LOYAL HOMEWORKERS

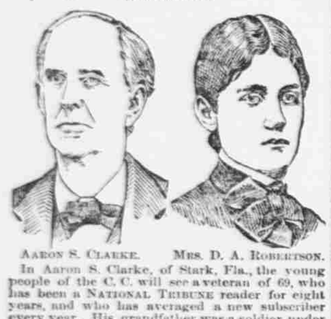
C. C. Motto: Pro Patria.
C. C. Flower: Forget-me-not.
Objects C. C.: Progress, patriotism.
Price silver badge: One dollar.

All regular readers of THE NATIONAL TRIBUNE may be enrolled as Loyal Home Workers free, and so become members of the Conversation Club and contributors to the several departments.

Contributors will please add to the address on their envelopes: "Loyal Homeworkers" or "C.C.," to facilitate the handling of mail.

References required of new members desiring correspondence.

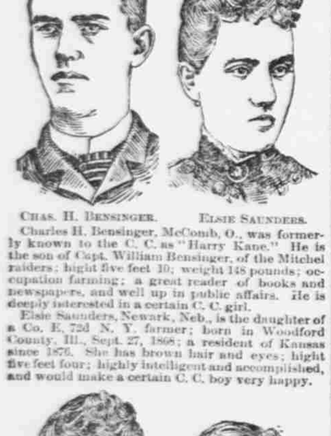
C. C. Sketches.



AARON S. CLARKE. MRS. D. A. ROBERTSON.

In Aaron S. Clarke, of Stark, Fla., the young people of the C.C. will see a veteran of 69, who has been a NATIONAL TRIBUNE reader for eight years, and who has averaged a new subscriber every year. His grandfather was a soldier under Washington; his own command being Co. H, 1st Mass. H. A. He is one of the veterans warmly devoted to the C. C.

Mrs. D. A. Robertson, wife of Lieut. D. A. Robertson, Co. K, 13th Iowa, is a matron of 36, and an artist among our Home Workers. She gives special attention to landscapes and flower-painting. She is a native of Lee County, Ill.; tall, with dark hair and eyes; fond of home, books, music and flowers.



CHAS. H. BENSINGER. ELSIE SAUNDERS.

Charles H. Bensinger, McComb, O., was formerly known to the C. C. as "Harry Kane." He is the son of Capt. William Bensinger, of the Mitchel raiders; hight five feet 10; weight 148 pounds; occupation farming; a great reader of books and newspapers, and well up in public affairs. He is deeply interested in a certain C. C. girl.

Elsie Saunders, Newark, Neb., is the daughter of a Co. E, 72d N. Y. farmer; born in Woodford County, Ill., Sept. 27, 1866; a resident of Kansas since 1876. She has brown hair and eyes; hight five feet four; highly intelligent and accomplished, and would make a certain C. C. boy very happy.

ELLA G. WEBB. NELLA D. HAMPTON.

Ella G. Webb has been a C. C. member for the past year. She is 17; has dark hair and eyes; weight, 108 pounds; hight, five feet three inches. Ella is a member of the Methodist Church and a teacher in Sunday-school. She is a crayon artist of fine ability, and intensely fond of good literature.

Nella D. Hampton has long been a most industrious and efficient member of the C. C., contributing regularly to its several departments. She is a brunet, five feet four inches tall, and weighs 190 pounds. Her time, when not employed teaching school, is devoted to the care of an invalid sister.

PRETTY THINGS FOR THE PARLOR.

A Pond Lily Plaque: Take a thin piece of board, any desired shape, and cover it with a pretty piece of satin; line the back with some contrasting color, and fasten a cord to the back, but do not have it slow.

Make four or five pond lilies, two or three buds and several pods. Arrange these in a pretty way, and tack them firmly on the board. Make the petals of the lilies of white French tissue paper, or, if anyone prefers the pink lilies, get the pink paper. This kind of tissue costs 12 cents a sheet. Care should be taken in selecting the green for the sepals and pods. Get the rubber stems; these cost only five cents a yard, and one yard will make three stems.

A Vase of Flowers: I have just made a vase of flowers, which everyone admires. I took a common glass bottle and wound it with cotton-batting, to make it the desired shape. Then I took two sheets of tissue paper, white and Nile green, and "Japanese" tissue; with these I covered the bottle, using the green on the outside. After I had laid the paper around the nose of the bottle, I brought the four corners down and pasted them in place. This I filled with two tea roses, two yellow roses, one Jacqueminot rose and bud, two dahlias, two purple fuchias, one red one, two pink pinks, one white one and a large pink peony. All of these flowers I made of tissue paper. To complete the bouquet, I waxed a few laurel leaves and placed them in the bunch. This makes a pretty, graceful paper vase, filled with handsome flowers, and is a pretty ornament for either a center-table or a mantelpiece.

Should any of the members of the C. C. wish to make any of the flowers, I will send them my patterns and tell them as well as I can how I make mine.—Edna Smith, Westboro, Mass.

CREAM PUDDING.

