



A. B. C. COMPANY.

Can you guess what I have heard? It is true, upon my word; Nineteen men, I understand, Marching up and down the land, Fair and handsome to behold, But no two alike, I'm told; Free are all from fault or stain, But not one can speak out plain, And for this they've taken thought,— Five interpreters they've brought: Deeply learned men are they. The first in wonderment all day, Opens his mouth and says, "A! A!" The second like a mouse you see, He goes on squeaking, "E! E! E!" The third's a selfish man,—and why? He always talks of "I! I! I!" The fourth comes forward, hobbling slow, As if in pain, with "O! O! O!" The fifth I don't think speaks quite true; He says he's not himself, but "U!" And all together—they're so strong— They go on talking all day long. If you can't guess their meaning yet, I'll tell you—they're the Alphabet.

A FEAST OF CHERRIES.

Lucile de Vere was a young French girl who lived in Paris. One day, in market with her mother, she was admiring the arrangement of all the fruits and flowers, when something very beautiful met her eye. There were some green branches of a cherry-tree twined in a wreath, from which gracefully peeped the tempting fruit, like so many scarlet flowers, through the leaves. 'Oh, mamma,' cried she, 'please to buy me that brilliant wreath.' Madame de Vere was surprised, for Lucile, knowing her mother had little money, usually contented herself with just looking at pretty things. But she bought the wreath and walked on, Lucile examining her charming treasure as something very charming. They sauntered to the garden of the Tuileries, where they sat down under the trees to enjoy the lovely morning. It was before ten o'clock, and before the fashionables came out. So they had the place almost to themselves. Presently a lady appeared with a girl about Lucile's age, and they took seats near by. 'You have a handsome wreath there,' said the lady, after the first salutation, 'and quite becoming to a young maiden like yourself.' 'Still more suited to your young friend,' said Madame de Vere, smiling, and glancing at the bright red cheeks before her, finely contrasting with the green color of her round hat. 'But I do not know how you could have helped eating fruit so delicious,' said the younger. 'I find them so handsome to look at,' replied Lucile. 'But, mamma, can I eat them now?' On her mother's consenting, she passed the wreath over to the young girl, earnestly inviting her to share them with her. 'Oh,' replied she, 'how can you give away such delightful things?' breaking off one of the cherries at the same time. 'Dividing,' said Lucile, gayly, 'gives double pleasure.' And, after taking one for her mother, she passed the wreath around, equally sharing with all till the cherries were gone. The lady and young girl looked at each other as if they had been quite impressed by the pleasant way the cherries had been distributed, and they separated. Lucile and her mother, too, were greatly pleased with their morning interview in the Tuileries. 'I wish I knew their names,'

said Lucile, on their way homeward.

On arriving at the gate they noticed a liveried servant following them—the same they had seen in the Tuileries with the lady. But as soon as he saw where they lived he turned away as if in haste. A few days afterward a package was left for Lucile by a policeman. On opening it, she found a bouquet of rare, fresh flowers, ornamented, exquisite bon-bons, and these words in writing: "Dividing is double pleasure."

'I must know who she is,' said Lucile to her brother Eugene, who had just come from school, and was wondering at the gift.

At his request she described the girl with the green round hat, and he promised to look through the city till he found her. But all in vain.

In a few weeks came New Year. Madame de Vere was poor, having lost her husband, and neither gave nor received many presents. Her only son was at a polytechnic school, and ranked high as a scholar, but it would take years for him to reach a position in the regular army and support himself. About this time a package was again brought by the policeman.

'Why,' said Lucile to the old servant, as she saw her name on it, 'did you not make him tell by whom it was sent?'

'I did my best,' answered he, 'but, miss, he said he had been paid a crown not to tell.'

When the family gathered to untie it, they were troubled with the mystery attending. And we may judge that their surprise was great when there appeared in a new casket a sparkling gem set in heavy gold, and on it engraved: "Dividing is double pleasure."

'I never can wear this,' cried Lucile, 'without knowing from whom it came. What can I do? Oh, mamma!'

'You are right,' said the mother, for she was embarrassed at the value of the gift. 'We will put it away for the present.'

So what was designed for an agreeable surprise gave considerable uneasiness—coming as it did from an unknown stranger—and it was carefully locked up. Eugene continued his useless search. But a new mystery was in preparation.

There came a large bundle—the size of such magnitude as to excite much curiosity. On opening it there appeared the sword and uniform of a lieutenant, and a morocco portfolio containing a commission for Eugene to the army, signed by the minister of the War Department, and a note addressed to Lucile:

"Knowing that you desire nothing so much as a position for your brother in the regular army, my mother and I, in father's absence to the war, have obtained it ourselves. We have the privilege of choosing some person of merit, and hear from the Faculty of the Polytechnic School such an account of his fidelity and ability decide on offering the place to him."

