

Uncle Tom's Department.

MY DEAR NEPHEWS AND NIECES.—It seems but yesterday that I was writing to you, yet a whole month has managed to slip by, each day bringing dozens of letters from my young friends. I notice many new faces, or rather new names, who have come to join Uncle Tom's happy family. I am very glad to hear from you; there is plenty of room and work for all. The majority of you found the illustrated rebus very hard last month, and really it was; but we must have a regular puzzler sometimes. Henry R. asks whether those who send in puzzles for publication, and which do not appear in the paper, will receive credit for them? Yes, the best ones will be kept and credited, and many of them may yet be published before the end of the year; but certainly none of those which are not original will be noticed. Aggie W., an inquisitive little niece, asks which was the highest number of correct answers to March puzzles received from one person? Miss Aggie must just wait with patience until the end of the year, when the names of those who sent the greatest number of correct answers will be made known to you all. I received several letters again with no name attached. So I expect to have complaints of their non-appearance in April No.; be sure and always sign your name. I don't see how you can make such simple mistakes; but I must quit scolding, for I want to give you a story of a noble deed:

During the intensely cold weather of last January a party of boys were skating and coasting on the Schuylkill, at the point where it divides the city of Philadelphia in two.

One, a poor lad of sixteen years, named John Hagan, had a large sled which was the envy of all the other boys. He lent it to one party after another, and sat on the bank watching them with good-humored satisfaction, while they coasted down the bank and almost across the river. At last, as evening was gathering, he rose to go home, but the boys pleaded for one coast more.

Ten of them crowded upon the huge sled. It dashed down the bank and out upon the frozen river. There was a sharp crack, a shriek that rent the air, and a huge black gap appeared in the white sheet of ice, on which a struggling mass was dimly seen for a moment. Then it disappeared in the dark, rushing current.

The crowd of skaters and spectators on the bank stood paralyzed with terror. Only John Hagan kept his senses. He plunged into the swift flood, groped under the ice for the drowning boys, and dragged them one by one to the edge of the hole, where men stood now ready to receive them. At last, when nine had thus been rescued, Hagan himself was taken out insensible and carried to his home.

"Did I get them all?" were his first words when he was restored to consciousness. No one told him until the next day, when he was quite out of danger, that one little fellow was lost.

Now it happened that on that very night a Leap-Year ball was given in the neighborhood of the accident. The young ladies who went to it wore men's dress,—coats, collars, etc., and the young men (some of the most wealthy and fashionable in the city) imitated feminine costume and manners. Some of them wore women's full dress, with sweeping brocade trains and bracelets on their bare arms.

It was but a passing freak, and should not be harshly judged; but what a contrast between one of these lipping, be-jewelled and be-ribboned young men and Hagan, struggling in the icy flood and night!

Yet Hagan was an illiterate laborer, whom these lads would have regarded, had they met him on the street, as one of the lowest types of manhood.

The meaning of the contrast is that fortune, rank, manners, and even education, are but the outer garments with which circumstances envelope the soul. We shall never find the true man if we do not learn to look through and beneath them all. Our boy-readers will be glad to know that a subscription of over a thousand dollars was raised for brave young Hagan, and that he asked that it might be spent in giving him three years' education. He had the good sense to see that even a noble soul is stronger when it is nobly clothed.

UNCLE TOM.



1—ILLUSTRATED REBUS.

Puzzles.

—DIAMOND PUZZLE.

A consonant; a boy's name; a part in singing; to overcome; to shape; a color; a consonant.

MAGGIE F. ELLIOTT.

3—HIDDEN WEARING APPAREL.

- (1) Just fancy! I found the girls hoeing corn.
- (2) That dress is not fit to wear.
- (3) John, give the knife to Marco at once.
- (4) He who is kind and loving loves the sunshine and flowers.
- (5) Mary and Jack etch nicely.
- (6) Invest your money carefully.
- (7) Ho! Seymour where are you going.

CHRISTENA HADCOCK.

4—CHARADE.

I sail on the ocean,
I enclose each tree,
I share the doctor's potion,
Now what can I be?

MARY MARSHALL.

5—DROP VOWEL AND FIGURE PUZZLE.

2 l-v-rs s-t b-n —th th— sh-d—
—and l—n 2 th— —th-r s— —d h-w 14 8
th-t y— —b 9 h-v— sm-l-d —p-n
th-s— —t-f m-n— —f 5 —h— —rt—t
p-lps 4 u thy v— —c— —s m—s—c-m-l—dy
t—s 4 2 b— thy l—v—d 1 2 s—y —y nymph
w—lt m—rry m— —th—n l—sp—d sh— —s—ft
why 13 ly.

CHRISTINA STICKLER.

6—SQUARE WORD.

Strong; a small ornament; placed; a whirlpool.

ELLIS AUGUSTINE.

7—TRANSPOSITION.

Idm hte dstu nda pedes dna mlcroa
Fo het dlmshoos nda eth liml
Itsdm het klena fo mtesa dan mhraem
Ftrag usstre rea roinwgg lital.

ETTIE M. JOLLEY.

8—BEHEAD AND CURTAIL.

- 1—A poet and leave a bed.
- 2—A number and leave a girl's name.
- 3—A beggar and leave an animal.
- 4—A sweet substance and leave a unit.
- 5—A country and leave an elevation of land.
- 6—A fire-place and leave an animal.
- 7—A month and leave a part of a circle.

GEORGE VAN BLARICORN.

9—HOUR GLASS PUZZLE.

1, Island in Atlantic Ocean; 2, town in France; 3, girl's name; 4, consonant; 5, a meadow; 6, a vegetable; 8, country in Europe.

F. F. THOMPSON.

10—DROP VOWEL PUZZLE.

D—w—th—n—th—r—s—y— —'d h—v—
—n—t h—r d—w—th y— —wh—t y—r—
—ar w—ll—ng t—r—c— —v—b—s—r—
y— —n—v—r d—

ADA ARMAND.

11—TRANSPOSITION.

Uyo lakt atubo sramerf praspae,
Tub chrase morf eth stea ot het tews,
Dan fo lal teh asperp oyu nac dinf,
Eht ovatedac si eht, bts.

ADA ARMAND.

12—PLEONETIC CHARADE.

My first amongst the vulgar
Is used in place of "bite;"

My second is among
The names defined as
"knight;"

My total was a writer,
His Christian name was
Dan,
If this makes it no lighter,
Then fruitless is my plan.

PHILLIP BOULTON.

Answers to March Puzzles.

1—Ere you mark another's sin,
Bid thy conscience look within.

2—Opal, pearl, ruby, agate, topaz, diamond, garnet, emerald, amethyst.

3—Truth is mighty and it will prevail.

4—Sweet-heart.

5—NORTHWEST
TORONTO
CRUDE
ARE
G
ELK
CRATE
PARSLEY
TRANSVAAL

6—Wheel, heel, eel.

7—The FARMER'S ADVOCATE.

8—I will not willingly offend,
Nor be soon offended;
What's amiss I'll strive to mend,
And bear what can't be mended.

9—Sterne, Byron, Scott, Gray, Heman, Campbell.

10—He who bestows his goods upon the poor,
Shall have as much again and ten times more.

11—Pearl, cheat.

12—A
AMY
SPEAR
AMERICA
WHITE
ACT
A