

Chats with the Children

DEAR COUSIN FLO.—Until now I have had no time to write to you to give you a description of my native village.

For the past month I have been busy practicing for a concert and have to spend much time studying my lessons for school, because I am going to try the entrance examination.

Tottenham, a village with nearly one thousand inhabitants, is situated on the H.N.W. Ry., midway between Georgetown and Barrie.

There is a Public School in which three teachers are engaged. There are five churches, one of which is the Catholic. All are brick buildings, as also are the greater number of the stores and dwelling-houses. My father is proprietor of a hotel known by the patriotic name of the "Maple Leaf." On account of having to spend my time until July in studying my lessons I would be much pleased if you could possibly postpone the commencement of the next competition until holidays when all the cousins will be free from work.

Hoping this letter will not be too long for publication, I remain your loving cousin.

12 years old. CAMILLA CASSEBURY.

Tottenham, May 14th, 1898.

Camilla writes a very nice letter. As to the competitions, we shall have some special ones during the holidays; but the series of puzzles cannot be stopped without creating some little confusion, so we had better go on with them. This series will run all through the summer so the cousins will have plenty of time to try for the next prizes.

COUSIN FLO.

THE BAND OF MEROY.

The following new members are enrolled: Alice Lamarche, Dolly Loughrin, Leonard Smith, all of Mattawa.

The cousins outside the city seem to appreciate the Band; we have only 8 Toronto members out of a total of 16, that is not as it should be.

Remember you are not obliged to send for a badge, you can send me your name for enrollment; but I would like all the members to wear badges because it would remind them of their pledge to be kind and just to every living creature, and good and obedient to parents and teachers, and thus mould their characters into that true nobility which seems meanness of every kind, and would despise to ill-treat one weaker than itself. Meroy is of various kinds; it does not consist merely in being kind to animals. We may be, and often are, unmerciful to our teachers when we are unruly, and irritable, or will not learn our lessons properly; we cause them many headaches and heartaches too. We are unmerciful to our schoolfellows when we tease and irritate them, and provoke them to quarrel and fight. And we are most often unmerciful to our parents who have done so much for us, when we are disobedient, and impatient, and had tempered, or tear our clothes carelessly, and do lots of other things that members of the Band of Meroy must try their hardest to avoid.

They must try and be peace-makers also, whenever they see a quarrel between schoolfellows try and pacify them and show them the folly of quarrelling over trifles.

"Blessed are the peacemakers—blessed are they that shall obtain mercy." You may wish to do these words. If any of my cousins succeed in stopping a quarrel and reconciling the combatants they must write to me about it and I will print the letter and send them a picture.

COUSIN FLO.

A FAMOUS DEAF AND DUMB GIRL.

Have any of the cousins ever heard of Helen Keller? This young girl was deaf, dumb and blind from birth, the only sense she possessed was the sense of touch.

When she was about eight years old she was sent to a large school for the deaf and dumb, where they are taught not only to understand what is said by others by means of watching their lips, but also to speak themselves. It would seem impossible to teach a dumb person to speak, but it is quite practicable. They are told to place their hand upon the teachers' throat and feel the sounds he is making, and then they try to make them themselves; that is how they are taught to talk, and when perfect, they can talk as well as anybody, and also understand what people say by looking at their lips.

But Helen was blind also, so she had to be taught through the sense of touch. Through this, the only sense she possessed, she learned to talk, to read and write, and even to knit, sew and embroider. She understood what was said by placing her hand upon a person's mouth; she could also read the deaf and dumb language by holding the hand of the person who was making the signs. I will tell you more about Helen in a future letter.

COUSIN FLO.

PUZZLES.

The winners of the first, second and third prizes in the competition just

closed are debarred from further competition for three months; they may reply to puzzles if they like, but the marks they may obtain will only entitle them to cards.

DIAMOND.

A letter; an animal; the universe; a soothing medicine; the Pope's confidants; a famous Irish river; a legal agreement; a male liquor; a letter.

