

### Uncle Tom's Department.

MY DEAR NEPHEWS AND NIECES, — Looking over my diary, I was surprised to find that something concerning which had I been questioned, I should have said happened, but a few months ago, had really taken place a year ago, so quick is the flight of time. A year seems a long time in childhood, when we can remember but few of them, but as we grow older time passes like a dream. The mischievous school boy is a thoughtful man of business, and the little girl we played with is a wife and a mother. Yes, time flies, and once more it is spring. True we have not had much winter, and had it not been for the dark evenings and leafless trees, we might have fancied many days were like those of spring. But though we have had little frost and less snow, we are glad to see spring once more, because it is the season of freshness, hope and renewed life. With the advent of spring, amusements and little rounds of duties that served to render enjoyable the winter evenings become irksome; nature is waking from her ice-bound sleep, buds and flowers once more appear, the gladsome notes of the wild wood birds are heard, and we begin to think of outdoor occupations and amusements. In spring time many an object of interest is to be found in nature's revealed treasures. The pleasant search for early wild flowers has a peculiar fascination that might serve to awaken an interest in botany.

In speaking of flowers, I once knew a large family of which every child had its own garden cultivated by itself. This imparts a charm of possession and gives a sense of responsibility; it also excites a hearty and gentle rivalry. Each child might be allowed to choose a certain number of flowers or vegetables, and find more than ordinary delight in their service; but always make it a rule to attempt no more than can easily be performed, that whatever is done may be done well. The love of plants is one of the noblest and purest of all human loves, and then the exercise is so good; there is no athletic sport that exercises so many muscles as the art of digging, raking, watering and planting.

UNCLE TOM.

### PUZZLES.

#### 31—BEHEADED WORDS.

1. My whole is a brittle substance; behead me and I am another word for a girl; behead me again and I am an animal.
2. My whole is a movement made with the eyes; behead me and I am something which serves to connect; behead me again and I am a liquid; curtail me and I am a preposition.
3. My whole is an article of apparel; behead me and I am a gardening tool; curtail me and I am an exclamation.
4. My whole is a piece of furniture; behead me and I am a part of the head; behead me again and I am sometimes felt and never seen.
5. My whole is a very dangerous fish; behead me and I am an exclamation; behead me again and I am the emblem of safety. LOUISA BARRETT.

#### 32—PUZZLE.

Take five hundred and fifty and one, and add a thousand to that; If you place them in order (required you'll see something good, kind, or "flat.")

#### 33—NAMES OF BRITISH TOWNS.

1. What things are when you buy them at shops, and what you generally see when you go to the town of Dover?
2. Part of a great ship which was built by Brunel.
3. Animals which possess horns and a part of a fortified town.
4. What England possesses a great many of and a part of the human body. W. SHORE.

#### 34—DOUBLE ACROSTIC.

The initials of the following name, a country of Europe and the finals; one of its seaport towns:—

1. An island in the Mediterranean Sea.
2. A river in the north of Asia.
3. A river in England.
4. A cape on the coast of Spain.
5. A county of Ireland.
6. A town in Turkey.
7. A river in Africa.
8. A river in Russia.

#### 35—NUMERICAL ENIGMA.

I am composed of 16 letters:  
My 6, 2, 10, 3, 12, 14 is an article of dress.  
My 1, 7, 8, 15, 13, 5 is a contemptible trait of character.  
My 16, 4, 1, 9 is a bird.  
My 11, 2, 16 is a fish.  
My whole is good advice. T. W. T.

### Answers to March Puzzles.

- 22—Pelargonium.  
23—C a n t o  
w h i c h  
c h i l d  
a r e N a  
p a v i A  
24—Nelson; Rodney:—N i c o b a R  
E b r O  
L o m o n D  
S n o w d o N  
O t a h e i t E  
N o r m a n d y  
25—Sturgeon; Flounder; Whale; Turbot; Oyster; Eel.  
26—Beaver; Sable; Gazelle; Camel; Dog; Rat; W  
27—The letter O.  
28—Clove, love, glove, clover.  
29—Who does the best he can does well.  
30—Mad-den, Den-mark, Mark-et, Et-na, Na-val, Val-ley, Ley-den, Den-tal, Tal-on, On-set, Set-tee.

