

George, Mary Elizabeth (18), Anerley, S.E.
 Forbes, Margaret T. L. (18), Mecklenburgh-square, W.C.
 McCausland, Emily Bell (18), Co. Down, Ireland.
 Peachey, Alice Amelia (18), near Chichester.
 Hill, Eliza Charlotte (17), Kilburn, N.W.
 Oldacre, Mary Jane (17), Limehouse, E.
 Ransome, Rose (17), Stoke Hall, Ipswich.
 Bushill, Beatrice (16), Herbert-road, Woolwich.
 Millar, Florence Emily (18), New Park-road, Brixton.
 Bannester, Elizabeth Sumner (17), Great Barling, Chelmsford.
 Budden, Minnie Gertrude (16), Town House, Winchester.
 Whitehouse, Mary Elizabeth (19), Windermere, Prospect-road, Moseley, Birmingham.
 Black, Roberta Couper (19), Heacham, King's Lynn.
 Fleetwood, Louisa Sarah (16), South Kensington, W.
 Hamlyn, Miriam (18), Port of Spain, Trinidad, West Indies.
 Rogers, Anita Russell (16), Hanover-park, Peckham.
 Owen, Alice Mary (17), Peckham Rye.
 Barton, Gertrude Mary (16), Wigmore Vicarage, Kingsland R.S.O., Herefordshire.
 Allatt, Mary E. (17), West Cliff, Whitby, Yorks.
 Hawkins, Elizabeth Alice (19), near Dorchester, Dorset.
 Mant, Minnie Edith (17), Park Hill-rise, Croydon.
 Palin, Clara Annie (18), near Southwell, Notts.
 Andrews, Sarah May (16), Bitton, near Bristol.
 Long, Lilian Ada (16), Erleigh, near Reading.
 Ryall, Mary Jane (17), Axminster, Devon.
 Hidden, Margaret Sarah (16), New-cross, S.E.
 Gibson, Kathleen Mary (18), Peterboro'.
 Gibbs, Ada (18), Potton, Beds.
 Procter, Jennie (18), Great Gaddesden Hoo, Herts.
 Cowdy, Letitia, Junr. (17), Market-street, Lurgan, Ireland.
 Billinge, Nancy Ridyard (19), Little Hulton, near Bolton-le-Moors.
 Dunn, Jessie Marguerita (19), Highbury, N. Thurstelat, Lilla Mary (19), Worcester.
 Heseltine, Annie Gertrude (17), Victoria-park, Harrogate.
 Ratcliffe, Elizabeth A. (18), Leytonstone.
 Backhouse, Elizabeth Grace (19), Laughe, near Blackburn.
 Sprague, Janet Rosa (17), Hill-crescent, Epping.
 Rogers, Ethel Gertrude (17), Hanover-park, Peckham.
 Brooks, Mary (16), Varna-road, Edgbaston, Birmingham.
 Hall, Alice Mary (19) Stratford, Essex.
 Mercer, Maria (16), Edenfield, near Bury, Lancashire.
 Jury, Eliza Alberta (16), Preston, Lancashire.
 Stephenson, Elizabeth Rebecca (19), Blanchland, Riding Mill, Northumberland.
 Stephenson, Clara (16), St. George's-road, Newington Hall, Yorkshire.
 Talbot, Millicent Mary (18), Market Drayton, Salop.
 Dyke, Catherine Elizabeth (17), Notting-hill, W.
 Batray, Maude (19), Poole, Dorset.

THIRD DIVISION.

FIRST PRIZE (ONE GUINEA).
 Margaret Robinson (15), The Manor House, Farley, near Leeds.

SECOND PRIZE (HALF A GUINEA).

Jeannie Blyton Ashmore (15), 63, Nile-street, North Shields.

FIRST CLASS CERTIFICATES.

