

Minnie May's Department.

MY DEAR NIECES.—As some time has elapsed since our last prize competition, we purpose this month offering something new. The subject—of which we saw the idea in the Girls' Own Paper, and consider it a good one for our readers to try—is to be, "Sayings of the Wise on Conduct and Character," or, in other words, a collection of quotations, illustrative of conduct and character, drawn from various authors and arranged under the different headings given below.

We hope our readers may see many advantages to be derived from the competition, for as Tillotson says: "The little and short sayings of wise and excellent men are of great value, like the dust of gold or the least spark of diamonds," so will each one engaged in this competition prove, as they turn over book after book, and page after page in search of wise sayings, which "cannot but have a good, wholesome and improving effect on their own conduct and character."

As we cannot expect our young readers to be able to compete with the older ones, and yet wish them each to derive their share of benefit, we have decided to make *three divisions or classes*, with a prize for the best in each, as follows:

1ST CLASS.—For all those ranging in age from fourteen to seventeen. A cash prize of \$1.50.

2ND CLASS.—For ages ranging from seventeen to twenty-three. Prize, \$2.50.

3RD CLASS.—For those over twenty-three years of age. Prize, \$3.

The following are a few of the rules which must be adhered to:

1st.—That although we give *fifty* headings under which the quotations are to be arranged (in alphabetical order), yet only the first twenty-six (to the end of "H") are to be competed for at present. The remaining ones we will call for a little later on.

2nd.—Quotations from either prose or poetry may be given, but *must* be worth copying and worth remembering.

3rd.—The collection of quotations *must* be solely the work and in the handwriting of the competitor.

4th.—The meaning must in all cases be complete—that is to say, it must never be necessary for anyone reading the quotations to turn to the author to complete the sense.

5th.—The length of each separate quotation, as also the number of quotations under each separate heading, is left to the judgment and industry of the competitors. (We will here suggest that *quality* and not *quantity* is of greatest importance. "That it is better to do little well, than a great deal carelessly.")

6th.—The competitor must give, at the end of each quotation, an exact reference to the source from whence it is obtained. This reference must state the author, the work, the edition of the work and the page, except in the case of the Scriptures, when the book, chapter and verse will do. The edition is to be indicated by giving the date, or if no date, the publisher's name. A quotation followed only by the author's name will not count for very much.

7th.—Quotation books may be made use of,

but a reference to the page of a quotation book will not secure so many marks as a reference to the page of the original author.

As an example of what is required, take the following:

FAITH.

Faith and devotion naturally grow in the mind of every reasonable man who sees the impressions of divine power and wisdom in every object on which he casts his eye.—Addison. The Spectator, London, 1812, vol. vi., p. 327.

Faith builds a bridge from this world to the next.—Dr. Young ("Night" viii., line 717.) J. C. Grocott, Familiar Quotations, Liverpool, 1871, p. 139.

HUMILITY.

Knowledge is proud that he has learned so much. Wisdom is humble that he knows no more.—Cowper, The Task. "Winter Walk at Noon," Dr. Mackey. "Thousand and One Gems of English Poetry," London, 1867, p. 217.

8th.—Four marks will be allowed for every quotation given correctly and according to our rules; with extra marks for spelling, neatness and variety of authors consulted, and the one gaining the greatest number of marks in each class will be awarded the prize.

9th.—Competitors must write on one side of the paper only, and fasten all neatly and securely together at the left hand top corner.

10th.—The full name, age and address of the competitor must be written upon the back of the last page of each collection of quotations.

11th.—The papers must be sent in by Dec. 25th, in order that the result may be published in the January number.

12th.—Send the papers (without letter) for a one cent stamp, marking "Printers' Manuscript" on the upper left hand corner of the wrapper.

