not labor, and the very habit may have an important influence upon the success of your future life. There are many people like Wilkins Micawber, who are "waiting for something to turn up," while nine out of ten of them are not ready to take hold when it does turn, and thus the chance slips by, leaving them still in the same old rut. The capable person gets the preference every time, just as the big potatoes come to the top of the much-shaken basket.

Life is a school from cradle to grave, and he who does not learn his task can only expect as his lawful portion the dunce's seat and cap. The young person who would be successful in life needs to be armed not only with a fair modicum of knowledge, but also with courtesy and an obliging disposition, ready, when occasion requires, to overstep this limit of work without waiting to consider whether he shall also receive additional remuneration.

I believe some of the cousins desire a new contest, and have suggested an essay as a suitable subject for competition; so now, when all young minds are full of national pride and patriotism, it would be fitting to have them express their views on paper. I therefore offer three prizes for the best essays on "Canada—Why do we love her?" The contest will be governed by the following rules:

The competitors will be divided into three classes, and one prize given for the best essay in each class. Class 1 will consist of those over sixteen years of age, class 2 of those under sixteen and over twelve, and class 3 for those under twelve. Each competitor shall state in which class he competes, and shall write on one side only of paper. All papers for this contest should reach London not later than October 15th, and should be addressed, "Uncle Tom, FARMER'S ADVOCATE, London, Ont." The prizes will be cloth-bound books, well worth winning, and I hope to have a large number of competitors.

Your loving—UNCLE TOM.

The window sashes rattle,
The curtains rustling away,
The table dishes shiver,
The gusts burst every way—
For all around the table
There is an awful crash
Of sneezes—'tis the time that pop
Slings pepper on his hash.

Housewives' Helps.

A basin of water put into the oven with cakes or pastry will keep them from burning.

When you have crusts or broken pieces of bread, put them in a tin, brown in the oven, grate them fine, and put in a closely-covered jar. You will find them invaluable for croquets, sauces, etc.

To Clean Steel.—Make a paste of powdered bath brick and sweet oil. Rub the steel well with this till all stains are removed, rub dry with a soft cloth, and polish with chamois leather and dry whitening.

To remove grease from zinc baths, pails, etc., saturate a flannel well with paraffin oil and rub briskly, afterwards washing with soda water. It will remove dirt and grease quickly, making the article look like new.

To Remove Mildew.—Lemon juice, mixed with an equal weight of salt, powdered starch, and soft soap. Rub on thickly, and lay on the grass in the hot sun, renewing the application two or three times a day, until the spot fades and comes out.

If a cellar has a damp smell, and cannot be thoroughly ventilated, a few trays of charcoal set on the floor, shelves, and ledges will make the air pure and sweet. If a large basketful of charcoal be placed in a damp cellar where milk is kept, there will be no danger of it becoming tainted.

To re-fit handles to knives and forks, nearly fill the handles with finely-powdered resin and bath brick in the proportion of three-parts resin to one of bath brick. Make the steel that goes into the handle red hot, and then gradually work it into the handle. By this means the handles will be as firm as when new.

To Renovate White Straw Hats.—Dissolve a pennyworth of oxalic acid in tepid water. Brush



A NOBLE WARRIOR OF THE BLACKFEET INDIANS, N.-W. T.

the mixture thoroughly over the straw with a soft brush; dry in the open air (sun, if possible, as it makes the hat a better color). A pennyworth is sufficient to clean one large hat or two sailor hats. The acid is easily procured at any chemist's.

The Use of Borax.

So many and varied are the uses to which borax can be put, both in the household and the toilet, that it may be useful to readers of Home Hints to have a few of those uses brought before their notice.

Of its uses in connection with the toilet I will not here speak, beyond saying that it is a most effective and simple softener of water. Everybody knows that nothing ruins the complexion more than to wash in hard water, and it is a good plan to have a small pot of borax standing on the washstand, and put a pinch or two into the water when required.

In matters domestic borax is simply invaluable, and no household is complete in which it has not a place of its own. In washing clothes the addition of borax to the water will be found an advantage, especially in the case of all kinds of woollen goods and lace. The introduction of borax into starch gives it an extra gloss. The proportion is about a teaspoonful of borax to two tablespoonfuls of starch.

