BY AUNT JUNE

Our Boys and Girls Corner

Registered According to the Copyright Act.

DEDICATED TO EVERY BOY AND GIRL IN CANADA

BOYS AND GIRLS.

My dear Boys and Girls:—

Marjorie, who is just nine years of age, came into my room one day just as I was writing my weekly letter to you. "What are you doing, Aunt June?" she said; and I told her that I was writing to my Helpers. "Helpers! What's a Helper?" she said. "Why, Marjorie, a Helper is anyone who does something for others," I told her. "You are a helper when you find grandma's glasses, or put things away for mother, or when you run to the store for her." And so we had quite a long talk about helping.

Marjorie had never thought seriously of herself as a little person who might be useful before, and this conversation made me think that perhaps there are still a great many boys and girls who may wonder, in spite of our little talks and the pledge that is printed on this page, exactly what a Helper is, so I want to just tell you to-day that next week there will be an extra special piece of news for you about helping.

So, dear boys and girls, be sure to look out for your own special letter in this corner next week.

GARDEN NOTES.

Good news continues to come in from our gardeners. Many Helpers report that "gardens are coming along splendidly." Mary Winter has had a mishap with her tomato plants. Mary's father gave her four to plant in her own garden, but alas! one morning she found that three of them were broken off and withered.

That was too bad, Mary. I wonder if a frost killed them in the night, or whether some prowling pussy-cat walked over them. Some cats, unfortunately, you know, are too fond of walking on the garden. I hope you will have better luck with your other plants.

Don't Forget the Weeds.

Now Helpers all, your real work in the garden is about to commence, for already I see weeds are beginning to come up, and it will need many busy fingers to keep continually pulling these out if we are going to have good gardens. The best time to weed is early in the morning, before the sun gets very hot upon the beds, and if you start when the weeds first begin to show it will be an easy matter to keep your gardens tidy; but if you let them go for two or three days they grow so quickly and so strongly that this task will seem twice as difficult. Please send me lots of news about your flowers and vegetables, and also about your school gardens, those of you who are planning for a school fair.

PLEDGE FOR HELPERS.

"Do a little kindness to someone every day.
Scatter rays of sunshine all along the way."

I pledge myself in the service of my King and Country to DO MY BEST IN MY DAILY WORK, wherever it may be, to help others wherever possible, and to endeavor in every way to make myself A GOOD CITIZEN.

Date .....

Name .....

Age .....

Address .....

This is the month of wild flowers, and soon you will be thinking of the holidays, when there will be lovely long days for walks in the country. I know what some of my Helpers will do then. They will be looking out for pretty bouquets to take to the people at home.

When you go out to pick the wild flowers do not forget those who are sick. To take them flowers is a very happy way of helping.

Here are some wild flowers seen during the past week. Dog tooth violet. This is a yellow flower, slightly bell-shaped, with six turned-back sepals. It grows on a single stem, and is found in swampy places. Yellow star grass. This is a very pretty little yellow flower, growing in clusters of three to four blossoms, looking exactly like a little golden star. Its leaves are like sharp blades of long grass. There is also a blue variety of flower, very much like this, but this is called the blue-eyed grass. Hepatica. This pretty flower, which I have seen in three shades of mauve, sometimes almost a pink, sometimes quite deep, is now to be seen in many hedgeways and in the woods. I think you all know the shape of it, starlike, but larger than the little star flower described before.

ABOUT THE BIRDS.

Roy Brown has guessed the name of the bird whose description was sent in by another Helper last week to be the red-headed woodpecker. I think Roy's guess must be correct, as this was the bird I had in mind when reading the description.

I am afraid he is not a very welcome guest where other birds are concerned. It is said that he devours the eggs of other birds, and sometimes even gobbles up the baby birds. He is also quite a pirate for stealing fruit from the orchards, so I am afraid, Alice, if your father has a good garden he will not welcome this mischievous little chap.

The bluebird is one of our prettiest visitors just now. His coat is a very beautiful shade of blue. He has rather a small head, not a very long beak and a brownish waistcoat.

I am going to answer your riddles first to-day instead of at the end.

ANSWERS TO LAST WEEK'S PUZZLES.

R.—If a man has a suit, what is the best way to make his coat last?

A.—To make the waistcoat and trousers first.

R.—What net is a bird with a sweet-toned voice?

A.—Lin-net (linnet).

R.—Why is a dead hen better than a live one?