Cunningham, Lottie (13), Dalston, E.
 Hodges, Edith Muriel (15), Montmartel, Saillaus, Drôme, France.
 Carpenter, Clara Emily (13), Camberwell, S.E.
 Hill, Jennie (14), St. Anne's Well-road, Nottingham.
 McDonald, Jessie (15), Fort William, N.B.
 Stroyan, Alice Turley (15), New Mills, Derbyshire.
 Hawley, Lilian Millis (14), Nerac, Lot-et-Garonne, France.
 Corbett, Edith Marian (15), Thame, Oxon.
 Postance, Rosa Philippa (13), London, W.
 Winton, Ada Elizabeth (15), Sutton Coldfield.
 Owen, Agnes Sophia (14), Hackney, E.
 Clark, Nellie (15), King's Lynn, Norfolk.
 Just, Ada Mary (14) Clacton-on-Sea, Colchester.
 Eling, Margaret Elizabeth (15), Rose-hill, Derby.
 Vasey, Nellie (14), Greenwich, Kent.
 Martin, Constance Burgess (15), Forest-gate, E.
 McPherson, Mary M. (15), New Brighton, Cheshire.
 Clarkson, Sarah (15), Filey, Yorks.

SECOND CLASS CERTIFICATES.

Winch, Emily Edith (15), Cranbrook, near Staplehurst.
 Webber, Alice (15), Rickmansworth, Herts.
 Kennedy, Janie M. (12), Mofatt, N.B.
 Skinner, Ruth (15), Wellington, Shropshire.
 Guy, Janet Christiana (14), Mansewood, Pollokshaws, near Glasgow.
 Brown, Nannie (15), Summer Hill, Birmingham.
 Brett, Clara Emily (15), Burnham Hill, Birmingham.
 Goodman, Florence (15), Fairfield, Liverpool.
 Smith, Mary (15), Sneinton, Nottingham.
 Sanders, Mary (14), Shepherd's Bush, W.
 Chapman, Alice (15), New Brompton, Chatham.
 Redfern, Alice Ada (14), Penrith, Cumberland.
 Curtis, Lily (15), Salisbury.
 Forsyth, Lilian (14), Aberdeen.
 Elwood, H. Amy (15), Limehouse, E.
 Smedley, Gertrude (13), Derby.
 Pope, C. A. (14), Aberdeen.
 Wilson, Florence (15), Alford, Lincolnshire.

THIRD CLASS CERTIFICATES.

Johnson, Edith (15), Stockport.
 Philpot, Mary A. (13), Deal.
 Green, Emily Maud (15), Southampton.
 Purcell, Mariana Florence (10), Lee, S.E.
 Townsend, Annie (15), Barnsbury, N.
 Widdicombe, Madeline A. J. (14), High Barnet.
 Barrett, Mary Louisa (11), Newcastle-under-Lyne, Stafford.
 Goodwin, Isabel Augusta (15), Peckham-road, S.E.
 Hunt, Nellie (14), near Alchester, Warwickshire.

Hyson, Florence (13), Yeovil.
 Hernick, Adeline (15), Cardiff.
 Crompton, Frances Eliza (15), Wilmslow, Cheshire.
 Straker, Ida May (13), South Croydon.
 Higson, Sarah Ellen (15), Tuebrook, Liverpool.
 Braddock, Florence (15), Peckham.
 White, Ellen (15), Haverstock-hill, N.W.

THE NEW PRIZE COMPETITIONS.

I.—ENGLISH COMPOSITION.

IN our next weekly number and our next monthly part will be printed a reduced copy of the painting which obtained the first prize (first division) in connection with our recent Competition in Water-Colour Painting. To this picture our girls, one and all, are invited to write an original story, in prose or verse, in competition for prizes for the best specimens of English composition.

There will be a Prize of One Guinea awarded to the most successful competitor of every age from thirteen to twenty-three years. For instance, every girl of thirteen years may compete for the Prize to be awarded to the most successful girl under fourteen years of age, every girl of fourteen years and under fifteen can compete for the Guinea Prize to be awarded to the most successful competitor of fourteen years of age, and so on up to the age of twenty-three. The Editor considers that this arrangement of Prize distribution will be an improvement, as every girl will have a greater opportunity to distinguish herself in this improving literary work.

The last day for receiving the stories is Midsummer-day, June 24, 1882.