ENIGMA.

I am a word of eleven letters, meaning an Eastern language. My 4, 5, 8, 10 is fluted; my 7, 2, 9 is a metal; my 6, 7, 8, 9 means river; my 1, 11 is a domestic bird.

CHARADES.

1. My first is used by every student; my second is found in the marketplace; my whole is what my first is sold.

2. My first means information; my second is a narrow shaft; my whole is what we are always seeking.

3. My first means at no time; my second denotes a particular thing; my third means smaller; my whole means in spite of something.

Each correct answer will obtain one mark.

Answers to Puzzles of May 12th.

HIDDEN INGREDIENTS FOR DINNER.

Deaf, lamb, veal, bread, sage, cream, peas, mutton, pork, kroust, game, salmon, cabbage, melon, lemon.

TRANSPOSITION.

Amiable. Am I able? Am I able.

TOTAL MARKS TO DATE.

1st. John A. Doyle, 46.

2nd. Camilla Casseburi, 28.

3rd. Martina McCoy, 26.

J. E. Thompson, 20; J. Malley, 20; A. Blondin, 20; S. J. Murphy, 17; Mary Smith, 8.

The other competitors' marks remain as announced last time, they having sent no more replies.

At the date of going to press no solutions have been received from J. E. Thompson 'till the last two puzzles; if correct solutions should arrive from him, bringing his marks up to 22, a consolation prize will be awarded him.

Cousin John A. Doyle is to be congratulated upon his grand total, which betrays a most praiseworthy perseverance. If he will write and let me know what book he would most like to have, I will send it to him; this is the privilege of the first prize winner.

The choice of a book must have the approval of parents or teachers.

Replies to puzzles will be received up to the Wednesday before the answers are announced. Thus competitors will have nearly a fortnight in which to solve the puzzles. The competitors entitled to cards are the following: J. E. Thompson, J. O'Malley, A. Blondin, S. J. Murphy.

The prize winners are notified that they are disqualified for the next competition; but all the others, including those mentioned as winners of cards may enter again. Remember, patience and perseverance tell; don't get discouraged because your marks don't always appear, they are sure to be in the total.

"Do you know your orders, sentinel?" was asked of a not-over-bright Irish soldier on duty. "Yis, sir," was the reply. "Know the points of the compass?" continued the officer. "Yis, sir."

"If you face the rising sun, your left hand would be on the north of you and your right hand to the south of you. What would be behind you?" "Ma knapsack, sir," sententially answered the soldier.

Few men understand women. When a woman is weak, sickly, nervous, fretful, irritable and despondent, the average husband simply out to get her.

The fact is that the poor wife is suffering from illness of a desecrating sensation in the abdomen. Her appetite is touchy and she suffers from nausea. She has chills, giddiness, dizziness, cold chills, flushing of heat, shortness of breath, palpitation, disturbed sleep, frightful dreams, irregularities and nervous and aching sensations. Her pain-racked nerves are a continual torture.

A woman in this condition is suffering from weakness and disease of the delicate and important organs connected in wifehood, while you can get Bickel's Anti-Consumptive Syrup. This medicine cures coughs, colds, inflammation of the lungs and all throat and chest troubles. It promotes a free and easy expectoration, which immediately relieves the throat and lungs from viscid phlegm.

You need not cough all night and disturb your friends; there is no occasion for you running the risk of contracting inflammation of the lungs or consumption, while you can get Bickel's Anti-Consumptive Syrup. This medicine cures coughs, colds, inflammation of the lungs and all throat and chest troubles. It promotes a free and easy expectoration, which immediately relieves the throat and lungs from viscid phlegm.

H. V. F.

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EASTER IN SOUTH AFRICA.

(WRITTEN FOR THE REGISTER.)

