

UNCLE TOM'S DEPARTMENT.

MY DEAR NEPHEWS AND NIECES.— June, the queen of months, with its balmy air and glorious wealth of roses, has slipped adown Time's jewelled chapter, and now lies within our reach: so

"No matter how barren the past has been, 'Tis enough for us now that the leaves are green. Every clod feels a stir of might, An instinct within it that reaches and towers, And groping blindly above it for light, Climbs to a soul in grass and flowers."

What a pretty idea of Lowell's, and what a strain of thought it evokes! Did you ever in planting-time think of the wondrous possibilities bound up in the very tiniest seed? Take, for example, a single grain of timothy seed, or the very much smaller seed of the poppy or petunia. Would not one suppose that so frail a thing cast to the ground and buried beneath it must inevitably perish? But instead we see it not only lifting its head, but bravely surmounting the difficulties that surround it, and in time, growing into a thrifty plant, faithfully fulfilling its duty by beautifying its own particular corner of the great old earth.

Can we truthfully say as much of ourselves—is the world in which we live better or more beautiful because of our being in it? The simple phrase, "doing one's duty," is the epitome of successful living. Every act we perform and every speech we utter are seeds replete with life, ready to germinate, grow and perpetuate, for good or evil, their own particular kinds. Is not the thought appalling? It behooves us to be very careful in the selection of our seed, that useful and beautiful plants may flourish to our memory, instead of weeds, for, as the old adage says, "ill weeds grow apace," and if we allow them to gain a foothold, they may smother the grain and flowers.

Wisely have we been recommended to "Consider the lilies of the field," for they show us an example of patient trustfulness and of an ever-upward tendency, which is the secret of the most beautiful lives that have ever adorned this earth. We can learn many salutary lessons from these simple plants. If they, springing from the cold, dark earth, can yet produce snowy, sweet-scented flowers, should not we, even amid somewhat sordid surroundings, bring forth fair blossoms of virtue and fruit of good deeds? The tiny rootlets underground reach out in every direction searching for, and drawing from the soil, the elements most necessary to the plant; so should we strive to absorb as much as possible of all that is good and beautiful around us to promote the growth of our mental life. We may, if willing, close eyes and ears to much that is unlovely, for we see very much as we wish to see.

"Two men looked forth from the prison bars, One saw mud, and the other stars."

That the fair and true may ever predominate in the life-view of my boys and girls, is the sincere wish of UNCLE TOM.

The Power and Goodness of God.

The man who forgets the wonders and mercies of the Lord is without any excuse; for we are continually surrounded with objects which may serve to bring the power and goodness of God strikingly to mind. The light, how beautiful and wonderful and necessary to our well-being! The sun and moon and all the heavenly bodies, how glorious in their constant order! The mild and fruitful shower, what a token of the loving-kindness of our Creator, while the raging storm proclaims his terrible might! Every day let our mind and heart be open to such truths, and we shall never fail to behold the glory of Jehovah in his works. Let us only think of the thousands and millions of living creatures in the air, upon the earth, and in the waters, all instructed how to make or where to seek their dwellings, and all provided for, in due season, by their Maker's never-failing bounty, and all preserved by that ever-watchful Providence, without whose knowledge and permission "not a sparrow falleth to the ground." Every one of these created objects, whether with or without life, may be said, in its own way, to celebrate the Creator's glory, rejoicing in His goodness, though unknown, and answering the purposes of His will. And shall man, the head of all—man, blessed with reason—man, taught by his Maker—shall he be wanting in praise, and gratitude, and love? Forbid it, "O God, the God of the spirits of all flesh."

Bugler and Hero.

"After the battle of Inkerman, in the Crimean war, no one attracted more attention on the field than a bugler boy, ten years old, by name Thomas John Keep. The fight was stubborn and long, and many men were killed and wounded. During the night, in spite of a running fire still kept up by the Russians, young Keep went about helping the injured. He built a big fire of sticks, gathered at some risk, and made tea for the poor fellows. His unselfish conduct gained him the name of "The Boy Hero." As has been too often the case with men who have fought and bled for their country, Keep suffered a good deal of hardship in later life, and died through an accident at the early age of fifty." Our readers who were interested in the late anecdote of Bugler Dunn, will also find interest in the above account of so long ago.