Certificates of the first, second, and third classes will be awarded to girls of any age obtaining the necessary number of marks.

The stories should be written upon one side only of four pages of ordinary foolscap paper. These four pages must be sewn together at the left-hand top corner.

Each story must bear on its back the full name, age, and address of the competitor; and underneath the same the following must be written and signed by a parent, minister, or teacher:—

"I hereby certify that this story is the sole work and in the handwriting of (competitor's full name is again to be written), and that her age and address are correctly stated."

(Signature and address of the parent, minister, or teacher.)

MAY-DAY CUSTOMS.

By ANNIE KEMM, F.R.H.S.

IN the third century before the Christian era the Romans indulged in May games in honour of the goddess Flora, and hence called Floralia; they introduced them, it is said, into Britain, where they took deep and lasting root. Originally the feast opened on the 28th of April and lasted several days; but as England, at a very early period, showed signs of becoming utilitarian, the first of May was chosen. The Celts held similar rejoicings under the name of "Beltein," the remains of which exist in the Highlands of Scotland, Ireland, and the Isle of Man.

Our Saxon forefathers, high and low, rich and poor, welcomed May-day with great joy, until the accession of the



A VILLAGE MAY-DAY FESTIVAL.

monk King. Edward the Confessor, who divided his time between the church and the chase, and never dreamt of mingling with his rustic subjects. Enthusiasm, therefore, cooled a little, but long after the Norman Conquest we find Geoffrey Chaucer, from his charming retreat at Woodstock, not only rising early to see the daisies open, but sighing gently for his youth, in order to bear the merry-makers company. This is what he says:—

“To the greene-wood they speeden
them all,
To fetchen home May with their
musicall;
And home they bringen in a royall
throne
Crowned as king; and his queen
attone
Was Ladie Flora, on whom did
attend
A faire flock of faeries and a fresh
bend
Of lovely nymphs. O that I were
there,
To helpen the ladies their May-
bush beare.”

The Tudor sovereigns won a deal of their popularity by that graceful unbending, which touches the hearts of the multitude, and we learn from writers of the period that the whole Court went “a Maying;” indeed, Henry the Eighth and Katherine of Arragon rode from Greenwich Palace to Shooter’s-hill, and spent the whole day in the woods with their delighted subjects, dressed as Robin Hood’s men. Spenser, in his Shepherd’s Calendar, and Herrick in his graceful pastorals, sing the praises of the month of flowers, and register the joyful manner in which our ancestors appreciated it.

The Stuarts encouraged rural pastimes, and even John Milton, the onlooker of the downfall of Monarchy and the temporary establishment of Puritanism, sings from his natural man’s heart:—

“Now the bright morning star, day’s har-
binger,
Comes dancing from the east
and leads with her
The flow’ry May, who from
her green lap throws
The yellow cowslip and the
pale primrose.
Hail, bounteous May! that
dost inspire
Mirth and youth and fond
desire;
Woods and groves are of thy
dressing,
Hill and dale doth boast thy
blessing.
Thus we salute thee with our
early song,
And welcome thee, and wish
thee long.”

At the time of the Puritan revolution May games, maypoles, and other amusements savouring of levity were suppressed by statute, and the attempt to rescue the old customs from oblivion at the Restoration failed wholly to reinspire a permanent taste for what had been so rigorously kept in abeyance for twenty years. Except in remote country villages, May-day has become a fable.

Let us see what it presented in the days of good Queen Bess,

when public recreation attained its zenith of perfection.

Lord Lytton, in his introduction to “Harold,” describes part of the festival, namely, the “bringing home the summer” in



THE MAY QUEEN.

the shape of the maypo’le. The ceremonies had changed little in the course of five-hundred years.

Soon after midnight parties of youths and maidens started for the woodland nearest the town or village, taking with them as many draught oxen as could be procured, and a low trolley for the maypole. They selected and felled the tallest and straightest tree, then gathered boughs of hawthorn and birch, and abundance of flowers, and at dawn formed a procession homewards, singing, capering, and

blowing horns. The old folk came out to meet them, and after due refreshment the sports of the day began. Sometimes the mirthful band returned in silence, and showed their likes and dislikes by adorning the doorways of their friends with boughs and flowers, those of disagreeable folks with bunches of nettles or thistles.

