

## PUZZLES.

## 1.—DIAMOND.

1. A consonant. 2. Part of the face. 3. Pertaining to the moon. 4. A sour liquid. 5. Heathen. 6. Conjugation of the verb run. 7. A consonant.

MAGGIE F. ELLIOTT.

## 2.—WORD SQUARE.

1. Name of a country. 2. Shape of an arch. 3. A post pag. 4. A girl's name.

MAGGIE F. ELLIOTT.

## 3.—TRANSPOSITION.

Stohe ohw itlo rabveyi rea sogstntre hte mbuhle  
nda gppo bombve gtera.

LINA BROWN.

## 4.—RIDDLE.

What is in mountain, not in hill?  
What is in meadows, not in fields?  
What is in me, not in you?  
It is in every man and woman too.

## 5.—SYLLABLE PUZZLE.

A farmer's tool is my first,  
A useful fowl is my second,  
A New England town is my third,  
My fourth as a cave is recorded.  
Combine these three parts without fail  
And read them through aright,  
And one of Campbell's poems  
Will quickly come to light.

E. C. RIDDELL.

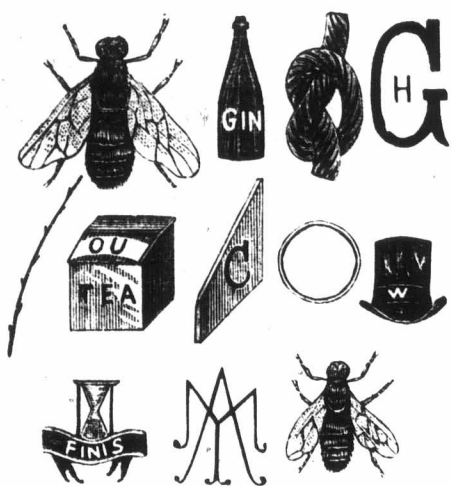
6.—Put five strokes to these six and make nine,  
| | | | |

HANNAH CONNELL.

7.—Take six and fifty-one, place nothing between them and add an N. The result will produce a musical instrument.

BARBARA TEGART.

## 8.—ILLUSTRATED REBUS.



## 9.—LETTER CHARADE.

DEAR COUSINS.—While reading Uncle Tom's description of a carnival, I thought I would tell you that we have lots of them down here in Nova Scotia. We have all gone (my 1st) about skating. We have (my 2nd) rink, sometimes lighted with electric light, which is more brilliant than my 3rd. A (my 4th) leaves here at midnight to carry strangers home.

I doubt if ever the children in my whole even heard of such a thing as a carnival.

Your affectionate cousin,

HARRY A. WOODWORTH.

## Answers to February Puzzles.

1.—  
D I R E  
I T E M  
R E A M  
E M M A

2.—Beaconsfield.

3.—Give me liberty, or give me death.

4.—  
R  
R A T  
P E D R O  
R A D I A N T  
T R A D E  
O N E  
T

5.—Venice.

6.—Birds of a feather will always flock together.

7.—Leon Gambetta.

## Names of those who sent Correct Answers to February Puzzles.

Addie V. Morse, Lina Brown, Maggie F. Elliott, S. E. Miller, Fred Porte, Elizabeth C. Riddell, Wm. J. Cowd, Maud Dennee, Cora Leonard, Tom Pepler, Harry Guston, Ed. E. Morley, Dick Johnston, Jessie Cowan, J. G. Horton, Mary Montgomery, Tom Reynolds, H. S. Cousins, James Traver, Joseph Sorrington, Hannah Connell, Barbara Tegar, Becca Lowry.

The most absent-minded man was not the man who hunted for his pipe when it was between his teeth, nor the man who threw his hat out of the window and tried to hang his cigar on a peg; no! but the man who put his umbrella to bed and went and stood behind the door.

## Little Ones' Column.

## Only a Baby.

"Only a baby small,  
Dropt from the skies;  
Only a laughing face,  
Two sunny eyes;  
Only two cherry lips,  
One chubby nose;  
Only two little hands,  
Ten little toes.

"Only a golden head,  
Curly and soft;  
Only a tongue that wags  
Loudly and oft.  
Only a little brain,  
Empty of thought;  
Only a little heart,  
Troubled with naught.

"Only a tender flower,  
Lent us to rear;  
Only a life to love  
While we are here;  
Only a baby small,  
Never at rest;  
Small, but how dear to us  
God knoweth best."

