

UNCLE TOM'S DEPARTMENT.

MY DEAR NEPHEWS AND NIECES,—

Although March is included in the list of spring months, spring itself seems as far away as it did when I prated to you about it a month ago. But wait a minute—I am forgetting one infallible proof I saw of its approach! Guess what it was! Not a crow; nor a robin; but the ubiquitous small boy playing marbles in the cold, dirty street. Now, I consider him and his marbles the surest harbinger of spring we have, returning as regularly as the season—a perennial upon which age has no effect! I asked a young friend of mine who was numbered among the small boys about a couple of years ago, why they always played marbles in such cold, muddy weather? I thought he would not have had time to forget. The answer was, "Because the boys can get their hands the dirtiest then." Is that the answer you would give me too? Then, another sign of "Spring, gentle spring," is the dark, smoky-looking cakes labelled "Fresh Maple Sugar!" which have made their appearance in some of the shops. It may be a good, or, rather, profitable way of getting rid of last year's surplus, but I feel sorry for those who buy it for what it is *not*.

Have any of you ever tried taking off a branch of apple, pear, lilac, or any other flowering tree, and putting it in a jar of water and keeping it in a rather warm room? I hear the results are delightful. The buds come out quite a month sooner than they do outdoors. I am going to try experiments this year and see what they will do for me, and if any of you should decide to do the same, I hope you will let me know how you succeed.

Your affectionate—
UNCLE TOM.

Puzzles.

1—CHARADE.

I took a trip the other day,
And that was not the worst,
For for that trip I had to pay,
As it was on a FIRST.
A naughty child, too, took that ride,
Though her mamma called her SECOND;
With bonbons she her fingers plied,
And the COMPLETE completely blackened.

A. P. HAMPTON.

2—METAGRAM.

We were seated 'round the table;
In the yard we heard a one;
Outside all was two. The stable
Boy came in and seized the gun.
"Three," said father, and we hurried
Wildly, as he took his hat,
And into the garden hurried,
Where the mowing of a cat
Made us think of ghosts and witches,
Goblins ready to devour;
Mother, taking nervous stitches,
Glances at the kitchen door.
Father soon returned, assuring,
"Tis some boys upon a four;
But the wealth of lad, for luring
Us outside the kitchen door,
Would be far too small a tender,
For we knew 'twas Hallowe'en;
And believed that spirits render
Mortals visits, and were seen
On this night, a five of weakness
In our elders, who professed
In the six, who in meekness
Roamed about and took their rest.

CHARLIE S. EDWARDS.

3—ILLUSTRATED REBUS.



4—CHARADE (partly phonetic).

Many were FIRST that stormy night,
Yet none were lost at sea,
For the hatches were fastened snug and tight,
And the Captain, SECOND sailor was he.
We were only one day's sail from land,
And none wished we were LAST;
And happy were all to touch the sand
And know the danger was past.
Then hastened we to the dear old home
That lies far beyond the purplish hills,
And 'neath the TOTAL vowed to roam
No more from our vale of rippling hills.

CLARA ROBINSON.

5—CHARADE.

Dear Uncle Tom—excuse me FIRST
intruding on your space.
The Dom once more I'd like to join,
If you'll LAST me a place.

I fear I don't deserve it now,
For being away so long,
But I hope you will admit me,
And COMPLETE me FIRST my wrong.
Now, I must haste this con. away,
Lest it should be too late;
With best wishes for all the cousins,
And the dear old Advocate. G. W. BLYTH.

6—HALF SQUARES.
1—My first is a part of your body,
My SECOND in the water is played,
My THIRD is a bad state to be in,
And my FOURTH is permission delayed,
And my FIFTH is a vowel, 'tis said.
2—FIRST is a part of the body,
SECOND is great peace of mind,
THIRD is when you do not feel right,
FOURTH is a command off not kind,
And FIFTH is a part of a hind.

T. W. BANKS.

Answers to March 2nd Puzzles.

- 1.—Surname.
- 2.—A to H—Argone.
- 3.—Sever, ever, eve.
- 4.—Society Snap Shots.
- 5.—The letter A.
- 6.—Heritage.

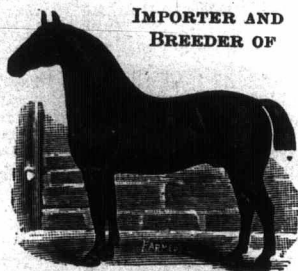
SOLVERS.