### Names of Those Who Sent Correct Answers to March Puzzles.

H A Woodworth, Freddie O Flewelling, Emma Meyers, David F Every, Robt Wilson, Louis Contsworth, Netta Vanallen, Maggie A Blair, John Spring, Alice Cross, James Delaney, Albert Manning, Francis McBean, Robt Fleming, Carrie Muirhead, Mary Johnson, Ethel Roberts, John McIntosh, Ella Westmeath, E A Donnel, M J Orwell, Jas Jarvis, D G Crossin, O W Mercer, Jos Sharp, Edwin West, Henry Osbourne Samuel Weekes, Sarah Brant Jas Sheppard, Leo Powell, Wesley Everts, Jos Hausley, J J Jones, A O Long, M U Emery, Gertrude Phillips, John Cameron, E A Meritt, Jos F Fraser, I O Harnes, G Webster, Lucy Chisholm

"I wonder how they make lucifer matches?" said a young lady to her husband, with whom she

was always quarrelling. "The process is very simple—I once made one," he answered.—"How did you manage it?" "By leading you to church."

"Thomson! ye maun be a Scotch Thomson, I'll warrant," said Wilkie to Henry Thomson, as they sat for the first time at an Academy dinner. "I'm of that ilk, sir," was his reply; my father was a Scotchman." "Was he really?" exclaimed Wilkie, grasping the other's hand quite brotherly; "and another was Irish!" "Nay, was she really?" the hand relaxed its pressure; "and I was born in England." Wilkie let go Thomson's hand altogether.

DERBY.—Lord Derby is enormously rich; one of the very wealthiest subjects in Europe, and his income is steadily increasing. It is calculated that in a few years he will be in receipt of some two-thirds of a million per annum. This is one great secret of his success, or rather of the profound veneration with which the majority of Englishmen regard him. The second fact to be taken into account is that this man of £600,000 a year is the head of the Stanleys, a name which has shown again and again with singular brightness in English history, and has been inscribed by immortal writers in the pages of English literature. The Earl of Derby, the oldest on the roll excepting that of Shrewsbury, dates from 1485, when Henry VII. conferred it on Thomas, Lord Stanley, as the meed of his treason to Richard III. For even a Stanley may fall short of absolute perfection.

### Flow of Conversation.

A young lady writes to us that she finds it difficult to keep up a flow of conversation. After an evening is over she often thinks of things which she might have said, but they did not occur to her at the opportune moment.

The first requisite towards becoming a really good talker is to think clearly. Form definite and accurate ideas on subjects. Be sure that your information is correct and complete. Then there is but little difficulty in talking.

There is a kind of hesitation or embarrassment which results from nervousness; but that is soon overcome, and a clear-headed person seldom experiences any permanent impediment in conversation. Of course, there is in his as in everything else a great deal in habit. Conversational powers are susceptible of great improvement by cultivation.

#### 36—ILLUSTRATED REBUS.

The above rebus was made from an expression of the Hon. Harris Lewis, President of the New York Dairymen's Association, when said gentleman was in London. Fifty cents will be given to any dairyman or any old paid subscriber that will send in the correct answer before the next paper is issued, if they send in one new subscriber for the ADVOCATE for one year, accompanied with the price of subscription.

#### 37—SQUARE WORD.

1. An animal.
2. A girl's name.
3. An exclamation.
4. A tool.

#### 38—DOUBLE ACROSTIC.

The initials and finals form two French cities.

1. A range of mountains in Europe.
2. A city of Australia.
3. A river in Texas.
4. A lake in Minnesota.
5. A country of Africa.

#### 39—NUMERICAL PUZZLE.

I am composed of 8 letters:  
My 8, 4, 5 is an animal.  
My 8, 6, 3 means no.  
My 7, 1 is a pronoun.  
My 2, 6, 1 is a troublesome animal.  
My whole is a proverb. NETTA VAN ALLEN.

#### 40—BEHEADED WORDS.

1. My whole is a precious jewel; curtail and I am a fruit; behead and I am a part of the head; transpose and I am a verb.
2. My whole is a boy's name; behead and I am a color; behead again and I am a nickname; curtail and I am a vowel. FREDDIE O. FLEWELLING.

