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**"ASTRA'S" TALKS WITH GIRLS.**

[Correspondents seeking information in this department should address their queries to "Astra," Progress, St. John.]

It is such a lovely morning, girls, that I feel as if I ought to be writing about spring dresses or bonnets, or something distinctly spring-like and suitable to the merry month of May; instead of simply answering a pile of letters on all sorts of every day subjects. I suppose it is only natural that one should grow a little sentimental at this time of year! The poets say so at any rate, and I think myself that the Mayflowers are largely responsible for the feeling; they have such a way of bringing up old memories, and their faint sweet perfume seems to recall past happy days.

more unprofitably employed. Write again when you think I can help you.

PANSY, St. John.—I shall have to call you "Pansy 2nd," as you are not the original "Pansy" who used to write me bright letters. (1) What in the world do you mean by "going with a boy"? do you mean to associate with him as a friend, and not about with him amicably without thinking of love-making? Or do you mean to "keep company" with him, as they call courting in the country? If the former, it is quite right, and I think it would be very strange for a girl to drop all her old friends of the other sex, when she comes out. On the other hand, if you don't care enough for him to be engaged, I would not go about with him any more.

CONSTANCE, St. John.—I do not think I should let the fact of the engagement make any difference whatever. Indeed as the young lady called last, it is clearly your place to return it under any circumstances, but still I think if I had been in her place I should not have waited for you, but hastened to assure you of your welcome into the family. Perhaps she may have thought it strange that you left her call so long unreturned. (2) I am afraid the recipe for the freckle lotion would not be of any use to you, as it contains corrosive sublimate, and a correspondent has just written me that she cannot obtain it from a druggist without a physician's certificate, corrosive sublimate being a poison. I will publish some freckle recipes next week, in the meantime rub



"COME ALONG."

Oh that we too were Maying!  
Over the fragrant leas,  
Like children with young flowers playing,  
Down the stream of the rich spring breeze.  
But the sentiment will wait and the letters won't. So to business.

A WILD STRAWBERRY.—Early for strawberries, my dear, but you know they are always welcome. I think I would use this form:

To the Editor of the ——— Magazine:  
DEAR SIR,—I send by this afternoon's mail the MS. of an original story, containing so many pages, which I wish to submit to your consideration. I have contributed to periodicals before, and have so far met with success. Should you consider my present venture worthy of insertion in your admirable magazine, and of any remuneration, my address is "Wild Strawberry." I enclose a stamped addressed envelope for a reply.  
Respectfully yours,  
LITERARY ASPIRANT.

At least that is the form I used to employ in the old days, and to do the editors full justice they invariably confiscated the stamp, and lighted the office fire with the MS. But take courage, Wild Strawberry! I got there just the same. Fate had something better in store for me in spite of their lack of literary judgment. I will certainly invite you.

DARK ONE, Fredericton.—Thank you very much for the hint, and also for the good wishes both for PROGRESS and myself. If necessary I will administer the snub you advise, but so far it is only amusing. It was very kind of you to send me the quotation; thank you again. I was very glad to have it, and I laughed very heartily over my own answer when I found how very well known the author really was, only it happened to be from one of his least known works.

DORRIT, Fredericton.—I am glad you were pleased with your answer. So you are a student of Longfellow, too, are you? I think he is my very favorite of poets, and I have always held the firm belief that he will be read, and loved, long after Tennyson has been forgotten, or is, like John Milton—talked about, but never read. You see now what I thought of when I chose the name. I am afraid you did not quite understand the remark about "Geoffrey," but perhaps I will explain it more clearly some time. You were a good girl to save me the trouble of hunting up the quotation. You have no idea what an amount of labor it sometimes means. (1) Certainly not; but it is better to let him join you and walk a little way with you. If he is a thorough man of the world he always does so, as it prevents you looking at all conspicuous, or attracting attention in any way. (2) The best is thick cream laid note, unrolled of course, but for ordinary correspondence, where you want to put a great many sheets in, white "foreign post" is very nice indeed. (3) Indeed I don't; I always do it myself, and I know plenty of people much better than I who do the same thing. You might be very much

(2) Your own good sense should have answered this question for you. Certainly not. He will never respect you if you do, and no ladylike girl ever dreams of doing such a thing. If you like each other well enough for that, you had better get engaged as soon as possible and then it will be all right. (3) If you and the young man understand each other, and do not mind, I don't think you need let it make any difference, but if it renders you in any way conspicuous, I would gradually withdraw from the intimacy. (4) The only change that it is customary to make is, that after she has come out, the young girl has cards of her own, and pays a round of visits with her mother, after which her friends ask especially for her when they call and leave cards when she is absent; but it is not considered at all necessary for her to expect her friends to call formally upon her after coming out as it she were a bride. (5) Three dances of an evening are supposed to be the limit for a mere acquaintance, but in the case of an old friend the rule is very elastic. You did not tire me at all.