A procession was next formed to the village green, headed by the prettiest girl in the village and her band of maidens, two of whom placed a crown of sweet flowers on her head. The villagers adorned the maypole with stripes of paint, with garlands, and with long streamers, and then erected it amidst universal shouting. Bowers and arbours speedily sprang up round it, and in the best sat the queen, dressed in white and covered with flowers, the observed of all observers. She looked on, but did not share the sports of her subjects; and at the close of the day rewarded some chosen merrymakers with garlands and other trifling remembrances of the day. A poet of later date thus describes her:—

“As I have seene the Lady of the
May
Set in an arbour (on a holy-day)
Built by the maypole, where the
jocund swaines
Dance with the maidens to the
bagpipe’s straines.
When envious Night commands
them to begone,
Call for the merry youngsters one by
one;

And for their well performance,
soone disposes—
To this a garland interwove with roses;
To that a carved hooke, or a well-wrought
scrip,
Gracing another with her cherry lip;
To one her garter; to another then
A handkerchief, cast o’er and o’er agen;
And none returneth empty that hath spent
His paines to fill their rural merriment.”

Dancing round the maypole lasted the whole day. At first a small number joined



MAY-DAY IN THE TIME OF THE TUDORS.

hands, and then concentric rings were formed until the whole green seemed in motion. Another pretty figure was made by the lasses and lads each taking the end of a streamer dependent from the top of the pole, and by skilfully jetting "in and out" plait them all, and then by a backward movement unplait them.

The Robin Hood games made a prominent feature in the day's observance. An ample space, marked off from the crowd by a barrier of rope, was entered first by six young woodmen, bearing axes and garlanded with ivy. Six maidens, clad in blue and crowned with primroses, led in a sleek milch cow profusely decorated, and they were followed by six foresters dressed all in green.

The cream of the procession included Robin Hood, with Little John and Will Stukely; two maidens in orange-coloured kirtles, strewing flowers; Maid Marian, crowned and supported by two bridemaids in blue, crowned with violets, and followed by four others dressed in green; Friar Tuck bearing a huge quarter-staff, and Much, the miller's son, came next, then the maypole, and at last the hobby horse and the dragon. The villagers were allowed to decorate the pole, which was raised amidst general acclamations, and then the gay party within the barrier danced and sang. The hobby horse frisked, ambled, curvetted, and performed feats of jugglery, the dragon hissed, yelled, and clapped his wings. Much cast meal sily into the faces of the gazing rustics, or rapped their heads with his bladder, and Friar Tuck dropped his staff upon the toes of those who pressed forward too eagerly, bidding them mind their prayers.

At last the horse and dragon becoming weary, Robin Hood and his men practised archery, Robin winning the prize. Then the villagers began dancing.

Among later customs, we read of the Milkmaids' dance even as near our own time as 1795. They formed a garland of silver plate, borrowed from the pawnbrokers, and tastefully arranged on a pyramidal frame with ribbons and knots of flowers. It was borne by two men, and the maids followed, pausing to dance in front of the houses of their customers.

The old customs have almost dwindled down to the practice of carrying garlands common among country children in remote villages, or to rude festivals, which bear the marks of their ancient origin. The May fair of some small towns in Leicestershire has still its juggler and clown, the apologies for the hobby horse and Much, the miller's son; and the song of the Mayers, in its reference to the Spaniards, points to the time of Queen Elizabeth.

It is still customary for the young girls of Edinburgh to rise early on May morning and to repair to Arthur's Seat, there to bathe their faces in the dew. And in the streets of London the chimney-sweeps collect about their Jack-in-the-green—a man concealed in a framework of evergreens and herbs, dancing and soliciting halfpence from the passers-by. As the gratuities thus obtained often provided a rough carousel at the close of the day, the more respectable sweeps have withdrawn from these displays.