JOHANNESBURG, April 11.—Apart from its character and importance as a great festival of the Church, the coming of Easter in Canada is looked upon generally as the first harbinger of spring. The most careless observer will have noticed that on Easter Sunday morning, though the day may be the coldest of the month, fashion's vortices appear in light raincoat and the colors ordered to be popular during the coming season. And generally, this period of Christian rejoicing does mark the passing away of the more severe winter weather experienced in well-beloved Canada. But here, in this southern portion of the dark African continent, the scene is certainly changed. Here Easteride brings with it the same notes of gladness and rejoicing, and thanksgiving in the church, and the same holidaying and making merry among the people generally; but the season is in "the sera and yellow leaf," and the African winter, such as it is, comes on apace. This is the autumn of the year. At this time the climate of South Africa is at its best, and more agreeable weather it would be difficult indeed to imagine. Now is the season of the African sportsman's complete happiness. Autumn races of different kinds are being held in connection with the holidays; the great cricket tournaments are drawing to a close, and even here, the Rugby season is at hand, and more suitable to the cooler weather. But it is with the festival of Easter that we are more concerned. The holidaying here is more general than in Canada, and this year it has been especially so. In the city of Johannesburg the Jew and Gentile seem to be almost equal numerically, and as this is the season of the Jewish Passover, all classes of the community are celebrating their festivals in their own way. There is no business of any account done from Thursday to Tuesday. But though the season is the antipodes of Canadian Easter weather, and though all things else seem very strange to a traveller from the north country, the celebration of the Easter festival by the Roman Catholic Church in South Africa varies not one iota either in ceremonial or in beauty and reverence from the services at home. One need only travel to learn well the Catholicism of the Church, and to have indelibly impressed upon one's mind the fact that, though all things else—the seasons, the scenery, the customs and complexions of the people—may change, the Church is unvaryingly the same. When I left Toronto missions were being conducted in the different churches, and at 5 a.m. the streets leading churchward were crowded with people hurrying through slush and snow to the early services. And here, in the land of the Southern Cross, twelve thousand miles distant, and even, while the cross swings low to the morn', there is on Easter Sunday in a corner of the Immense Continent a congregation that completely filled the handsome edifice; and hundreds of communicants gave the most tangible evidence of the faith that is in them. Among them were many negroes, who though somewhat fantastic of garb, yet approached the sacrament with every evidence of the most profound reverence and devotion. And this gives rise to another thought. In this Transvaal Republic the negro was to be seen fit to forbid the negro to walk about in the country that is his own without a brass plate license, worn conspicuously on the left arm. On Sunday morning these poor blacks, any one of whom, by virtue of his set, was greater for the moment than the president or any other officer of the State, yet performed, wore upon his arm this badge of humiliation—a license, a tag which by many in other countries is considered an injustice to a dog. But perhaps this Dutch Government understands the negro question better than we "Uitlanders." The services in the church throughout the day were very fine. A splendid choir, with full orchestral accompaniment, rendered the Mass music in a manner that would have done credit to any choir in Toronto. The church, by the way, is in architecture and interior arrangement, very similar to St. Basil's in Toronto. The congregation is truly cosmopolitan in character, including all nationalities, classes and colors. The pillars of the church are, for the most part, of Irish descent, but there are also many French, German, English, Portuguese, Malay, Negroes, etc. The parish is in charge of Rev. Father De Laoy, a large-hearted, genial Irish priest, and his assistants; there are a number of suburban chapels attended from here.

In the evening the church was again crowded, and the singing excellent. Father De Laoy preached an impressive and scholarly sermon on the festival of the day; and after Benediction the large congregation flocked out into the cool and intensely dark African night.

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Farm and Garden

John Evans, of Burton, Eng., has for the last seven years been breeding Lincolnshire Red Shorthorns with a special eye to dairy purposes. During that time he has brought up the yearly milk yield by 140 gallons per cow. Profit, one of his herd, after dropping her sixth calf, gave a yield of 15,661 lbs. of milk for the year, and 420 lbs. of butter. Another cow, after her fourth calf, gave 13,025 lbs. of milk, and 420 lbs. of butter.