## The Bug with a Mask.

There is a funny little creature that wears a covering all over his face just like a mask. And what do you think it is for? Let us see.

Perhaps you have seen the beautiful dragon-flies that look so much like humming-birds and butterflies too. They have broad wings, as thin as a fly's, that glitter in the sunshine. Their backs are just like blue steel.

You will always find them in the hot summer months flying through the fields, or over ponds and rivers. In the country they are called "devil's darning-needles," because they are so slender, perhaps. The French people call them "demoiselles," which means ladies.

Now this handsome, swift creature grows from an ugly bug, that crawls over the mud at the bottom of the pond. And this is the way it comes about.

Little white eggs are laid on the water, the ripples carry them far away, and then they sink into the mud.

The warm sun hatches them, and from each egg creeps a tiny grub of a greenish color. They are hungry creatures, with very bad hearts. They eat up every little insect that comes in their way. They are very sly, too. They creep towards their prey as a cat does when she is in search of a rat.

They lift their small hairy legs, as if they were to do the work. It is not the legs but the head that does it. Suddenly it seems to open, and down drops a kind of visor with joints and hinges.

This strange thing is stretched out until it swings from the chin. Quick as a flash some insect is caught in the trap and eaten.

This queer trap, or mask, is the under lip of the grub. Instead of being flesh like ours, it is hard and horny, and large enough to cover the whole face.

It has teeth and muscles, and the grub uses it as a weapon too.

It is nearly a year before this ugly-looking grub gets its wings. A little while after it is hatched, four tiny buds sprout from its shoulders, just as you see them on the branch of a tree. These are really only water sacs at first. Inside of them the wings grow slowly until you can see the bright colors shining through.

Some morning this hairy-legged little bug creeps up a branch. Then he shakes out his wings and flies away into the air, a slender, beautiful dragon-fly.

I have told you of the only creature in the world that wears this curious mask.

## Minnie May's Department.

MY DEAR NIECES.—Among the many enjoyments resorted to for the entertainment of the family circle, there is hardly one less encouraged or less appreciated than that of reading aloud. Why is it? Surely there can be nothing more pleasant than to gather the family about the fire-side and take turns in reading aloud for an evening's enjoyment, thereby drawing the dear ones more closely together; all have listened to the same subject and may express their several opinions, thus awakening the mind which would otherwise be dormant. To be sure, in many families there is plenty of reading done, but each individual is absorbed in his or her book, which encourages unsociability and selfishness. None can tell the benefit derived, where the gift of reading aloud is cultivated and practiced. Music is very nice in its way, but the gift of music is only bestowed on a few, comparatively, and the expense of cultivating places it beyond the reach of many who possess that gift. The art of reading well is easily acquired and the expressions of literature abundant and varied. "History, tragedy, comedy, wit, pathos, sublimity, every spring at which the human mind loves to drink can be opened, and the sweet waters be given freely to every one." Many of my young friends may lack the confidence to read aloud. Now take my advice and make the attempt no matter how poorly you may read, only ask your friends to have patience with you, and each trial will find you gaining the necessary confidence. I know just how you feel, for I was young once myself and used to tremble in limb and voice if obliged to read aloud, but thanks to my parents and teachers, who kindly insisted upon it, I was in time enabled to put aside that timidity in reading before my own family, which so many of my dear girls may be experiencing. The younger you begin this practice the better and easier for yourself, but remember that none are "too old to learn."

These home readings may be made so cozy—a treat looked forward to by every member of the family, each one longing for the evening to arrive. Give them a trial, my dear friends, young and old, and note the happy result.

"Next to the impulse of love, as a means of drawing families together, is the influence of intellectual fellowship."

MINNIE MAY.

## Answers to Enquirers.

BIRDIE—Keep an oyster shell in your tea kettle, or some say a common marble is equally as good, as the lime will adhere to that instead of the kettle. The only objection to the marble being that it might get into the spout of the kettle, thus preventing the flow of water.

JULY.—1. The reason of your cakes sinking in the middle is that you open the oven door too soon after the cake is put in, and move your cake, which should never be moved until it is done, or it will certainly sink in the middle. 2. We do not advise the use of any acids to reduce your size, but instead leave off sugar and sweet things as well as pastry and pudding, which you may find a benefit.