HAPPY HOUSEHOLD: I will send you a splendid recipe for cream pudding: One pint of sweet milk, the same of flour, one teaspoonful of salt; to this add six eggs, well beaten, with three teaspoonfuls of white sugar, and one tablespoonful of lemon extract. Bake in a buttered dish.

SAUCE FOR PUDDING.

One pint of water (boiling), two tablespoonfuls of butter, four tablespoonfuls of sugar, two tablespoonfuls of flour, mixed in a little cold water. Stir into the mixture; flavor with a little nutmeg.—Minnie Beightel, Circleville, Kan.

A PRETTY SOFA PILLOW.

HAPPY HOUSEHOLD: I will send directions for making a pretty sofa pillow: Take one yard and a quarter of sapphire-blue plush; fold the ends together, having the wrong side out. Sew the sides, and turn and face with pink satin five inches deep. Embroider $3,000 on one side, and tie pink ribbon around the bag at the bottom of the facing, drawing it up tight. The embroidery should be done before sewing the seams.—Nettie Woods, Union, Iowa.

Editor's Chat.

Our Yankeeburg friend should be Yankee enough to sign his name to his letter, and thus receive credit for answers and contributions. The Great Bend boys fail to name their States.

"Driftwood" is the title of a volume of poems by William W. Pfrimmer, chiefly of the homely dialect orders, commending themselves to those who like sober, common sense as a seasoning to their rhymes, and the number of that class is legion. The work is issued in finest book style by Charles Moulton, Buffalo, editor of the *Magazine of Poetry*, and will be mailed to any address for $1.

Arthur Brooking, Ionia, Mich., sends his compliments on a handsome pen-drawn postal card, bearing the C. C. emblems and mottoes; E. G. Richmond, Memphis, Mo., on a decorated card. Compliments returned.

The idea of a C. C. Reunion at the same time of the G.A.R. Encampment and W.R.C. Convention takes well. Comrade Jean Bucher, Post 10, 28 Oxford street, Worcester, Mass., is confident that he can secure a hall, free of cost, should the C. C. so request. Comrade Harrie M. Platner, Rockford, Ill., thinks the C. C. Reunion should begin at Boston, and be held annually so long as the G.A.R. and S. of V. exist. So much for the comrades. C. C. members who write strong letters for the Boston Reunion are Wallace W. Hawkins, 132 Benefit St., Pawtucket, R. I.; B. A. Webber, Ashton, N. J.; Alex. Penny, St. Joseph, Mo.; Nora Ollom, 1210 Avery St., Parkersburg, W. Va., and Will I. Wallace, St. Albans, Vt. The idea is spreading. Let us hear from other States.

A C. C. ACROSTIC.

"Aunt May" Keeler's mysterious call on the C. C. has materialized in the shape of an elegant silver cake-basket of unique design and ornamentation, bearing the inscription "To Our Editor, with Love of C. C. Pro Patria." "Aunt May" herself added a dainty crochet doily. The Editor cannot express her deep appreciation of the beautiful gift, but submits these thanks in rhyme, since she cannot take each donor by the hand and so express the thanks that are louder than words.

There is a band of all the best,
However great may be the rest;
A mighty host, and all true blue,
No matter what they dare or do.
Know all it is N. T. C. C.,
Serene in sweet fraternity.

The Editor gives thanks to all—
Or rich, or poor, or great or small.

True thanks for loving thoughts or deeds,
High purposes and modest needs,
Eternal truth that heavenward leads.

Dare to be strong when duty calls,
Extend a hand to him who falls,
Around your hearth let pity draw,
Rise in the might of purer law.

Now heaven bend down forevermore,
To bless your basket and your store;
Clasped in the arms of Sacred Love,
Close rest until we meet above.

—Kate B. Sherwood.

Conversation Club.

Rules of the Club.—1. Write briefly. 2. Write only on one side of the paper. 3. Write to the point. 4. Write on one subject. 5. Write your best. 6. Send answers to all puzzles for use of Editor. Each week the names of those writing the best letters—style, composition, spelling, penmanship and general merit considered—will be named at the head of this column on the Honor Roll. First honor will include all of these requirements. Second honor will include a deficiency in some one point. No others will be named.

HONOR ROLL—BEST LETTERS.

First Honor—Emmett Searcy, Wartrace, Tenn.
Second Honor—Gladys Marshall, Willow City, N. D.

SEARCHERS AND SOLVERS.