Clara Robinson, Maggie Kastner, T. W. Banks, Charlie S. Edwards.

Other People's Convenience.

We ought to think of other people's convenience more than some of us do. The home is the place where this thoughtfulness ought to begin and be cultivated. One who comes late to breakfast admits that he has been guilty of an amiable self-indulgence, but forgets that he has marred the harmonious flow of the household life, and caused confusion and extra work. The other day an important committee of fifteen was kept waiting ten minutes for one tardy member, who came sauntering in at last, without even an apology for causing fifteen men a loss of time that to them was very valuable, besides having put a sore strain on their patience and good-nature. Common life is full of just such thoughtlessness, which causes untold personal inconvenience, and oftentimes produces irritation and hurts the hearts of friends. We ought to train ourselves in all our life to think also of other people.

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SECOND ANNUAL

Canadian
Horse Show

UNDER THE JOINT AUSPICES OF

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AND

The Country and Hunt Club of Toronto,

TO BE HELD IN THE NEW ARMOY IN THE CITY OF

TORONTO, CAN.

On Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday,

April 15, 16, 17 & 18, '96.

FARMERS' DAY, THURSDAY, APRIL 16th.

The Canadian Horse Breeders' Association
will control the breeding classes, and The
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harness, saddle, hunting, and jumping classes.
Entries close on Saturday, April 14th, 1896, in
time for Catalogue, and should be addressed
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Horses will be stabled in the City of Toronto
at exhibitor's expense.

Joint Secretaries: HENRY WADE, Parliament Buildings,
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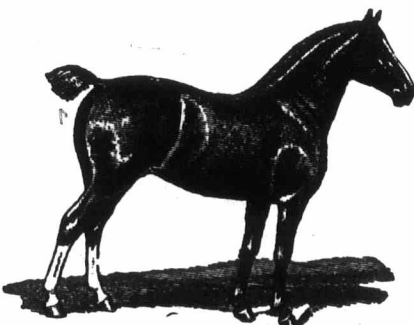
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three six months old Chester Whites at \$7 each;
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in order to reduce stock on hand. Pigs will
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ADVERTISE IN ADVOCATE

STOCK GOSSIP.

Jas. H. Shaw, Simcoe, Ont., makes a rare
offering of Berkshire and Chester White swine
in this issue. Read and then take prompt
advantage of it.

Wm. Grainger & Son, London, Ont., write:
"We have sold our last young bull, King Bee,
to Mr. James Hellyer, Kenilworth, Ont., at a
good figure. Our young heifers for sale are a
nice lot and doing well."

The present is a suitable time to order young
pigs from spring litters. Berdan & McNeil,
Strathburn, Ont., are now making a liberal
offer in Duroc-Jerseys. See their change of
advertisement.

Mr. Hugh Thompson, St. Mary's, writes:—
"I have received a number of letters from
persons who would have liked to attend my
recent sale, but state that rates for shipping
were so high they could not afford to buy. The
following are a few of the prices realized:
5th Missie of Neidpath (cow), Robert Scott,
London, \$129; Marchioness 9th (cow), J. &
J. Finnie, St. Mary's, \$150; Ida Wimple (year-
ling), James Thomson, Belton, \$102; Wimple's
Daisy 2nd (cow), Andy Hogg, Thamesford, \$65;
Lulu Duchess (two years), Jeffrey Pearn,
Anderson P.O., \$45; Mysie 45th (cow), James
Sutherland, Lakeside, \$65; Sherbrooke Chief,
Mr. Hamilton, Cromary P.O., \$85; Baron
Wimple, Jas. Thomson, Belton, \$80."

Hon. M. H. Cochrane, Hillhurst Station, P.
Q., Can., announces elsewhere an important
sale, to which the attention of our readers is
directed. He writes:—"The stallions to be
sold are Imp. Royal Dane, bay, four years,
15-1-1 hands, and Danish Prince, dark chest-
nut, three years, 15-2-1, both out of the cham-
pion mare, Princess Dagmar, and are fit for a
full season's service; both are well broken to
harness and can be handled by a boy. The
mares are a very choice lot, either for breed-
ing purposes or for saddle and harness. They
are offered simply to reduce our large stock of
horses and to make room for young stock
coming forward, thus affording an exception-
ally favorable opportunity to start breeding
the increasingly popular Hackney. Most of
the horses to be sold will be entered for the
Toronto Horse Show, thus enabling intending
purchasers to see them to the best advantage."

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