A.—Because a dead hen will lay wherever you wish it to, and a live one will not.

THIS WEEK'S RIDDLES.

R.—Can you guess what word of six letters contains six words without moving any letter out of place?

R.—I went to a field and I could not get through it, so I went to a school and I learned how to do it. Guess the answer.

R.—What flowers can be found between the nose and the chin?

GEESE THAT WEAR BOOTS.

Did you ever hear of a goose wearing boots? No, this is not a joke. It is a "really, truly story." In Vilna, which is a place in Russia, a chief industry is raising geese, which are then driven on foot in large flocks to the markets in other parts of the country, where they are sold. The poor geese used to get very footsore after they had waddled for some miles, so the people who looked after them thought of makng them shoes, and this is the clever way they did it.

First of all they made the geese walk through a lot of tar, and next through a pile of sand. As they went through the sand, of course, it stuck to the tar, with the result that each goose had a well-fitting pair of boots, which protected the soles of his feet from the hard road. Don't you think these would be funny boots to wear?

Yours lovingly,
AUNT JUNE.

ON Saturday night it shall be my care
To dress my dolly and comb her long hair;
On Sunday morning to church we'll go,
With father and mother, and Susan and Flo.

Find Susan and Flo. Right side down, on sleeve; upper side down, along doll.

POEMS YOU SHOULD KNOW.

Charles Kingsley was born in Devonshire in 1819. He died in 1875. His poetical works consist of "The Saint's Tragedy" and "Andromeda and Other Poems."

THE THREE FISHERS.

Three fishers went sailing out into the west,
Out into the west as the sun went down;
Each thought on a woman who loved him best;
And the children stood watching them out of the town;
For men must work and women must weep,
And there's little to earn and many to keep,
Though the harbor bar be moaning.

Three wives sat up in the lighthouse tower,
And they trimmed the lamps as the sun went down;
They looked at the squall and they looked at the shower,
And the rack it came rolling up ragged and brown!
But men must work and women must weep,
Though storms be sudden and waters deep,
And the harbor bar be moaning.

Three corpses lay out on the shining sands
In the morning gleam as the tide went down,
And the women are weeping and wringing their hands
For those who will never come back to town;
For men must work and women must weep,
And the sooner it's over, the sooner to sleep—
And good-bye to the bar and its moaning.

—Charles Kingsley.

A LITTLE OF EVERYTHING

HUMOROUS GULLS.

A subscriber in Scotland sends an account of an experience on the Berwickshire coast: "A consderable number of gulls roost every night on a low reef beyond the foot of the great cliffs. One night I was witness to a moonlight frolic. When I approached the spot the flood tide was nearing the full. Between me and the moon lay the long reef, around which the waters swelled. The majority of the gulls were perched, but some were afloat in the silvery track of the moon's rays, and I observed that every little while one of these birds would return to the reef, sidle up beside a sleeping companion and edge it from its perch into the swirl of the tide. This displaced gull would cruise about for a time, and then return to pass the trick on to its neighbors, after the manner of schoolboys. The sly movements of the aggressors and the protesting squawk and shuffle of the surprised birds were ludicrous in the extreme.

WHEN WE GROW SHORTER.

A person usually begins to lose height at the age of fifty, and at the age of ninety he has lost about one and a half inches.

TALKING TO MARS.

The idea that the "mysterious messages" being received by wireless telegraphers may have been sent from Mars, or that we may communicate with that planet by wireless, has aroused the ire of Mr. Alan A. Campbell Swinton, F.R.S., president of the Wireless Society of London. He declares that the whole thing is nonsense, since to transmit messages to Mars, or from Mars to earth, would require, he says, the stupendous force of 12,000,000,000,000 horse-power.

POLISHING POWDER FOR GLASS.

A polishing powder for glass may be made by rubbing down calcined magnesia with pure benzine until a mass is formed sufficiently soft to allow drops to be pressed out of it. The mixture should be kept in closely stoppered glass bottles to retain the very volatile benzine. A little should be placed on a pad of wadding or cotton, and the glass rubbed with it.

STEEL FOR DENTISTRY.

A rust-proof steel, highly alloyed with chromium and nickel, is reported to have been developed by some European scientists. Experimental use has been made of this steel for dental purposes. The weight of plates cast from this steel is about one-half that of gold plates.

CITY WITHOUT RUNNING WATER.