Fanny A. Frost, Fall River, Mass., 5; John Hoffman, Morgantown, W. Va., 4; James E. Alger, Swampscott, Mass., 6; L. G. George, Hudson, N. Y., 6; F. E. Santee, Cazenovia, N. Y., 6; L. S. Shepardson, Brockton, Mass., 4; Annie M. Mayo, Salmon Falls, N. H., 5; C. S. Wallace, Mark Center, O., 3; E. M. Tinkham, Springfield, Mass., 11; Katharine E. Warren, North Buckfield, Me., 8; Archy Barnes, Lovelton, Pa., 5; J. H. Messer, New Cambridge, Kan., 2; H. C. Symmes, Stoneham, Mass., 6; Cenith E. Hunt, Dexter, O., 11; Minnie Preston, Rushville, Neb., 2; Addie Haring, Westwood, N. J., 5; M. Warner Hargrove, Brown's Mills, N. J., 5; Elmer E. Clothier, Olin, Iowa, 3; Florence Adams, Lovelton, Pa., 4; W. S. Hoffman, Morgantown, W. Va., 9; E. B. Latham, York, Neb., 8; Estella Reed, Pulaski, Iowa, 2; Nelia Hampton, Mt. Victory, O., 1; Celia E. Spencer, Ellington, Conn., 8; Clayton W. Kelim, Shannon, Ill., 6; H. M. McCall, Cole Camp, Mo., 7; Annie L. Williams, Saugus, Mass., 6; Timon E. Owens, Mt. Blanchard, O., 6; Maud Dawson, Le Roy, Ill., 5; Walter Evans, Normal, Ill., 7; Samuel A. Huffman, Manchester, Ill., 1; Annie J. Shaw, Verbeck, Kan., 4; Edith Sanders, Newark, Neb., 7; O. A. Kost, Adrian, Mich., 2; Abbie S. Lane, Sherman Mills, Me., 10; Mary M. Williams, Waterville, N. Y., 3; Uriah Tinker, Monitean, Pa., 10; Mamie E. McCreary, Emporia, Kan., 4; Elma Armstrong, Atwood, Ind., 10; Nellie Wood, Union, Iowa, 3; H. J. Buchen, Cascade, Wis., 1; Cora B. Moses, Hawleytown, N. Y., 4; Ella Ripley, Olivet, S. D., 1; Anita Holsinger, Mt. Morris, Ill., 6; Cora Lee Hoffman, Morgantown, W. Va., 8; Anna Fox, Springboro, O., 3; Georgia Haver, Waverly, Iowa, 7; Addie Tolles, Glenwood, Iowa, 4; Zach Snyder, Pine Grove, Pa., 4; Emma M. Hackman, Rossville, Ill., 4; Gladys Marshall, Willow City, N. D., 4; M. Ivy Goodell, Mansfield, Ill., 3; C. J. Armor, Gettysburg, Pa., 3; Wm. Sympson, Summer Shade, Ky., 4; Carrie Skeet, Lostant, Ill., 4; Geo. W. Buker, Negunda, Neb., 4; Annie R. Alchorn, Fail River, Mass., 5; Louie Brisbin, Milford, Neb., 4.

OUR ROLL CALL—NEW MEMBERS.

L. H. Appleby, Palmyra, Me.; Mary King, v.d. 36th Ohio, Meigs Creek, O.; Della M. Brown, Millport, O.; F. B. Hurd, Ridgeville, O., v.s.; Mary Laud and Laura E. Dilts, v.d., Rearville, N. J.; Will R. Webb, v.s. Co. F, Pa. Art., Lock Haven, Pa.; Hattie and Ella Ripley, v.d. 1st Ill. L. A., Olivet, South Dak.; H. M. Weary, Akron, O.; Jennie Pound, Jones, Mich.; Nettie Studevant, Box 29, Melona, Wis.; George L. Smith (12), introduced by Grace A. Smith, Hurlburt, Ind., young but true blue; John Van Fleet, Box 729, and Herbert Lawrence, Box 625, Milton, Iowa; Eddie B. Rhoades, v.s. 1st Neb., Omaha, Neb.; Minnie B. King, Olive McCann, Lina Hilliard and Annie Harmer, all v.d., De Soto, Ill.; W. E. Henderson (18), v.s. 6th Iowa, Centerville, Iowa; Josie Foss, v.d., Granite Falls, Minn.; Fannie Showalter, v.d., Johnstown, Mo.; Nora Mae Snelbaker, v.d., Swanton, O.; L. N. Blowers, v.s. 2d Minn. Cav., Hood River, Ore.; George B. Palsdon, v.s. 2d U. S. Cav., Conover, Iowa; Lettie Wood, v.d., Chelsea, Mich.; Talia Pringle, Mitchell, S. Dak.; William L. Elkvall, 626 Orchard street, Chicago, Ill.; Minnie A. Preston, v.d. 5th Iowa, Rushville, Neb.; Rilla Smith, Laugsville, O., Cenith E. Hunt's best friend; Mabel DeFrest, Mt. Pleasant, Iowa, introduced by Sylvester Keeler; T. L. Lafferty, 317 College street, Findlay, O.; L. Lischer, Lancaster, Sioux Rapids, Iowa; Nettie Grim, Coal City, Ind.; Phina M. Sims, Hattie Bagley, Dora Bagley, Granger, Iowa; Anna Stevens, v.d., Friendship, Wis.; Harry Hammond, Moorefield, Neb.; Cora Lee Hoffman (18), v.d. 1st W. Va. Cav., Morgantown, W. Va.; Alex. Penny, St. Joseph, Ill., v.s. 51st Ill.; Sadie V. Tripp, v.d., Luray, Kan.; James T. Stewart, Hazzard, Pa.; Eller Zanwood, Casey Creek, Ky.; Miss I. E. Cross, Mannsville, Ky.; Mary F. Goodwin, Salem, Mass.; Anna Wood, v.d., McLean, N. Y.; Mattie E. and Rosa L. Thompson, Quiet Dell, W. Va., v.d. 1st Mich. L. A.; Alice Riley, Levicher's Mill, Mo.; J. P. Anderson, v.s., Box 594, New Castle, Ind.