FORGETMENOT, Tacoma.—You come a very long way for such a small flower, and you are the first forgetmenot I have had in my garden. No my dear! never recognize a man to whom you have not been introduced, unless under very exceptional circumstances. If you have drifted into a speaking acquaintance with him, from your long residence under the same roof, or through any occurrence while you lived there, it would be different, but a residence in the same house, is not alone sufficient to constitute an acquaintance, and you had better wait a proper introduction. Your writing will be better when it is more formed; it contains the elements of a fine, bold hand. You may write to me as often as you like.

HELIOCENTRIC, Chatham.—Thank you for your honest manly letter, my friend! I am glad you approve of me, now that you know me better, and I hope you will not take my opinions second hand another time. I could not help being amused too, because I have such a reputation for siding with "the boys" on all occasions, and standing up for them through thick and thin, that it was amusing to be accused of doing them an injustice. Yes! I am afraid the woman's column of most newspapers, is hardly calculated to elevate a man's opinion of the sex, but you see PROGRESS is a little different—this compliment is meant for PROGRESS not by any means for myself—A word in your ear, though—if you ever call me the "Etiquette Editor" again, our good understanding will come to a violent end. I can stand most things, but there is a limit, and you reached it when you gave me that title.

Mamma (to her little boy). "Now, Bessie, if you'll be good and go to sleep, mamma'll give you one of Dr. Ayer's nice sugar-coated Cathartic Pills, next time you need medicine." Bessie, smiling sweetly, dropped off to sleep at once.—Adet.

lemon juice on your face. (3) Your writing is very good. I am glad I succeeded in reconciling you to the moles. Write whenever you like.

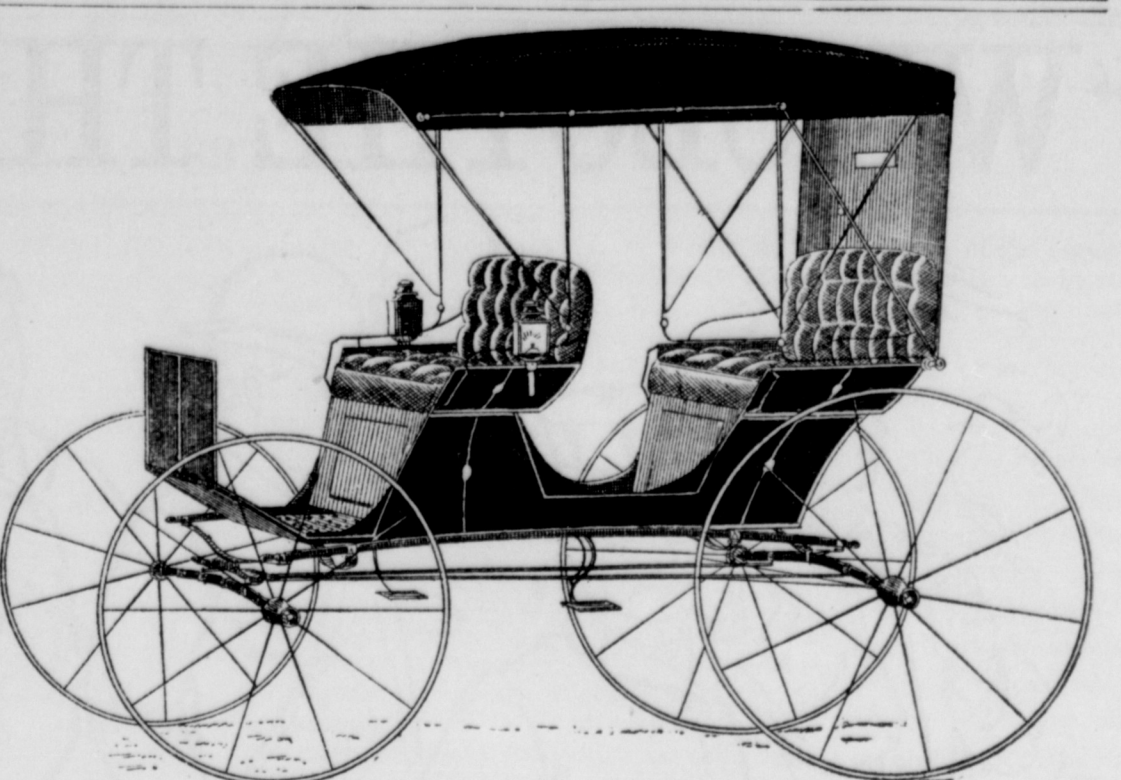
HILDA, St. John.—(1) I am sorry you could not get the corrosive sublimate, but perhaps it is for the best. You may remember that I said I would not recommend the wash, as I have never tried it, and I cannot think so strong a poison applied to the skin can be good. I will give you some more recipes next week. (2) As soon as she has come out. (3) Unless they are flesh worms I do not know of anything that will remove them. If they are place an old fashioned watch key over them and press them out, that is the only way to remove them. (4) I always use Pear's unscented soap, and find it excellent. I believe "Cuticura" soap is all that people say it is. (5) Sachet powder is delightful, but I still use "Jockey Club," as I am very fond of it. (6) Your writing is very good. Well I did think that the census man had come round again when I read your letter, but still you did not give me any trouble at all.