Puzzles.

The following prizes are offered every quarter, beginning with months of April, July and October: For answers to puzzles during each quarter—1st prize, \$1.50; 2nd, \$1.00; 3rd, 75c. For original puzzles—1st, \$1.00; 2nd, 75c.; 3rd, 50c. This column is open to all who comply with the following rules: Puzzles must be original—that is, must not be copied from other papers; they must be written on one side only of paper, and sender's name signed to each puzzle; answers must accompany all original puzzles (preferably on separate paper). It is not necessary to write out puzzles to which you send answers—the number of puzzle and date of issue is sufficient. Partial answers will receive credit. Work intended for first issue of any month should reach Pakenham not later than the 15th of the month previous; that for second issue not later than the 15th of that month. Leave envelope open, mark "Printer's Copy" in one corner, and letter will come for one cent. Address all work to Miss Ada Armand, Pakenham, Ont.]

1—INITIAL CHANGES.

- A ONE is valued for its fur. By miss, master, madam, sir.
TWO is a bond, or measures land; Its length—the length of a person's hand.
AT THE THREE one hears in winter-time The skaters' merry laughing chime.
FOUR is a flower which lends its name To a color pleasing to girl and dame.
IN FIVE is washed the dirty plate By Mary, Lucy, Maud and Kate.
A GAUL in a winding thread is SIX; One's temper is tried by such a fix.
A SEVEN draws a veil o'er the eye In a manner quite sudden and sly.

F. L. S.

2—SQUARE.

1, that in which one excels; 2, a particular kind of writing practised by the ancient Irish and other Celtic nations; 3, to accord in sound; 4, one who subdues; 5, corundum blended with oxide of iron, used in the arts for grinding and polishing metals, hard stones and glass.

ROLLY.

3—CHARADE.

LAST the end of a rotten railway bridge The smith FIRST hath his seat. The smith, a mighty man is he, With large and sinewy feet, And the shoes he wears upon the same Would cover half a street. And TOTAL, he doesn't mind a bit, For what cares he for heat.

IKE ICICLE.

4—HALF SQUARE.

1, quick; 2, natives of Natal; 3, a raised floor; 4, metals at the ends of lanes; 5, a beverage; 6, Nova Scotia (abbr.); 7, a beverage (phon.).

L. E. FORCE.

5—DROOP-WORD PUZZLE.

So you—what I— And what my wife doesn't— She doesn't—what you— And I—, you— But to tell her what— And likewise what I— She'd—then what you— And I—, you—

IKE ICICLE.

6—CHARADE.

I wish you SECOND, dear cousins, I'm going to leave you now. May the laurel crown of happiness Adorn each cousin's brow. Daily strife to earn my FIRST Leaves no time to visit you, So after six months' companionship, I must bid you all adieu. TOTAL, TOTAL, cousins dear, The sun shines on the veldt, And cruel fate sets its decree— Ike Icicle must melt.

IKE ICICLE.

7—DIAMOND.

1, a letter; 2, the black beetle; 3, Napoleon's favorite marshal; 4, a Japanese palanquin; 5, a native of an ancient country; 6, to think wisely; 7, a letter.

ROLLY.

8—NUMERICAL ENIGMA.

My 1, 2, 3, 9 is just and right, " 6, 7, 8, 5 is great warmth, " 10, 17, 4 is a mode, " 22, 21, 13, 14, 15 is a current, " 16, 24, 11 is a light color, " 19, 20, 18 is an instrument, " 25, 24, 21, 23, 26 is "being every day," WHOLE is one of our British general's mottoes. Known and repeated by e'en Canadian heroes. MURIEL DAY.

Answers to May 1st Puzzles.