Desiring Correspondence: Ernest D. Chapman, Clark's Falls, Conn., also, postal autographs; N. K. Todd, Bluffton, Ind., with a veteran C. C.; N. E. Braskan, Negunda, Neb.; Harvey Matson, v.s., Mill Village, Pa.; Mae Horn, Box 116, Hattie Casteele, Box 199, Fern Rogers, Box 168, and May Dawson, Box 156, Hayesville, O.; Effie Turner, Emma Diddea, Eva Swingle, Maud Beale, Lettie McDonald, Ida Diddea, Grace Wilkinson, Willie Krieg, E. R. Miller, Frank Diddea and E. Sinnler, Stewardson, Ill.; Winnie E. Reese, v.d. Pa. regiment, Greenwood, Md.; Myrtae Jennings, Box 518, Cedar Falls, Iowa, v.d. 46th Ill.; L. E. Osgood, Ischua, N. Y.; Ray K. Fenno, v.s., Mill Village, Pa.; Mrs. Ivonne Lowell, v.d. 1st Neb., No. 923 North 21st street, Omaha, Neb.; Clarence Du Bois and Paul Ewing, Box 163, Milton, Iowa; Hannah Lilla Taggart, Cascade, Colo.; Albert Stephenson and Cary Crisler, Surry, Ind.; R. G. Trumbull, Fowler, O., especially Ohio girls; Carl Walker, Doud's Station, Iowa; Miles D. Rotramel, Parrish, Ill.; Charles Erickson and Albert Lewis, Rockbridge, Iowa; John W. Slagle, v.s. 28th Conn., Darien, Conn.; Jennie M. Tenny, 219 Renwick avenue, Syracuse, N. Y., v.d. 3d N. Y. L. A.; Harvey E. Porter, Claude C. Curson and Clyde H. Root, officers Camp 58, S.V., Breckenridge, Mich.; J. G. Leonard, v.s., Belmont, Iowa; Mary M. Leonard, v.d., Belmont, especially with Leonards. Total, 8,294.

NATIONAL EMBLEMS.

DEAR C. C.: When and where the beautiful custom of using plants and flowers as National emblems originated I have never been able to learn. Ireland dates the origin of the shamrock as her emblem back to the time of St. Patrick. Many claim the shamrock to be our common clover. It is said to resemble it very much. To the Emerald Islander the three leaves of the shamrock represent the Trinity; also Faith, Hope and Charity.

About A. D. 433 Pope Celestine consecrated St. Patrick Bishop and sent him into Ireland on a mission; but as soon as the natives got the idea of his intentions, they undertook to stone him for trying to enforce a new religion on them instead of the one of the old regime. He was finally given a hearing, but not seeming to understand the truth, the saint plucked a piece of shamrock and held it up as a symbol of the Trinity. They were then convinced of their error, and to this mart belongs the honor of bringing this plant into notice and causing it to figure so conspicuously in the celebration of St. Patrick's Day and other holidays.

England has well chosen the rose as her emblem. The Greeks, it is said, consecrated this flower to Venus, the Queen of Beauty; but with them, as with the Romans, it has ever been indicative of silence. At the Roman feasts lovely clusters of roses were suspended, and whatever was said "under the rose" must never be repeated. Not only in these countries, but neighboring ones as well, has this idea of secrecy prevailed. Even here, in our own land, do we often hear our own boys and girls make use of the trite phrase "sub rosa."

This beautiful flower has also figured extensively in politics. Almost everyone has read of its association with the feuds between the Houses of York and Lancaster, the "War of the Roses," which lasted thirty years. And the Tennessee C. C.'s will remember the gubernatorial campaign, when the Taylor brothers were the contestants. The red rose then represented the Republican faction, the white the Democratic.

Who has not heard the story of the thistle in connection with Scotland? According to tradition it became the emblem of Scotland during the invasion of the Danes. Every stronghold had been taken but one. The Scots were asleep, and the Danes were about to make an assault, when a Danish soldier's foot was pierced, causing him to cry out so loudly with pain as to awaken the Scotch in time for them to gain a most glorious victory.

There are several beautiful legends in connection with the origin of the lily as the emblem of France, but its origin is said to be really unknown. However, one story says that King Clovis, who had married a Christian Princess, and himself had become a Christian through her influence, was at war with the Romans. At a battle, accompanied by a priest, they knelt down and prayed that victory might attend them. Suddenly the King's banner which bore the picture of three toads, began to change its appearance, the toads vanishing and three lilies appearing in their stead. This strange occurrence gave the King new zeal and faith, and he went forward to meet his enemies, and found them at war with themselves and killing each other. He attributed his success to the God his wife worshiped, and it was thought that the three lilies, appearing in preference to any other number, was to represent the Trinity, as does the shamrock in "Green Erin."

