

## A PETITION.

Ethel, fairest of the fair,  
 Ethel of the golden hair  
 And eyes of magic splendour,  
 Brighter than stars of tropic night,  
 Now flushing with a radiant light,  
 Now melting soft and tender.

I ask not, Ethel, for thy love  
 That were a crown far, far above  
 My moderate ambition,  
 I only ask thee, cousin mine,  
 If thou wilt graciously incline  
 To grant one brief petition

Small, small the boon I crave, but thou its  
 Beneath, I fear, thy queenly notice,  
 'Tis much, so much, to me ;  
 Then wilt thou, twice a day, endeavour  
 To recollect, dear, that I never  
*Take sugar in my tea*

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## TO PURCHASE A PILGRIMAGE.

The Moors have three Sundays a week. The Mohammedan's comes on Friday, the Jews on Saturday, and that of the Christian Consuls on Sunday. The Jews are the most radical. The Moor goes to his mosque about noon on his Sabbath, as on any other day, removes his shoes at the door, performs his ablutions, makes his salaams, pressing his forehead to the pavement time and again, says his prayers, and goes back to his work.

But the Jew saunters up shop; will not touch copper or bronze money at all; soils his fingers with nothing meaner than silver and gold; attends the synagogue devoutly; will not cook or have anything to do with fire; and religiously refrains from embarking in any enterprise.

The Moor who has made a pilgrimage to Mecca is entitled to high distinction. Men call him Hadji, and he is thenceforward a great personage. Hundreds of Moors come to Tangier every year, and embark for Mecca. They go part of the way in English steamers, and the ten or twelve dollars they pay for passage is about all the trip costs. They take with them a quantity of food, and when the commissary department fails they "skirmish" for more. From the time they leave till they go home again, they never wash either on land or sea. They are usually gone from five to seven months, and as they do not change their clothes during all that time, they are totally unfit for the drawing-room when they get back.

Many of them have to rake and scrape a long time to gather together the ten dollars their steamer passage costs; and when one of them gets back he is a bankrupt for ever after. Few Moors can ever build up their fortunes again in one short life-time, after so reckless an outlay. In order to confine the dignity of Hadji to gentlemen of patrician blood and possessions, the Emperor decreed that no man should make the pilgrimage save bloated aristocrats who were worth a hundred dollars in specie. But behold how iniquity can circumvent the law! For a consideration, the Jewish money changer lends the pilgrim one hundred dollars long enough for him to swear himself through, and then receives it back before the ship sails out of the harbour!



[Owing to the increasing work of the Post Bag, and its demands upon our space, I am compelled to ask my young inquisitives to be satisfied with my replies only. The enquiries, however, shall continue to command my fullest sympathy, and to receive my very best attention. It is always a genuine pleasure for me to hear from my young friends on any point on which they have anything to ask.—Ed. Post Bag.]

LITTLE TOM.—The coloured bottles in chemists' shops, which look so imposing, are supposed to contain essences the shopman has distilled, to show the perspection of colour. They are, in reality, filled with coloured water merely, and they are often made with a double glass to require as little as possible.

FANNY.—Grasses will dry and remain ornamental for years—for twenty years—and still grow when sown. Those you pick in your own fields are sometimes better than those you pay for in shops.

DICK W.—When dogs have been poisoned and have recovered, like yours, they often suffer, for a long time, from irritability. Give him five grains of the tris-nitrate of bismuth three times a day. It has no taste, and you can put it far back on the dog's tongue. A teaspoonful of cod-liver oil three times a day, and a little castor-oil once a week, will do him good.

ALFRED COOK.—I do not know the best authority on Fau-Tail pigeons in Canada, but Mr. E. B. Bingham, of Barrie, Ont., is an expert, and might give you some good "tips." He has gone in for "Faus" specially.

BICYCLIST.—Yes, I believe so. A ladies' European Bicycle trip is being arranged, which will leave New York about August 15th, to return in October. The cost will be \$300. The trip will include France and Germany, and the average daily run is to be 5 miles. It would be quite the thing for you to join. A good bicycle will last a lady for ten years. The exercise is allowed by physicians to be good for girls, indeed, even with delicate girls, it is beneficial. Many doctors prefer it to walking for their patients.

ALEX. WAT.—You do not mention which examination you are preparing for. You should address a letter to the Secretary of each of the Universities, who will give you the fullest and most reliable information. All the Universities have either boarding-houses connected with them, or under their control in a manner sufficient to guarantee their standing.

BATHER.—It is not bad to jump into the water when you are hot. The danger is in remaining in too long, or in being chilled on coming out. The shock does you good. But you should not bathe when you are very much fatigued as well as hot, or soon after a meal.

FRASER RIVER.—The calico you have made your canoe of may be made quite water-proof by being covered with boiled linseed oil.

TWO COUSINS.—For full instructions about your Reading Club see the last seven numbers of THE YOUNG CANADIAN, from Jan. 25th to March 11th. The Badge you will find there too.

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A YOUNG man led his blushing bride to the house of Rev. Dr. Carpenter. "We want to be married," he said. "Are you Dr. Carpenter?" "Yes," replied the minister. "both Carpenter and Joiner."

A MAN never fully realizes the wealth of information he does not possess till his first child begins to ask questions.