- 1—One is slight of waist and the other is slight of hand. 2—Pardon. 3— k the k h a k i 4—Hopeless. e k e i 5— u s I c m s T E A K I E R N E c A N T s m k E s o 6—Discontent. 7— m u l s e u z e m a l e r o t 8—Wauchope. s m o k e e a t e n 9— n e s t e n t e r s t o n e s t e n a n t s r e n t s s t s

SOLVERS TO MAY 1ST PUZZLES.

M. R. G., "Sartor," "McGinty," Sila Jackson, "Diana."

ADDITIONAL SOLVER TO APRIL 16TH PUZZLES.

Sila Jackson.

COUSINLY CHAT.

"McGinty."—I really thought you had gone "to the bottom of the sea," but I am pleased to see you hobbing up serenely. Sila.—Patience and perseverance ensure success. You began late this quarter, but in time for the special contest. "Diana."—You are debarred only from the special contest, so I hope you will continue your good solutions. "Sartor."—Our "new member" is very welcome, especially as she (S) makes an excellent beginning. "Ike I."—Must you really dissolve in tears, Ike? Take a less sensitive form next time. ADA A.

Conundrums and Answers.

- 1. Why does a negro not have the cap on his knee that a white man does? Because he has one of his OWN.
2. When does a cow become real estate? When she is turned into a field.
3. When did the rooster crow where everyone in the world heard him? In the ark.
4. What two letters do boys delight in, to the annoyance of their elders? Two T's (to tease).
5. What relation is the door mat to the scraper? A stepfather (farther).
6. Why was Paul like a horse? Because he loved Timothy.
7. What is the best way to make a coat last? Make the pants and vest first.

Sealed Orders.

Out she swung from her moorings, And over the harbor bar, As the moon was slowly rising She faded from sight afar— And we traced her gleaming canvas By the twinkling evening star.

None knew the port she sailed for, Nor whither her cruise would be; Her future course was shrouded In silence and mystery; She was sailing beneath "sealed orders"— To be opened out at sea.

Some souls, cut off from moorings, Go drifting into the night, Darkness before and around them, With scarce a glimmer of light. They are acting beneath "sealed orders"— And sailing by faith, not sight.

Keeping the line of duty Through good and evil report; They shall ride the storms out safely, Be the voyage long or short; For the ship that carries God's orders Shall anchor at last in port. —Helen Chauncey.

Household Helps.

Everyone who has much standing to do knows what foot-weariness is, and yet few people seem to think of relieving it. Two or three folds of old carpet compressed so as to form a good-sized pad two or three inches thick, with a piece of oil-cloth or cheap leather on the bottom, so that it may slide easily along the floor. Make it wide enough to stand on comfortably, and rather long, so that in ironing, etc., one need not be moving it all the time. Also amongst the kitchen chairs there should always be one low one with a cushion, which will often be found most restful, and in which much work can be done not requiring standing or a higher chair.

Wheelwomen may like to know the reason why rubber perishes when lying idle. All vulcanized rubber contains sulphur, which combines with the oxygen of the air to form the destructive agent known as sulphuric acid (H<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>). In the case of pneumatic tires, if they are left unused for some time, during the winter, for instance, the sulphuric acid accumulates and gradually rots the rubber. To prevent this, the covers and inner tubes should be well washed every fortnight or so with warm water and ammonia. Before replacing the inner tube, wipe it dry, and dust both it and the inside of the cover with French chalk. Patching rubber, rubber bands, etc., not in use can be preserved by being kept in ammonia water. Before washing the tire covers, be sure to plug every cut with bits of cotton wool, soaked in rubber solution, allowing them to set; otherwise the wet will get in and rot the fabric. This is a precaution for wet weather also.

Life.

Life is not living just for to-day. Life is not dreaming all the short way. To live is to do what must be done, To work and be true, for work is soon done. 'Tis living for others to lighten their load: 'Tis helping your brothers and trusting in God.

Death.

Death is not ceasing ever to be: Death is not sleeping eternally. To die is beginning Really to be Freed from all sinning Immortally. 'Tis passing from darkness Into the light: Just putting off weakness, Putting on might.

Teacher—What happens when a man's temperature goes down as far as it can go? Smart Scholar—He has cold feet, ma'am.