Recently our secular papers have been discussing the matter as to whether America should have a National flower. We see nothing wrong in the grandest Nation under the broad dome of Heaven having a beautiful flower to symbolize her; yet, if we cannot agree on a flower, we have an emblem far dearer to every American heart than any flower known. It was fully established on the battlefields of the Revolution; it was guarded and watched over with pride through the trying times of 1812; it showed with undimmed luster on the plains of Mexico; it was carried by our fathers through the bitter strife over the fields of the South. To-day it is an emblem of liberty, fraternity and equality, and the heart of every true American, as he looks upon the Stars and Stripes, wells up with pride, love and devotion.—Emmett Searcy, Wartrace, Tenn.

GIRLS IN TELEGRAPH OFFICES.

FRIENDS OF THE C. C.: How many of the Club think the telegraph office a fit place for young women? I do not. The office is the resort of rough men, and most of the trainmen are rough; and there are dangers which no young woman should be exposed to. Why do so many young girls go into the telegraph office? Is it because she can be dressed and keep her hands out of the dish-water? If so, I say put your hands in the dish-water. What do the rest say?—Louis M. Staring, Valley Junction, Wis.

A JAPANESE LEGEND.

EDITOR C. C.: The other day I ran across an old Japanese legend in regard to music. It ran like this: Once on a time the Sun Goddess had been made angry by the violence of an evil-disposed brother, and she retired into a cave, leaving the universe in darkness and anarchy. When all other means of appeasing her had been tried in vain, music was devised by the gods for luring her forth. It was successful, and the beautiful daylight broke again over the world. Who has not at some time or other felt nobler and purer thoughts rise within his heart at the strain of some loved and cherished melody? I think we all can exclaim: "Music hath charms to soothe the savage breast."—Cad M. Kepner, Marengo, Iowa.

CLUB WHISPERS.

To those sending to me for aid in the way of relief, I would say that the relief fund is but just started, and but little money so far in treasury. When the disbursing committee are elected they will be the ones to apply to, as they will distribute the aid at their discretion. I will gladly pay out from treasury all that can aid and comfort, provided the treasury gets filled up with something to pay out.—Annie L. Williams, Saugus, Mass.

Emma Kratsch: I think the Hessian soldiers did not receive any pay for their services. The German Prince sold his subjects to King George at a little less than $35 per head. Every soldier killed was to be paid for at this rate, and three wounded were to be reckoned as one killed.—Harry T. Matthews, Kinsman, O.

Carrie E. Nixon has my most heartfelt sympathy in her late bereavement—the loss of her mother. I, too, have lately parted with my best of all friends, my mother, and know the aching void in Carries lonely heart.—Gladys Marshall, Willow City, N. D.

If parents would teach their daughters that they have equal rights with their sons; if they would teach them trades, whereby they might become self-supporting; if they would teach them independence in thought and action, we would have fewer unhappy women than we have now.—Nora Ollom, 1210 Avery St., Parkersburg, W. Va.

Setting a young man afloat with money left him by his relatives, is like tying bladders under the arms of one who cannot swim; 10 chances to one he will lose his bladders and go to the bottom. Teach him to swim and he will never need the bladders. Give your child a sound education, and you have done enough for him. See to it that his morals are pure, his mind cultivated, and his whole nature made subservient to the laws which govern man, and you have given what will be of more value than the wealth of the Indies.—Zach Snyder, Pine Grove, Pa.

If I were a physician and the world should come to me for treatment, I should order a regular bath in "Whatsoever ye would that man should do to you, do ye even so to him." At the same time I would prescribe a gentle tonic of love, not the assortment that breaks hearts, consumes of flesh, and sends men across the sea to forget it, but unadulterated, genuine affection, dissolved in "milk of human kindness." The world needs better teachers to instruct the coming generation. The heart of the world is proficient, but the mind needs higher cultivation.—John Rodgers, Fort Leavenworth, Kan.

The Curious Corner.

[Answers to questions will not be published within two or three weeks after questions appear. So all will have a chance to send replies and receive honorable mention with the number answered.]

Hari-kari is the capital punishment of China and Japan. The condemned person is given a sharp knife, with which he cuts two gashes across the abdomen, in the form of a cross, and disembowels himself.

Washington Alston, the painter-poet, was known as "the American Titian."

Peter the Hermit organized the first of a series of Crusades, composed of armed Christian knights, to deliver the Holy Land from the Turks.

Someone has estimated that the e are 300,000 telephones in use in the United States, though the number is probably much greater.

Bayonets were invented at Bayonne, France, in 1679; hence the name.