James Shirton, a Morden (Man.) pioneer, tells Farming, that he does not think either Manitoba or the West will have any cattle to export this year. The local demand in the Crow's Nest Pass and the Kootenay is using up all local supplies. As Manitoba exported about 40,000 head last year, her failure to ship any stock east this year will have an appreciable effect on a market which already promises to be short of supplies.

Blight on potatoes cannot be prevented before planting, as the germ of the disease lives in the tuber. Precautions should be taken to sow, not to use for seed any potatoes to which when out is not clear and white. When the vines are about six inches high, spray them with Bordeaux mixture. Two or three sprayings during the season will usually be sufficient, and as the blight is unusually bad, when the mixture should be made stronger and the spraying be more frequently done.

Poultry, and other farm creatures as well, are more or less afflicted in early spring with ailments usually mild, but requiring good care to prevent more serious trouble. Most of these spring ailments of fowls are due to some lack of variety in the food, and the birds get dullish and out of sorts much after the manner of human beings at the same season. Keep all coarse dry food from them and feed largely of green foods unless grass appears; if there is no particular abundance in this ailment, the green food must be given judiciously, and especially when the early frost green foods are given, or it will cause serious trouble. Clean houses are especially necessary at this season of the year, when the warm sun starts into active work the germs of disease that the frost has up to this time kept dormant. Especially must houses, yards and every part of the grounds where the fowls congregate be kept clean if young chicks are to be successfully raised. A little judgment in the matter of food, clean water in the fountains, plenty of outdoor exercise on pleasant days, and plenty of shaft and gravel for the birds to scratch over will do much towards preventing the spring ailments so common, yet many of them not clearly enough defined to give them the name of a disease.

In the cultivation of roses much depends on the start. In the first place, procure the best plants possible for planting, not necessarily the largest, the oldest or the finest sorts at highest prices, but endeavor to obtain such plants as are stocky, well rooted, naturally strong growers, and such as by nature are apt to be free from disease. A good rule, however, would be to plant as soon as all danger of frost is over and the ground is warm. Nothing is gained by putting out plants while the ground is cold and there is little prospect of frost or very cold nights. Field-grown roses must necessarily be planted out earlier than pot-grown stock, as they do best when planted in a dormant condition. They also may require some pruning, if not already pruned when sent out by the nurseryman or florist. First, spade up the soil to a depth of eighteen inches, or, as the gardener would say, "two spades deep," which depth may seem to the novice to be rather unnecessary, but it is quite essential that the roots have plenty of room in which to work. Second, remove from the bed one-third of the soil and replace it with the same bulk of well-rotted manure (well-rotted cow manure is unexcelled for this purpose), in which has been incorporated some finely chopped soil. Spade this compost thoroughly into the soil in the bed, and work it up to the surface in all clods or lumps. Be in mind that this spading and working of the soil must only be done when the soil is in good condition as regards moisture, for if the soil is worked when pesty or too wet the chances are that it will be ruined for the whole season, until the action of frost and winter weather imparts to it again its natural friability. In setting out the roses in the bed do not neglect the all-important firming of the soil about the base of the plants. This should be done by trodding the soil well with the feet, immediately about the base of each plant, but not over all the surface of the bed.—Woman's Home Companion.

FAGGOT OIL.—None but those who have become fagged out know what a depressed, miserable feeling it is. All strength is gone, and despondency has taken hold of the sufferer. They feel that though there is nothing to live for. There, however, is a cure—one box of Paroslee's Vegetable Pills will do wonders in restoring health and strength. Mandrake and Dandelion are two of the articles entering into the composition of Paroslee's Pills.

LADIES' SOCIETIES IN ST. MICHAEL'S PARISH.

(WRITTEN FOR THE REGISTER.)

On Wednesday evening a social reunion was held at the Messy Hall, under the auspices of the Cathedral Altar Society. The large attendance and the presence of his Grace the Archbishop and the excellent musical program helped to make the event most enjoyable. The St. Nicholas Male Quartette sang their first public appearance, singing "On the Wabash" and other throat-melodies; while Miss Shea, the young and talented vocalist of Loreto Abbey, was more than once encored. Mr. Ferrin, the celebrated humorist, delighted the audience with his character songs which were rapturously applauded and encored.