Cockroaches and ants and various other household plagues have a great objection to this harmless-looking white powder, and if it is sprinkled liberally about their haunts they will speedily forsake them.

Moths also have an objection to it, and when putting away furs and other clothing they should be sprinkled with borax, and kept in air-tight boxes.

For washing silver it is a very good thing. The silver should be left for two or three hours in boiling water to which borax has been added, and then cleaned in the ordinary way.

Puzzles.

[The following prizes are offered every quarter, beginning with months of April, July and October: For answers to puzzles during each quarter—1st prize, \$1.50; 2nd, \$1.00; 3rd, 75c. For original puzzles—1st, \$1.00; 2nd, 75c.; 3rd, 50c.]

This column is open to all who comply with the following rules: Puzzles must be original—that is, must not be copied from other papers; they must be written on one side only of paper, and sender's name signed to each puzzle; answers must accompany all original puzzles (preferably on separate paper). It is not necessary to write out puzzles to which you send answers—the number of puzzle and date of issue is sufficient. Partial answers will receive credit. Work intended for first issue of any month should reach Pakenham not later than the 15th of the month previous; that for second issue not later than the 5th of that month. Leave envelope open, mark "Printer's Copy" in one corner, and letter will come for one cent. Address all work to Miss Ada Armand, Pakenham, Ont.]

1—

My first is to injure by malicious falsehood, my second is a common Chinese name, my whole is a sign we often see in city gangways. IKE ICICLE.

2—CANADIAN TOWNS.

1—An animal, a part of an animal.
2—A man's name, a word of incitement or encouragement.
3—To prattle, a boy's name.
4—A color, a thousand, an exclamation, a syllable used in music.
5—Relation, an explanatory or other note in a newspaper, a preposition, a vowel.
6—A country in Europe, a dwelling. IKE ICICLE.

3—CHARADE.

"First me the first second,"
Said the stately old Jew.
As he entered the temple grand,
And out of his mouth he took a chew
Of Solomon Baeg's tobacco.
"Where is the golden table, Rabbi,
And the second of the twelve tribes
Of ancient Israel, long forlorn—
The land of the Pharisee and Scribes
Not here, Rabbi, Raca! Raca!" IKE ICICLE.

4—SUBTRACTION.

Behold a certain number odd,
'Tis even then you'll see;
And if the latter you curtail,
Your mother and mine you'll see. F. L. S.

5—RIDDLE.

Without me, man is altogether vile
And mean and spiritless, you'll own;
Yet that which makes him worthy to be loved,
The very instant that he loves, is gone.

6—ENIGMA.

I have not got it, I do not want it; but if I had it,
I would not sell it for a million dollars.

7—RHOMBUS.

Across—1, part of a year; 2, a girl's name; 3, a musical instrument; 4, a guide; 5, part of the mouth.
Down—1, a large number; 2, above; 3, denying; 4, a snare; 5, custom; 6, a cavity; 7, an animal; 8, two letters; 9, one letter. F. L. S.

8—A CURIOUS WORD.

What word has two syllables in the singular and only one in the plural? F. L. S.

Answers to Aug 15th Puzzles.

1—Because she needs only one beau.
2—Lowland.
3—Billousness.

4—
n t a n
n a v a l
n a b
1

6—Buoy—boy.

7—
s c o t t
c o r e a
o r g a n
t e a r s
t a n s y

8—A CURIOUS WORD.

"Diana," Mrs. Annie Rodd, "Grace," J. G. McLean, "Ike Icicle."

ADDITIONAL SOLVERS TO JULY 16TH PUZZLES.
Edna McKinnon, J. G. McLean.

A letter bearing "Wales" post-mark was lost on the way from the post. Will the writer kindly send contribution again? ADA A.

"You do not marry for to-day, or for to-morrow, but for a lifetime, and for all sorts of situations. If she be gentle, and wise, and true, you have a bride not only for the wedding day, but for sickness, and poverty, and for old age. If she be handsome she will some day grow ugly; but if she be good and true she will stand wear. Try to know her before you take her."