1. Up to what year was cotton spun by hand?—Etta Kern.

2. Who invented billiards?—Myrtie E. Garland.

3. Where and by whom was the first American Baptist Church founded?—R. I. Mount.

4. Who offered the first prayer in Congress?—Nelia D. Hampton.

5. Who were the men who served in Millard Fillmore's Cabinet? Prize for first and 16th answers mailed to me.—Glen Murphy, Stockwell, Ind.

BIBLE BRIGADE.

Solomon says, "A merry heart doeth good like a medicine."

The methods of the buyer were very much the same in Solomon's time as now. "It is naught, it is naught, saith the buyer; but when he is gone his way, then he boasteth."

King Ahasuerus of Persia kept the longest feast recorded in the Bible, lasting 187 days, and causing a separation from his noble wife, Queen Vashti.

1. Who is the first recorded suicide?—George E. Grim.

2. What was Queen Esther's Hebrew name?—Elma Armstrong.

3. What is said of him who mocketh the poor?—H. M. McCall.

4. What does the Bible say of him who gives to the poor?—Meda Plympton.

5. Who was Sisera, and how did he die?—Addie Solleo.

6. Who was the chief of Saul's herdmen?—W. S. Hoffman, Morgantown, W. Va.

BRAIN-RACKERS.

[TO CONTRIBUTORS: In sending answers name No. of THE NATIONAL TRIBUNE in which the puzzle is found. Answers of guessers may be forwarded within a week after receiving this TRIBUNE. Do not make numerical enigmas of your own names. Answers must accompany all puzzles forwarded.]

ANSWERS TO PUZZLES IN TRIBUNE JAN. 16.

Curtailment—Plan.
The Center of Happiness—Home.
A True Saying—A kind word never dies.
Double Letter Enigma—Gold leaf.
Something the C. C. Do Not Want—Ardent Spirits.
A Wish to the C. C.—Forget me not.
A Present Companion—NATIONAL TRIBUNE.

CHARADE.

My first is what you're doing now,
My second is procured from stone;
Before my whole you often stand,
But mostly when you are alone.

ANAGRAM.

A term for scolding, backwards read,
Will give what all good people dread;
A character so base, that none
The epithet would call their own.

—Edwyn R. Lerch, Erie, Pa.

USEFUL TO MAN.

To the left of a cipher be careful to prefix
Just one hundred without any tricks;
A thousand inverted and placed in the rear
Shows what is useful to man I declare.

—L. F. Aunspaugh.

THE C. C. DEFINED.

While strolling in the gloomy silence of a graveyard, searching for the sublime, a wandering C. C. pilgrim paused at a tombstone, whose slab had evidently fallen, epitaph downward, making an impression in the soft earth sufficient enough to read. Standing but to gaze, and gazing but to read, it occurred to him that the epitaph was remarkably appropriate as a poetical definition of C. C. harmony.

AS IT APPEARED ON THE EARTH.

"Are music of notes as formed not we are—We"
Dissimilar though another one, For
Make can as discord without difference Such
Shake spirits all which in sounds sweetest Those
"Air continuous a in leaves trembling As."

—John James.

A WISE SAYING.

I am composed of 31 letters:
25, 29, 2, 30 is strong.
7, 22, 23, 5, 24, a country.
4, 3, 26, a girl's name.
1, 13, 6, 15, 26, a musical instrument.
11, 8, 28, 20, 30, 1, 18, an effort.
19, 16, 17, 21, 14, 5, 9, 6, 10, a writer of history.
27, 2, 3, 7, 12, frozen dew.
My whole is an old proverb.

—Elma Armstrong, Atwood, Ind.

C. C. FRIENDS.

1. To twinkle; thigh. 2. To vex. 3. Extracts. 4. Upright. 5. A familiar bird. 6. A day sacred to the moon. 7. A cunning fellow. 8. An island. 9. A chimney-swallow. 10. Anterior. 11. One who manages vessels. 12. Visions. 13. An insect. 14. One of the sons of Zebedee. 15. Timber; a bird of Europe and Asia. 16. Surge; person. 17. The fruit of a tree. 18. A navigable opening in ice. 19. A clever joke. 20. One that is always fretful. 21. To play tricks. 22. A fish. 23. To murmur; a boy's nick-name. 24. To confirm. 25. An English title. Prize for first correct answer.—Celia E. Spencer, Box 547, Ellington, Conn.

Consumption Surely Cured.

To the Editor:—Please inform your readers that I have a positive remedy for Consumption. By its timely use thousands of hopeless cases have been permanently cured. I shall be glad to send two bottles of my remedy FREE to any of your readers who have consumption if they will send me their Express and P. O. Address. Respectfully, T. A. SLOCUM, M. C., 181 Pearl St., N. Y.

When Baby was sick, we gave her Castoria,
When she was a Child, she cried for Castoria,
When she became Miss, she clung to Castoria,
When she had Children, she gave them Castoria.

OUR RURAL TOPICS.

Some Practical Suggestions for Our Agricultural Readers.