His Grace in an appropriate speech alluded to the good work done by the Altar Society and praised them for their zeal, not only in filling the society of the cathedral with beautiful vestments worthy of the services of the Church, but also for their endeavors to draw the people together in a closer bond of mutual knowledge and friendship. Mrs. Donner with her accustomed kindness, accompanied the solos. Signor D'Alcesandro's orchestra was in attendance and rendered many classical pieces during the evening.

In connection with this reunion it would be well to mention that the Altar Society is in a very flourishing condition. The work of the past year has been more successful than that of any preceding one. There are now 608 members of the League of the Sacred Heart, 805 of whom are also members of the Altar Society. The total receipts for the year amounted to \$642.88, which, deducting the expenditure of \$276.95, leaves a balance of \$365.93. The gross receipts since the inception of the society in 1891, amount to \$8444.70; the expenditure to \$8176.96.

The officers, to whom, with all the praise of the society, the greatest praise is due, are:

President, Miss Foy.

Vice-President, Mrs. McConnell.

Secretary, Miss Moran.

Treasurer, Miss Sullivan.

Distributor, Miss Harson.

Another society that has done excellent work in the Cathedral parish is St. Michael's Ladies' Aid Society. This society was formed to supplement the work done for the poor of the parish by the St. Vincent de Paul Society. Indeed in this, as in all good things, it is found that the work of charity could not be completely effected without the aid of the ladies. The officers of this society are:

Honorary President, Miss Foy.

President, Mrs. O'Loane.

Secretary, Mrs. French.

Treasurer, Miss Moran, with about twenty zealous and active members.

The summary of work done, during the past season, taken from reports of Secretary and Treasurer shows: No. of families assisted, 88; visits made, 858; aggregate number assisted, 250.

The assistance given was in food and clothing. The resources came from the contributions of members, donations from friends, and proceeds of a very successful concert, gotten up by the society. A generous and constant helper of the Ladies' Aid Society, Mr. Engstrom, has purchased his benefaction in the beautiful statue of St. Anthony, presented to the Ladies' Aid Society, and splendidly placed in St. Michael's Cathedral. The oldest and best known of the Ladies' societies of St. Michael's parish is the Sodality of the Blessed Virgin, and Children of Mary. This society now numbers nearly 150, with a steady increase each year. Though the Sodality of the Blessed Virgin is primarily a spiritual organization, its members generally devote themselves also to other good works of charity and mercy. The children of Mary of St. Michael's parish have done splendid work for the poor by their admirable Sewing Society. During the past winter they have made clothing and provided shoes and stockings for 150 children, whom they thrice a week attend school. Their source of revenue are their own contributions, and especially their constant and most effective work at the sewing machines, with donations from a few generous friends; amongst whom they would mention especially Rev. Father Robler, Miss Mary O'Connor and Mrs. O'Keefe.

The officers of the Sodality are: President, Miss Maggie Beall; Vice-President, Miss Mary Carroll; Assistant President, Miss Maggie Ryan; Secretary, Miss Maggie Mahony; Treasurer, Miss Katie O'Connor; Sacristan, Miss Agnes O'Leary; Librarian, Miss Theresa Fahey.

The Sodality will celebrate their May Festival by a solemn reception of members and a grand social service and procession at the Cathedral on Sunday 29th inst., at 3.30 p.m.

CANNOT BE BEAT.—Mr. D. Steinbach, Zurich, writes: "I have used Dr. THOMAS' ELECTRIC OIL in my family for a number of years, and I can safely say that it cannot be beat for the cure of cramp, flesh cuts and sprains. My little boy has had attacks of several kinds, and it has done him." THOMAS' ELECTRIC OIL was sufficient for a perfect cure. I take great pleasure in recommending it as a family medicine, and I would not be without a bottle in my house."