The following are the headings:—

Affectation.	Hypocrisy.
Ambition.	Idleness.
Amiability.	Ignorance.
Anger.	Independence.
Bashfulness.	Innocence.
Benevolence.	Jealousy.
Cheerfulness.	Kindness.
Conceit.	Modesty.
Consistency.	Perseverance.
Contentment.	Piety.
Courage.	Pride.
Courtesy.	Prudence.
Covetousness.	Punctuality.
Cunning.	Purity.
Economy.	Revenge.
Education.	Self-control.
Egotism.	Self-knowledge.
Envy.	Self-love.
Falsehood.	Selfishness.
Fidelity.	Simplicity.
Friendship.	Suspicion.
Gentleness.	Truthfulness.
Gratitude.	Vanity.
Honesty.	Virtue.
Hopefulness.	Wisdom.

We hope to receive a large number of papers from our readers for this competition, and feel confident in saying that although it requires considerable patient searching on the part of those engaged in it, yet it will be looked back upon as a decided pleasure, as well as profit. Let us see what all, whether young or old, can do.

MINNIE MAY.

Work Basket.

WASTE PAPER BASKET.—An economical basket may be made of pasteboard or old boxes. Cut in the shape of an antique urn or pitcher,

and cover with plain wall paper or pretty cretonne.

CROCHET COTTON TIDY.—Make a chain of 20 stitches, miss 1 stitch, 18 short (double) crochet in next 18 stitches, 3 short crochet in last stitch, 16 short crochet in the sixteen stitches on other side of foundation chain; turn work (a) 1 chain, 17 short in next 17 stitches, taking the back part of the stitch, 3 short in next stitch, 16 short in next 16 stitches. Repeat from (a) 6 times, 1 chain 17 short in next 17 stitches; break thread and fasten securely. Make three more leaves in the same way; but before breaking the thread of the fourth leaf, work 1 chain, 1 short crochet, in last stitch of leaf, 1 chain, 1 short in last stitch of another leaf, 1 chain, 1 short in last stitch of remaining leaf, 1 chain, 1 short in last stitch of fourth leaf; break thread. For the figures in the corner of the square, make a chain of four stitches, join in a circle.

First Row.—Two short crochet in each stitch of foundation.

Second Row.—Two short in each stitch of last row.

Third Row.—Eight chain, miss 1 stitch (b), 1 long (treble) crochet in next stitch, 5 chain, miss 1 stitch. Repeat from (b) 6 times; join on third chain in beginning of row.

Fourth Row.—Three chain, 1 long crochet in middle stitch of next 5 chain in last row, 1 picot formed by five chain, 1 short crochet in long crochet, 2 more picots, in same stitch, 3 chain, 1 short in next long crochet of last row; break thread and fasten securely.

Now you have to work a row of picots around the four leaves, and at the same time join with the four corner figures (c), 1 short crochet in thirteenth stitch; on right hand side of one leaf begin to count from last stitch of leaf (""); 1 chain, 1 picot formed by 5 chain, 1 short in first chain; 1 chain, 1 short in next to th of leaf, 1 chain, 1 picot, 1 chain, 1 short in next tooth of leaf, 4 chain; fasten on middle picot, made one stitch of little figure, 2 chain, 1 short in second stitch of the fourth chain, 1 chain, 1 short in next tooth of leaf, 1 chain, 1 picot, 1 chain, 1 short in next tooth, 1 chain, 1 picot, 1 chain (""), 1 short on top of leaf, 1 chain, 1 picot, 1 chain in same stitch. Repeat from ("") to ("") once; miss two stitches, 1 short in next stitch, 4 chain; join in middle of next three picots, made in one stitch of same figure, 2 chain, 1 short in second stitch of the fourth chain, 1 chain, and repeat from (c) around the other three leaves.

This forms one square of a very pretty tidy.

KNITTED AFGAN.—This afgan is made of alternate stripes in different patterns and contrasting colors, say red and white, and is finished with a border of knitted lace.

For the Red Stripes.—Cast on 27 stitches, knit across plain.

First Row.—Slip 1, purl 3, knit 8, purl 3, knit 8, purl 4. For the second row, reverse directions, putting plain for purl and vice versa, that forward and back rows may be alike on right side; knit 6 rows.

Seventh Row.—Slip 1, purl 3, knit the first 4 stitches of your rib of eight upon a temporary needle; knit the second 4 stitches on the first needle next to the purling, then bring the 4 from the temporary needle upon the first needle, thus twisting the second half of the rib