ABOUT PLANTING AND CARE OF GRAPEVINES

A correspondent in a contemporary says that he planted a vineyard in rows, 13 feet apart one way and five feet the other, that gave about the same number of vines to the acre as was considered the standard distance for wine grapes. All his neighbors made sport of this old style of planting, but 25 years of experience has demonstrated the wisdom of the plan. This vineyard produces fully as many tons of grapes to the acre as the adjoining vineyards; besides it can be much more cheaply handled, permitting the wagon to go between the rows; the brush to be burned on the spot, and a portion of the ground to be cultivated with a larger team. Some of his neighbors have adopted 6 by 12, with wide rows running north and south. This, he says, is a mistake; the 6 by 12 is all right, but the wide rows should be east and west, for the reason that the vertical sun will get on the trays no matter which way the rows run, but to get the greatest benefit we want the morning and evening rays. Now to get this it is very obvious that the wide rows should run east and west. Then there is another advantage in this manner of planting, which is that sometimes the grapes get sunburnt, and one will always find that on the west side it is the 5 o'clock sun that gets in its work. Shining in under the vine, if the rows are set thickly east and west one vine will shade and protect the other. It is not the number of vines, but the number of shoots that makes the difference in the yield. If you have more vines you leave less shoots to the vine, and vice versa. I would recommend 6 by 15, with the rows running east and west.

Another thing is the girdling of grapevines. At the suggestion of Prof. Maynard, of the Massachusetts Agricultural College, Dr. Jabez Fisher, of Fitchburg, girdled one of the two bearing arms of each of 60 Concord grapevines on the 5th of July last, taking out a ring of bark half an inch long near the trunk of the vine. As a result the grapes on these arms showed color six days before those on the opposite half. They were fit for market Sept. 20, or some 10 days in advance of the others, and the berries were much larger and sweeter. The gain in earliness makes a great difference in the price of the fruit, and later varieties could be grown when thus treated, which would not ripen if left to themselves. The grapes are larger and more attractive, and this would counterbalance the softness of the berries, a condition which the girdling seems to cause.

Manuring is also an important factor in grape culture, and the way in which to apply it is still a more important factor. If you desire fertilizers to do your grapevines the most possible good, you must apply them where the small roots will reach them. Applying fertilizers close to the stem is not the proper way. Sometimes the little rootlets are deep in the soil. Then the fertilizers should be buried. In thin soils they are not so deeply fixed.

PROTECT YOUR MANURE.

The December Bulletin of Cornell University takes up two very important subjects for the farmer. It is devoted to investigation on the deterioration of farmyard manure by leaching and fermentation, and on the effect of grain ration for cows at pasture.

We dwell only on the experiment with manure, for we think that that is the most important thing of all in good farming. It is our intention to try and make the farmer realize what an important factor manure is to make farming a success. We said recently that every farmer should manufacture all, or almost all, the manure he requires on his own farm. He should also know how to treat the manure when had, so that none of its value is lost, and on this was the experiment made.

The investigations have been made on this subject in three main directions, viz: 1. What loss does horse manure suffer when thrown out in a pile, unsheltered from the weather? 2. What loss does mixed farmyard manure suffer when piled in a close pile, so that fermentation is slow, but without protection from rainfall? 3. Is there an appreciable loss of valuable matter when manure simply dries without fermentation?

The summary of the above questions is as follows: "The results of one season's trial seem to show that horse manure thrown in a loose pile, and subjected to the action of the elements, will lose nearly one-half of its valuable fertilizing constituents in the course of six months; that mixed horse and cow manure in a compact mass, and so placed that all water falling upon it quickly runs through and off, is subjected to a considerable, though not so great a loss, and that no appreciable loss takes place when manure simply dries."

We hope now, that this experiment proves that manure sheltered from the weather is better than that which is not, that all of our readers will promptly act on this matter, and protect the manure they make. This is not a new experiment, but has been found out many years ago. But now that an experiment station has taken up the subject, the attention of farmers, may perhaps be drawn to it more effectively—for a few weeks at least—and then the very same thing will need to be repeated, like an echo, sounding from the pages of the agricultural papers from time to time. Let us hope that if any of our readers try this they will keep it up.

WHERE THE LOSS OCCURS.

The loss in keeping poultry is mostly in the Winter season, and results from keeping over until Spring stock that consumes food without giving any return. Such stock consists, usually, of immature pullets, over-fat hens, surplus cockerels, late-hatched chicks and molting hens. The food is not the only consideration in the matter, as the room is also taken up and occupied. A dozen laying hens in the entire flock have the duty of convincing their owner that poultry pays, while the others eat their share of the food and refute the impression made by the profitable members of the flock. Nearly all poultry-houses contain unprofitable stock, and the only reason for permitting such is the expectancy of each beginning the work of egg-production daily. There is no half-way house in the matter of poultry keeping, and but little reliance can be placed on the future. It is the ever present that we must meet, and no one should attempt to wait for a profit. The best hens that are known will find it difficult to recover lost time, and this is more applicable to the surplus stock, that give no promise of production until the Spring rolls around. Loss of time is loss of profit, and the safest and surest mode of avoiding loss is to keep no unproductive stock.—*Farm and Fireside.*

NOTES.