"Dividing is double pleasure."

Eugene was beside himself with joy. "Think of those long four years I expected to wait! And now it has come all at once."

He was impatient to ascertain to whom he owed this distinguished favor, and unwilling to leave his place till he had expressed his warm thanks.

'See!' cried Lucile, 'it is signed by the Minister of War. He could tell us.'

'And let us go to him at once,' added her brother, vehemently.

The whole family, filled with gratitude, repaired to his house, and were received with special

respect as friends of the unknown, the Minister not dreaming that anything was concealed. He mentioned her name casually, and it proved that she was the daughter of a general of the highest rank—a man of influence with the king. But they were all anxious to see her personally.

By means of a directory they found her residence, which was in the finest part of the city. The house was magnificent, and the furniture such as suited people of rank and wealth. They waited some time after they were announced, and were then conducted through different apartments to the presence of their acquaintance of the Tuileries. They received a most hearty welcome, though many excuses were made for having followed an odd fancy to keep the concealment of their names.

Eugene could only express his simple thanks and say he hoped never to disgrace his country while fighting under her flag.

'Let us prolong this happiness,' said the lady, 'and finish the day by dining together.'

It was a merry evening. Eugene wore his uniform, which fitted him exactly, his measure having been ascertained through his tailor; the rest of the party appeared in the same costumes as at the Tuileries, Lucile, however, for the first time adding her precious stones.

'I shall never forget,' said her young friend, 'our morning at the Tuileries, or my enjoyment of the Feast of Cherries. I learned from you a new lesson, that has already added to my happiness. Let us from this time share each other's friendship, for, you know,

"Dividing is double pleasure." —Frank Leslie's Sunday Magazine.

Pope Pius IX. always enjoys a little joke. He sees the point as quickly and laughs as merrily as when he was a simple young ecclesiastic. Recently a well-known literary gentleman was present at one of the Pope's receptions. The Holy Father approached him and said, "Are you a Catholic or a Protestant?" "Holy Father," replied our friend, "I am neither a Catholic nor a Protestant; I am a journalist." His Holiness laughed heartily, and moved on to some one else.

BOYS AND GIRLS.

We have on hand about a dozen boys and girls, small and sprightly, just such as childless couples might properly adopt. Persons wishing to adopt children are invited to come and see them, or correspond with us.

FORM OF APPLICATION FOR A BOY.

My residence is in _____ County, and my occupation is _____ My family consists of _____ I wish to employ a boy _____ years of age, and (Here give description and qualities desired.) He will be required to _____ and allowed to _____ I will furnish _____ and pay him _____ a month. A. B. Recommended by _____

FORM OF APPLICATION FOR THE ADMISSION OF HALF ORPHANS.

_____ N. C., } _____, 1877. } This is to certify that _____ is a half orphan, sound in body and mind, and without any estate. H. _____ father died in 18____. I being h. _____ mother, hereby make application for h. _____ admission to the Orphan Asylum at Oxford, and I also relinquish and convey to the officers thereof the entire management and control of said orphan till the _____ day of _____, (that being the day on which _____ will be fourteen years of age,) in order that _____ may be trained and educated according to the regulations prescribed by the Grand Lodge of North Carolina. I also promise not to annoy the Orphan Asylum, and not to encourage the said orphan to leave without the approval of the Superintendent. Approved by _____ W. M. of _____

FORM OF APPLICATION FOR THE ADMISSION OF ORPHANS.

_____ N. C., } _____, 1877. } This is to certify that _____ is an orphan, sound in body and mind, and without estate. H. _____ father died 18____, h. _____ mother died in 18____. I, being h. _____, hereby make application for h. _____ admission into the Orphan Asylum at Oxford, and I also relinquish and convey to the officers thereof, the entire management and control of said orphan till the _____ day of _____, 18____, (that being the day on which _____ will be fourteen years of age,) in order that _____ may be trained and educated according to the regulations prescribed by the Grand Lodge of North Carolina. Approved by _____ W. M. of _____ Lodge.

FORM OF APPLICATION FOR A GIRL.

Our residence is in _____ County, and our occupation _____ Our family consists of _____ We wish to employ a girl _____ years of age, and (Here give description and qualities desired.) She will be required to _____ and allowed to _____ She will spend her evenings in _____ and will sleep in _____ We will furnish _____ and will pay _____ a month. A. B., Mrs. A. B. Recommended by _____

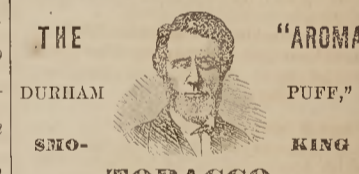
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