

Uncle Tom's Department.

MY DEAR NEPHEWS AND NIECES,—“A happy New Year” to you all, young friends. May the gladdest of all glad times make your lives pleasant where ever you are! What could a kind old uncle wish you more? Will not the gladdest time for each be full of what each most wants; the good things of many kinds which have most charm for little folks, and which makes them happiest? Have you ever thought of one very useful lesson which [the New Year always brings? It can be summed up in two words: “Beginning again!” It is a lesson young people especially should learn. They have more occasion than older persons to begin again. They are beginning to do many things, and may not always do them well; but at every failure, partial or complete, they must begin over, and repeated trying will bring its reward.

The seasons begin again, only to go through the same round of days they have gone through for ages. Our lives are just like them—they must start anew often, and repeated experiences then have become an old, old song. It is the same work, perhaps, day after day, and year after year.

Are our lives so patient? Do we not often get weary, and feel that we would gladly take up some other labor? Yes, to the last question. We need to learn so much patience, that though we spend years even doing the same thing over and over again, we may try with each repetition to do it more perfectly.

Perfection is what every boy and girl, and man and woman, should strive for. Very likely it will never be attained here on earth in any thing, but we shall come nearer it by striving for it.

UNCLE TOM.

Puzzles.

1.—ENIGMA.

My first is in death, but not in life;
My second is in peace, and also in strife;
My third is in merry, but not in sad;
My fourth is in boy, but not in lad;
My fifth is in Italy, but not in Finland;
My whole is a town in England.

F. W. L.

2.—CHARADES.

- 1.—My first is a fish,
My second is a couch,
My whole is sullen.
- 2.—My first is the name of a pet,
My second is a sea fish,
My whole is the young of my first.
- 3.—My first is a color,
My second is to rouse,
My whole is a bird.

3.—SQUARE-WORDS.

Part of the body;	Part of the head;
An Eastern tree.	An action.
A vessel;	A body;
Within.	Animal substance.

4.—ENIGMA.

I am composed of 14 letters:
My 5, 12, 6 is a river.
My 10, 5, 3, 4, 3 is a girl's name.
My 7, 2, 3, 8 is a kind of fish.
My 13, 6, 9, 5 is a boy's name.
My 14, 9, 5, 11 is a kind of cloth.
My 4, 12, 1, 11 is to mind.
My whole is a distinguished novelist.

MAGGIE BLAIR.

5.—TRANSPPOSITION.

In each of the following sentences, fill the blank or blanks in the first part with words, whose letters when transposed will suitably fill the remaining blank or blanks:—

1. ——— words with a man in a ———.
2. Did you see the tiger ——— on me with his ——— eyes.
3. McDonald said ——— ragged ——— remind you of Scotland.
4. The knots may be ——— more easily than ———.
5. ——— told me an ——— which amused all in his tent.
6. I bring the ——— on the ——— round of the rack.
7. The witness is of small value is he can ——— information which is more ——— than this.
8. The ——— as they look over the ——— precipice in their sleep.

6.—LETTER CHARADE.

First's in cap, but not in hat;
Second's in mouse, but not in rat;
Third's in lamb, but not in sheep;
Fourth's in slumber, not in sleep;
Fifth's in rum, but not in gin;
Sixth's in iron, but not in tin;
Seventh's in coke, but not in coal;
Eight's in mare, but not in foal;
And my whole is a town in Wales.

K. G.

10.—BIRDS ENIGMATICALLY EXPRESSED.

1. Equal, and to decompose.
2. A portion and a hillock.
3. A piece of wood, and a riot.
4. A luminous body, and a fish.
5. A European country.
6. A forest and a flower.

G. J. BELL, JR.

11.—CHARADE.

My first is an animal very well known,
In every grade from the cot to the throne;
Though strange it may seem, deny it who can,
My second is just the third part of a man;
My third, I give you to understand,
Is an elevated portion of land;
My whole, when these parts are rightly combin'd,
Is a savage animal's name, you will find. S. H.

12.—CHARADE.

My first may be a roguish race,
Or strollers tramping through a place;
Or else a ribbon it may be
An ornament to you or me.

My second with the coachman goes,
Or brings a pleasure to the nose;
Not always, for it causes pain,
And is not good to catch again.

My whole is known to ladies fair,
When dressing for the church with care;
Too often it is very frail,
Yet takes a lengthen'd tour by rail.