—A good paint for shingle roofs—that can be applied cold and dries quickly—can be made as follows: One barrel of coal tar, 10 pounds of asphaltum and 10 pounds of ground slate; mix by the aid of heat and add two gallons of dead oil.

—Every farmer should raise pigs and cure his bacon. There is no meat equal to that produced at home. You will at least "know what you are eating," which is a valuable point in favor of home-raised meat, as only healthy, thrifty stock will be used for the home supply.

A correspondent of the *Rural New Yorker* lost recently two horses as the result of feeding moldy ensilage as a part of their ration; after feeding for about a month both horses were taken on the same day with cerebro-spinal meningitis. Musty hay or other fodder is said to be dangerous in the same way to horses.

—It is not profitable to use straw at $20 per ton for litter for stables where leaves are scarce; as many as can be got should be raked up, and the deficiency made up by hardwood sawdust, dried swamp muck, or even sand. Chips from planing mills, waste from wool factories, anything, in fact, that will absorb the moisture will answer the purpose.

At the recent annual dinner of the famous New England Society at Delmonico's, in New York, a *bon mot* was made by the Rev. Dr. Wayland, which brought down the house with roars of laughter. He said among other bright things that it seemed rather hard on old New England for her sons to sit here enjoying themselves in such a luxurious fashion, when even Plymouth Rock pants for three dollars, and moved that a collection be taken up to relieve the distress!

SUNDAY MEDITATION.

Practical Duties Taught by a Study of the International Sunday-school Lesson Appointed for Feb. 16. St. Luke, 3:7-22.

[One reading these notes should first carefully study the paragraph from the Holy Scriptures as indicated above.]

SUBJECT: ST. JOHN BAPTIST AS A MINISTER.

It is supposed by certain chronologists St. John Baptist was born in the month of March, B. C. 6. He began his work as forerunner of Christ when he was 30 years of age. He belonged to the tribe of Levi, being the son of a priest. We learn from Nu., 4: 3, that priests began their services as such at the age of 30 years. So St. John Baptist took up his work March, B. C. 25. St. Luke (3: 1, 2) fixes the time historically. Tiberius Cesar was Emperor of Rome; Pontius Pilate Governor of Judea; Herod Antipas, of Galilee and Perea; Herod Philip, of Iturea and vicinity, and Lysanius, of Abilene. Annas and Caiaphas were high priests. At the time St. John Baptist began to preach Christ was about 29½ years old. He followed St. John Baptist in about six months. (Compare St. Luke, 3: 23.) Hence, in V. 2, it is said, "The Kingdom of Heaven is at hand." The Prophet Isaiah wrote about 750 years B. C. Add the age of St. John Baptist, to wit, 30 years, and we find the prophecy, alluded to in V. 3, was fulfilled about 780 years later.

The home of St. John Baptist during childhood and youth was Juttah, a small place in the interior of Judea. He began preaching in the vicinity of his home, up and down through the wilderness of Judea. The word wilderness in the Bible means a place thinly inhabited, unfenced, uncultivated, resembling llanos or steppes, open fields, pasture lands. He extended his work on up northeast into the vicinity of the lower Jordan, preaching and baptizing on both sides the river from about opposite Jericho to the mouth of the Jordan.

St. John is styled the Baptist to distinguish him from St. John the Evangelist. He was the son of Zacharias and Elizabeth. He was six months older than Christ. The two were first cousins. He was officially the herald of Jesus. (Mal., 3: 1; St. John, 1: 15.) He was ascetic. His raiment was of camel's hair. A leathern girdle fastened his apparel about the body. We do not judge he wore garments made direct from a camel's pelt or raw hide. They were probably cut from goods made by spinning the shaggier hair of a camel—a kind of drugget or carpet-appearing cloth. The poor in the East and monks still wear garments manufactured from camel's hair and wool mixed. It seems the prophets were accustomed to raiment thus made. (2 Ki., 1: 8.) So false prophets imitated such garments. (Zac., 13: 4.) Garments of men in early days were long and flowing, requiring girdles to bind them close about the waist. The girdle of St. John Baptist was made of leather. Elijah the Prophet wore such a girdle. (2 Ki., 1: 8.) Girdles were made of linen, silk, gold and silver. Leather was indicative of austerity. In St. Mark's account of St. John Baptist (1: 6) the English version has the work "skin" instead of leather, but the original (Greek) is the same in both cases.

"His meat was locusts and wild honey." Jews were permitted to eat locusts. (Lev., 11: 22.) Bochart enumerates 10 kinds. Modern travelers tell us these insects are a common food in Asia and Africa, where they greatly abound. The Greeks would eat locusts, but they did not particularly relish them, looking on them as inferior food. The wings and legs were torn off and the entrails cast away, leaving the rest to put on spits for roasting. Sometimes the people dried and pulverized them into meal for making bread. They also cooked and dressed them in oil. In such cases they often