Vladivostok, in Siberia, a city of some 350,000 inhabitants, has no running water. Nor is this lack of an everyday convenience made less pressing by the fact that Vladivostok jumped from a population of about 90,000 people, without adding to the number of houses, writes Paul Norton, in Travel. The Manchu water vendor, with his hogshead mounted on two wheels and drawn by sturdy, thick-coated Siberian horses, takes the place of pipes and faucets, filing his hogshead at a shallow well in some private or public yard, and retailing the commodity at the rate of two buckets a day for a month, for about $2 in our money He carries the buckets at the end of a pole over his shoulder.

X-RAY AS CRIMINAL CATCHER.

The wonderful advances made in X-ray photography during the last few years were demonstrated at the Royal Institution, London, Eng., recently. A new development is an improved method of taking the finger-prints of criminals. A radiograph on the screen showed the network of the skin brought out with extraordinary detail. Clever criminals can sometimes smudge their finger-prints under existing methods, but they will be defeated by the new X-ray photographs.

NAMES.

Middle names were once illegal in England.

A child's surname is never mentioned durng christening service.

In Holland all Christian names beyond one are taxed.

The name by which a persons is usually called or known is his legal name, though it may not be his right one.

The origin of his surname was commonly the trade followed—Smith, etc.

An offence is committed if, on the committal of an offence, you give a wrong name.

NEW SILK SUBSTITUTE.

A Lyons textile firm has, it is reported, just discovered how to produce from camphor and other chemicals a wonderful new fabric called silk cellulose. This material is said to resemble real silk so exactly that only an expert can tell the difference. By the new process the manufacturers claim that production is cheapened, and the consumer is able to procure silk which is far below the price of the genuine article.

A New York hotel proprietor received the following puzzle note the other day from one of his regular transient guests: "Reserve room. Coming Wednesday, without bath."

THE SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON.

Lesson XII. June 20

THE LORD OUR SHEPHERD.

Printed Text—Psalm 23.

Golden Text—
"Jehovah is my shepherd;
I shall not want." —Ps. 23:1.

Historical Setting.

Time.—1050 B. C. Place.—Jerusalem.

Daily Readings

Monday, June 14.—The Lord Our Shepherd (Ps. 23.) Tuesday, June 15.—False Shepherds (Ezek. 34: 1-10). Wednesday, June 16.—The True Shepherd (Ezek. 34: 11-16, 23-26). Thursday, June 17.—The Good Shepherd (John 10: 11-18). Friday, June 18.—Seeking the Lost (Luke 15: 1-10). Saturday, June 19.—"He careth for you" (1 Pet. 5: 1-11). Sunday, June 20.—The Ever-living Shepherd (Heb. 13: 12-25).

Comments.

Verse 1. David's name is inseparably associated with the Psalms, and we are taking up a series of lessons in the life of David. Henry Ward Beecher called this the nightingale of Psalms. "The divine Shepherd, like the human shepherd, cares for the needs of his flock."

They who acknowledge Christ shall not be spiritually destitute. The general significance is that Jehovah is anxious to throw round his people every possible safeguard to protect them from the attacks of the enemy, even if the shepherd is solicitous in protecting his sheep. The Oriental shepherd guarded his sheep from wolves, robbers and all other dangers.

Verse 2. There are no "fenced-n-pastures in the East, where the sheep may be left alone while grazing. The shepherd must be always in attendance. In summer the pastures dry up and become brown. The hot earth is disagreeable, and the good shepherd leads the flocks away to sheltered nooks in upland valleys where there is coolness. He seeks quiet waters and avoids sudden torrents that sometimes occur.

Christ thus spiritually protects and leads his people.

Verse 3. In case the sheep are lost, the shepherd seeks, finds and restores them. He guides them in paths of safety. In this same way Jesus came to seek and to save the lost; came to guide them in paths of righteousness so that they might be protected from temptation and sin.

Verse 4. In the hill country of Judah there are deep, narrow gorges, dark, gloomy defiles and caves, into which the sheep may wander if left to themselves. When necessary to cross or go through such places the shepherd is ever watchful. He carries a club with which to defend the sheep, and a long distaff used in guiding them.

Christ our shepherd is amply able to give us a similar sense of security.

Verse 5. The "table" simply means the prepared meal. It is the feeding-ground of the sheep. Oriental shepherds saw that their sheep were guided to spots where there were no poisonous plants or snake-infested places. Christ our Lord guides us into all truth. At the door of the sheepfold the shepherd anointed the bruises and thorn scratches of the sheep.