DIVIDED, St. John.—You are certainly right about your handwriting. I should never have recognized it, it looks different each time I see it, and your second letter was the best written of all. I have not read the book you mention. I have so little time for novel reading now-a-days, but I fancy Mr. Rudyard Kipling's motive in writing a book is frequently rather hard to ascertain, unless it is a case of—  
"What did you write the ballad for?"  
Said Fines on parade  
"To add unto my boodles,"  
Young Rudyard Kipling said.

perhaps he does all his writing with the same object in view; but he is a very brilliant fellow all the same. The only advice I can give you about the message is to keep it up. I am surprised at what you say, for it is not supposed to lose its effect. You can write very well when you "try your best."

Will the correspondent who so kindly offered to send me a tried and proved recipe for freckles, and whose name I am sorry to say I cannot recall at this moment, send me the promised cure as soon as convenient? and thereby win the gratitude of a great many girls, and also of

ASTRA.  
**Old World Terminology.**  
Corsica signifies a woody place.  
Siberia signifies thirsty or dry.  
Atna signifies a furnace, dark or smoky.  
Scylla signifies the whirlpool of destruction.  
Sicily signifies the land or country of grapes.  
Sardinia signifies footsteps of men, which it resembles.  
Rhodes signifies serpents or dragons, which are produced there in abundance.  
Syracuse denotes bad flavor, so called from the unwholesome marsh on which it stood.



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**FREDERICTON.**

Gaul, modern France, signifies yellow-haired, as yellow hair characterized its inhabitants.

The English of Caledonia is a high hill. This was a rugged, mountainous province in Scotland.

Africa signifies a land of corn or ears. It was celebrated for its abundance of corn and all sorts of grain.

Asia signifies between, or in the middle, from the fact that geographers place it between Europe and Africa.

Italy signifies a country of pitch, from its yielding great quantities of black pitch. Calabria, also, for the same reason.

Hibernia is utmost or last habitation, for beyond this to the westward the Phenicians never extended their voyages.

**Unpacking Alligators.**

The author of the "Recollections of a Lion Tamer,"—"Les Memoires d'un Dompteur,"—relates how, after being for some years employed as an animal trainer, he and his wife had, by great economy, saved enough to buy a modest menagerie, and received their stock of crocodiles, serpents and monkeys at an inn near Lyons, France. One evening several alligators came, and were placed in a store-room which opened from the courtyard.

Maria and I, with several persons to hold lamps, set to work to unpack them. You can imagine how agreeable that unpacking was. The alligator is wholly lacking in grace and gentleness. Each of his jaws is ornamented with seventy-five teeth, his body is covered with armor that defies attack, and his tail is an invincible weapon that can overthrow, cripple, or destroy an adversary. Our alligators had had a long voyage.

Never of an amiable disposition, alligators are in particularly bad humor after a journey, and become the most ferocious of creatures if they escape. Ours escaped! What confusion there was! Every one rushed to the door, the lights went out, my wife and I were left in the darkness, face to face with this horrible, invisible danger.

We had climbed on a table. At one blow from the tail of one of the saurians the legs gave way. Terrified, we rushed from one side of the room to the other, hunting for the door. The frightful grumbling of the angry beasts mingled with the sound of their tails and jaws striking against the furniture, the flag-stones and the walls. At last I found the door.

We were free; but that was not the end of the matter. Not to be injured by a stroke of the tail of one of the alligators was one point, and not to be ruined was another, for these delightful companions had cost us our little fortune. I went back carrying a torch. I threw myself resolutely into that *mêlée*, and finally succeeded in getting the saurians into sale quarters.

**An Authoritative Decision.**

Tommy came running to his father one day with a weight of trouble on his mind.

"Sadie says that the moon is made of green cheese, pa, and I don't believe it."  
"Don't you believe it. Why not?"  
"I know it isn't."  
"But how do you know?"  
"Is it, papa?"  
"Don't ask me that question; you must find out for yourself."

"How can I find it out?"  
"You must study into it."

He went to the parlor, took the family bible from the table and was missed for some time, when he came running into the study.

"I have found it out; the moon is not made of green cheese, for the moon was made before the cows were."

**THOSE REQUIRING SPECTACLES**



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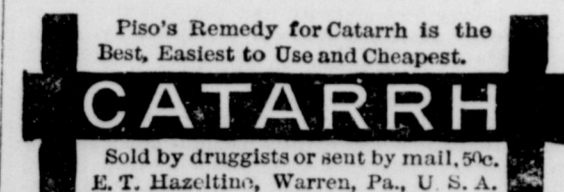
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THE Publishers of the *Fredericton Globe* will present \$35.00 in Cash as first, \$10.00 as second, and \$5.00 as a third prize, to be given to the persons sending in the largest number of words made up from the letters contained in the words "FREDERICTON GLOBE." This offer is open to paid up subscribers only, and parties desirous of competing for these CASH PRIZES must send in their names and P. O. address, accompanied by \$1.00 for one year's subscription to the *Globe*. No letter in the words "FREDERICTON GLOBE" to be used more frequently than it appears in those words.  
In case of a tie the first sender will be entitled to the prize. Send your list in early.  
Write only on one side of the paper upon which you send your list. Webster's Unabridged Dictionary will govern the contest. Address,  
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