VALUABLE INFORMATION. This medicine is working miracles wherever used. It cures all kinds of rheumatism, and is pure. Price \$1.00 per bottle, or 6 for \$5.00, as druggist, or direct from THE S. S. RYKMAN MEDICINE CO. Limited, HAMILTON, Ont. Write for particulars and chart book, free.

Archbishop O'Brien Preter's.

HALIFAX, N.S., May 20.—Archbishop O'Brien to-day expressed himself as decidedly opposed to the action of England in interfering with the coal trade. He disputes the power of the Home Government to prohibit the sale of the coal of one mine, and contends it is an unjustifiable interference with the commerce of Canada. The fact that Great Britain alone has taken such a step in regard to coal, caused His Grace to express his opinion that it was a direct blow on her part to favor the United States. He would urge on Canadians the necessity of protecting their interests, and claims for them the right to act in the matter as they see fit.

Domestic Reading

A dumb tongue can be a heavy liar. Life is the harlequin of young dreamers. Lies are users' coin we pay for ten thousand per cent. The root cure is the regeneration of the individual.

We exchange a sky for a ceiling if we let Romance go.

Adoration for a woman takes the breath out of philosophy.

No regrets; they unman the heart we want for to-morrow.

My foe can spoil my face; he beats me if he spoils my temper.

Mean it when you're doing it, for no enemy's shot is equal to a weak heart in the act.

Friends may laugh; I am not roused. My enemy's laugh is a bugle blown in the night.

Illegitimate speculation has become a greater source of mischief than drink.—Justice Wills.

A wise man should have a useful and good wife in his house, or not marry at all.—Euripides.

You must make your own decisions; none else can make them for you. Once made, they make you.

There's not an act of a man's life lies dead behind him, but it is blessing or cursing his every step he takes.

Style is the mantle of greatness; and say that the greatness is beyond reach, we may at least pray to have the mantle.

Think prayerfully before deciding. You can only see a little way; Christ can see the whole way. He cares for you. Consult Him and He will guide you.

A gambler will let his wife and children starve, he will starve himself, and still risk his last coin on the hazard of the die, the turn of a card, or the speed of a horse.—G. R. Sims.

Work faithfully and you will put yourself in possession of a glorious and enduring happiness, not such as can be won at the speed of a horse or marred by the obliquity of a ball.—Ruskin.

In my opinion there can be no words too strong for denouncing suitably the abominable practice of gambling—now, I believe, more than ever than during my youth—and its various consequences to which it directly leads.—W. E. Gladstone.

Everyone of us is liable to be misunderstood and to suffer injustice. When one remembers how hard it is to be understood himself, it is not wonderful that one should be misunderstood by other people. Perhaps it were better for most of us to complain less of being misunderstood, and to take more care that we do not misunderstand other people.

He who has lived in the form of an experience looks back, while he who has entered into the substance and soul of an experience looks forward.

"The outward man perishes," as Paul says, "but the inward man is renewed day by day." The perishing of a form is a method in which we have lived may naturally bring a pensive sadness like that which always comes to us as we watch the setting sun, but who is in the spirit of the sunset turns instantly from the westward to the eastern look—the things the day has given him—his knowledge, and his inspirations, and his friendship, and its faith—these the departing sun is powerless to carry with it. They claim the new day in which to show their power and to do their work. Live deeply and you must live hopefully. That is the law of life.

Ottawa News.

F. X. St. Jacques, Proprietor Russell House, wishes his friends to know that he strongly recommends Rykman's Kootenay Cure, after the good results he has derived from its use.

GAINED FLESH.

A popular baker of this city, Thomas Moffat, 175 Murray St., took Rykman's Kootenay Cure for Acute Rheumatism, and now has not a sign of disease, in addition to which he gained 12 lbs. in weight. He says KOOTENAY is a great Rheumatic cure, also grand tonic and blood purifier. He has made the above statement under oath.

VALUABLE INFORMATION.

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