We prefer to believe that the Psalmist continues the shepherd figure throughout the Psalm.

Verse 6. The goodness and the loving-kindness of the shepherd followed the sheep through ravine, bramble, briar and all dangerous places, and was ever present with them in safe pastures.

The child of God is similarly guarded, and there is provision made for his dwelling in the presence of Jehovah forever. Christ said: "In my Father's house are many mansions." "I go to prepare a place for you."

Illustrated Truth.

"Here we eat at a table spread with pilgrim's food, manna from heaven and water from the rock We eat in haste and with an eye on the foe, but we may hope to sit down at another table in the perfected kingdom. The end of the fray is the beginning of the feast."

The Lord is a true shepherd in that He meets our needs in all the exigencies of life (v. 1).

Illustration.—So far as our worldly needs are concerned, most of us believe that they are more likely to be met by the specialist than by the all-round individual. However, when it comes to friends we do not want the specialist. "Oh, he was all right to laugh with," a young woman said of a man whom someone had suggested to her as a possible life companion, "but he wouldn't answer for every-day needs." It was well enough to have one who was good company in hours of mirth, but she realized that life had other hours.

Topics for Research and Discussion.

I The Divine Shepherd (vs. 1-3). 1 Whose name is inseparably associated with the Psalms? 2. What kind of care did the shepherds of Palestine bestow upon the sheep? 3. How does that care correspond to that of Christ for his followers? 4. How does Jehovah satisfy the hunger of the soul? 5. Describe the pastures and feeding-places of Palestine. 6. How does the Lord guide us in paths of righteousness? 7. What does the Oriental shepherd do for the sheep that are lost? 8. What does Christ do for wandering souls?

II. The Divine Comforter (vs. 4, 5). 9. Describe the hill-country of Judah, and tell how the shepherd conducted the sheep from place to place. 10. What is the significance of this figure when applied to the disciples of Christ? 11. What dangers beset the sheep in the Orient. 12. What dangers beset the Christian, and how does Christ protect? 13. How were the sheep provided with food in the Orient? 14. How does Christ feed his followers spiritually?

III. The Divine Companion (v. 6). 15. How much of the shepherd's care and kindness was devoted to his flock? 16. How much attention is bestowed upon the children of God through God's grace and the guidance of the Spirit?

IN A FRENCH CHATEAU

BY M. BETHAM-EDWARDS.

(Author of "From an Islington Window," "Hearts of Alsace," etc.)

(Continued from last week)

"Enchanted to meet you, my dear de Bretteville, and as, like everyone else, a soldier for the nonce. Welcome to my quarters. Here we are, and by ourselves."

Thus saying, General Malmaison ushered the other through the wide doors of his official quarters in the Rue de Bellechasse, Paris, and led the way to a small sitting-room.

Both men were past middle-age, and of distingushed though contrasted appearance; the civilian and country gentleman was tall, powerfully built, and bronzed, but it was easy to divne rather by the chase than by campaigns in Senegal or Tonquin. Below average height, with a fine intellectual forehead, its lines bearing evidence of deep concentrated thought and commanding presence, General Malmaison looked what he was, one of the foremost engineers of the French army. Both wore the red knot of the Legion of Honor on their breast.

"On my word, you look more cheerful than I should have expected under the circumstances," said the General, as soon as they had seated themselves in easy chairs and lighted cigarettes. "Was the ransack and pillage of your paternal home as ruinous as report said?"

The other uttered an exclamation of disgust.

"Ransack, pillage! What are these compared to defilement and downright bestiality? There are no other names for the pet job of these ruffians Listen, my friend; as we all know, drink makes a beast of any man; the Germans have invented the word superman. I will improve upon it; the German drunkard becomes a superbeast. It will cost me a round million to have my pig-stye of a house scoured, white-washed, renovated—in fine, rendered habitable. As to the millions upon millions of valuables carried away and valuables destroyed because they could not be packed up, for reparation I wait patiently—but not till the Greek Kalends."

"Pardie, no! And your patience will probably not be so long on the strain as folks think—or pretend to think."

Here their eyes met, exchanging a look, mutually understood, but too terrible to be put into words, a look that almost took away the human in both countenances. Then the General added—

"Now tell me more. Your ladies, I learned, were safe, and, as far as I have been able to gather, none of your serving folks suffered in life or limb?"