G. J. BELL, JR.

13.—HIDDEN FEMALE NAMES.

I'll mount my Pegasus, another
ride
Upon my barb, a rapid flight
I'll take;
I am audacious him to thus
bestride;
As I've began, now list, in
pity's sake.

'Tis of a maid I sing, alackaday!
How can I charm a belle so
passing fair?
I still am yielding to her pow-
erful sway,
The while she sees me van-
quish'd by despair.

I look at ev'ry beauty in her
face,
Mark what prim art hath
added to her charms;
A lovely diadem I think should
grace
Her brow, with brightest gem
man's bosom warms.

Ah, well! endearing words I'll
softly press;
A smile—a heav'nly smile—
I'll seek to gain;
And if she lends an ear, and
answers “Yes,”
A license then I quickly will
obtain.

WORKMAN.

8.—SQUARE WORDS.

- 1.—First's always seen wherever there's land;
Second's to worship—this you'll understand;
Third is to wander, both far and near;
Fourth will often the thirsty man cheer;
Fifth is a country in our beloved isle.
When you have squared these perhaps you'll
smile.
- 2.—First is a prominent part of a man;
Second's a sin which magistrates scan;
Third's to ascend like the lark in the air;
Fourth's flowers worn on ladies' fifth, I declare.
- 3.—First is a treat that children like well;
Second's a tree (how old I can't tell);
Third's adoration in the highest degree;
Whilst fourth is thought menial, and this you
will see;
My fifth was much used for our old wooden
walls,
But ironclad ships best stop cannon balls.

J. G. PENNY.

9.—DIAMOND PUZZLE.

A consonant; a liquor; a bird; a State of Ger-
many; a town; a pastime; a multitude of people;
an animal; a consonant.
The centrals, read downwards and across, name
of a town in England.

14.—CHARADE.

My first oft makes my second;
My first a nickname is reckoned;
My whole is a bird well known,
In England I must own.

T. M. TAYLOR.

15.—REVERSIONS.

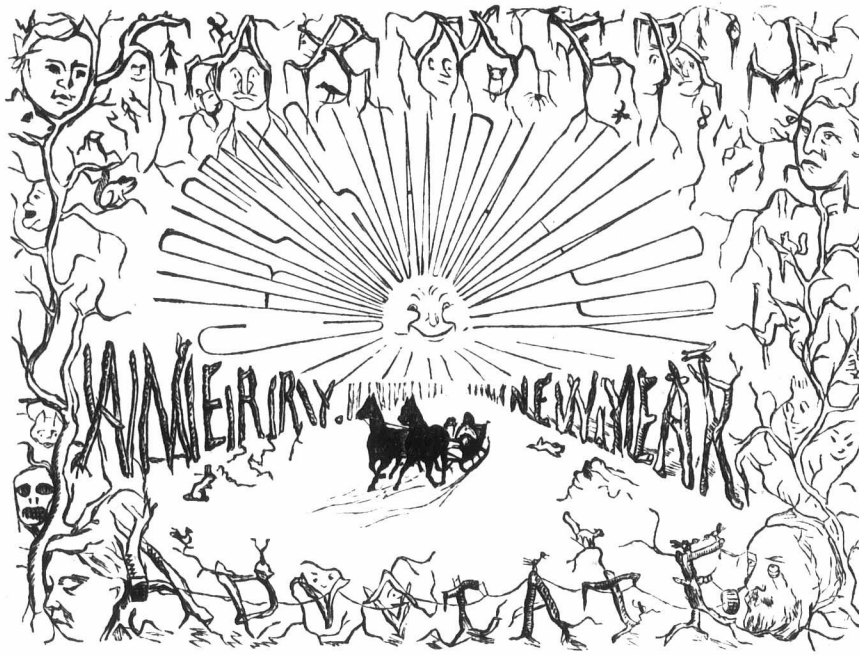
Is heard in the streets to rattle,
Reversed is a place for cattle.
Upon the trees it lurks,
Reversed is dignity among the Turks.
Is you and me to share,
Reversed is to ensnare.
Is heard when the bell rings,
Reversed is an insect that stings.

T. M. TAYLOR.

16.—RIDDLE.

Two prepositions find,
A pronoun in the middle;
Put them together, and you will find
An answer to my riddle.

P. S. McLAREN.



7.—PICTURAL REBUS.