"Trust my discreet butler, old Benoit, to look after those confided to him! I had only time to bundle off my wife and daughter, or rather to get them bundled off to England, for I had, of course, joined my old regiment. Benoit just managed to bury title-deeds and bonds deep down under a dried-up well when lo! the wolves were on the fold."

He broke forth with a laugh.

"No time was there, alas! for imitating the example of my wife's grandfather, a rich proprietor in the Cote d'or. In '71, when the Boches were at Dijon, this wise old gentleman had all his vin ordinaire, some hundred bottles, sealed with yellow wax; the rare old Burgundies, almost worth their weight in gold, being re-corked as of no account! And the dull Teutons, never having tasted claret in their lives, got finely drunk upon wine worth a few sous the bottle. But to proceed. Benoit was solemnly charged to allow no resistance—the womenfolk had all, of course, been sent away—he was not to yield up a single key, but not to resist, even if the villains stripped him in the search. And so the brave old fellow—seventy gone, mind you—stolidly sate out the devastation with pinioned hands and a pistol held to his ear. What enraged him most was the sight of his mistress's and his young lady's lawn chemises and silk stockings carried off, to be worn, forsooth, by frowsy German housewives and their daughters, who even of the better class, are brought up to kill the ducks and chickens before preparing them for the family dinner!"

"You are surely exaggerating, my friend."

"Truth! I can swear to it, for my sister, who was educated at Weimar, learned it from a school-fellow, daughter of a Von! Well, figure to yourself my poor old man, and the agonies he endured—his own gold watch wrenched from his fob, my family relics, miniatures, keepsakes, and curios that he knew I valued beyond anything in my possession, gone! However, he had his reward. The sight of his face yesterday was worth—I was going to say—restitution of the entire lot. Could only a Rembrandt have caught his expression as I read him this."

Taking out a well-worn Swiss newspaper, and spreading it on his knees, de Bretteville slowly read the following paragraph:—

"We have just learned from a private source that the officer of high—some say of royal—rank, commanding the much-talked-of raid of the de Bretteville chateau in the Seine and Marne, some months since, has just died of virulent poison in his paternal castle in Southern Germany. The young man had carried off a poisoned ring, and, tryng it on, died in fearful convulsions."

(To be continued next week.)

Facts About Canada

DOWN BY THE SEA.

After thirty years of peace war broke out in 1744 between colonies in America, when a struggle began between the French and the British in Europe. This affected the colonies in what is now the Maritime Provinces of Canada more than any other part of the new world. The French at Louisburg received the news of the new war first, and resolved to take the English in Nova Scotia by surprise. A force was hastily collected and burned Canso and besieged Annapolis. The fortifications of the latter place were very weak, the garrison was small, but it put on such a bold front that the French, who received less aid from the Acadians than they had expected, retreated without making a very serious attack.

The commerce of New England had already suffered much from Louisburg privateers, and the people were eager to fight. Shirley, the Governor of Massachusetts, persuaded the Assembly to vote sufficient money to send a force of 4,000 men against Louisburg. Pepperel, a merchant of Boston, was placed in comamnd; officers and men were alike untrained in war, but they had courage, enthusiasm and shrewd common sense. At Canso the expedition was joined by an English fleet under Admiral Warren. So well had the secret been kept that the first news of the expedition received by the French was from its appearance before the fortress. Warren's ships bombarded the place and prevented aid from reaching it by the sea. The army was poorly supplied with cannon, but early in the attack they captured a French battery and turned its heavy guns on Louisburg. Many of the New England troops were skilled riflemen, and prevented the French from using their cannon with the best effect. In seven weeks the provisions and ammunition of the garrison ran short, and the fortress was compelled to surrender. The news of its fall was received with wild joy in New England and equal dismay in France.

VEGETABLES AND MEDICINE.

Apples, carrots and Brazil nuts are excellent for sufferers from constipation.

Asparagus stimulates the kidneys.

Bananas are beneficial to sufferers from chest complaints.

Cranberries are astringent and correct the liver when it is suffering from inaction caused by over-eating.

Dates are exceedingly nourishing, and also prevent constipation.

The juice of grapes is a laxative, but the skin and seeds are likely to cause constipation.

COSTLY BED.

Like old wine, some beds improve (in price) with age. A four-poster made in Florence in the sixteenth century brought $2,550 in the sale of the Tolentine collection at the American Art Association.