Perhaps the most interesting relics of bygone days are the real maypole, still elegant and lofty in a small village near Chester, and the fragment of one which supports the weathercock of the church at Pendleton, near Manchester. The old church of St. Andrew's Undershaft on Cornhill indicates the position of one maypole in Tudor times; and Maypole-alley in the Strand, the site of the last planted therein in honour of the Restoration, and removed thence to Wanstead by Sir Isaac Newton in 1717 as a support to his large telescope.

At Knutsford, in Cheshire, and at Worsley, in Lancashire, May-day customs have been revived with immense success.

In the former place, the prettiest maid is chosen from the national school, and she is elected May Queen. On May-day she and her maids, all dressed in white and crowned with flowers, head a procession which traverses the town.

Tiny children in waggons follow her, and after them boys dressed appropriately to represent all trades, and maids to personate gipsy girls. A short service is then held in church; and the company proceed to an open space, where the maypole is erected. The queen is escorted to a pavilion, where her maids dispose themselves round her; two courtiers approach; one crowns her, and the other presents the sceptre. Songs and dancing round the pole then take place, and then the queen and her subjects retire for refreshment.

THE NORTH LONDON COLLEGIATE SCHOOL FOR GIRLS.

PERHAPS among the many and various phenomena of nineteenth-century civilisation none is more curious and interesting than the sudden springing into life and rapid vigorous growth, all over the country, of large public schools for girls. Twenty years ago even, if the daughter in an ordinary English household had twice the intellect and capacity of her brother, his head it was that Latin, Greek, and mathematics must at any cost be made to fill, or at least to seem to fill, while if she had aspirations for anything beyond her piano, some acquaintance (often the slightest) with the French and Italian languages, and such knowledge of English history and literature as could be gained from an accurate verbal acquaintance with "Mangnall's Questions," such unfeminine desires were not to be mentioned in a well-regulated family.

Of course, there were homes in which a girl who longed for higher culture found help and sympathy in a clever father, but even then the daughter's ambition and interest in her work were looked upon by the rest of the family as rather reprehensible eccentricities, and her education had to be conducted quite *sub rosa*. Now, though there are still some who sigh regretfully for those good old times, still the majority of Englishmen and Englishwomen are more than willing to allow their daughters to participate in the new educational life which, in the shape of good public schools for girls, is stretching out to meet them almost at their very doors.

Foremost among these public schools for the maidens of the present day is the North London Collegiate School for Girls, the school-house being a large and handsome building, standing close to the Camden-road Station of the Midland Railway. This school was started in Camden Town as a private undertaking by Miss Frances Mary Buss, the present able head mistress, and her mother, and removed in 1850 to Camden-street, where, under the supervision of the Rev. David Laing, Vicar of Holy Trinity, Haverstock-hill, it became much more widely known, and in 1870 numbered above two hundred pupils. In 1870, after the report of the Schools Inquiry Commission into the state of girls' education, efforts were made to place this school on a more permanent footing, and it was removed to 202, Camden-road, and placed in the hands of a trust. At the same time, the old house in Camden-street was given up to a new and lower middle-class school, a daughter, as it were, of the original institution. The grand buildings in Sandall-road, which are now the home of the North

London Collegiate School, represent not only almost incredible exertion on the part of the head-mistress and her friends to raise a building fund, but also the generous aid of two City companies, the Brewers and Clothworkers, the former company having most liberally supplied the endowment from an Educational Fund belonging to them, and derivable from property in St. Pancras. These new buildings were opened in 1879 by the Prince and Princess of Wales, who, at the same time, distributed the prizes in the examination-hall. The Princess of Wales has been for some time the gracious and kindly patron of the school.

Let us go into the school-house. To the right of the entrance is a large, light, and pretty room, known as the office; to the left is a most artistic room, which is Miss Buss's own reception-room. Going straight through the corridor, and leaving on the right the library, already beginning to be well-stocked with the standard works of English and foreign authors, we ascend a small flight of steps and arrive at the examination-hall, the munificent gift of the Clothworkers' Company. In this grand hall, built of oak and red brick, and with its galleries capable of accommodating seven hundred people, prayers are read every morning at 9.15 by the head-mistress before the day's work begins, the organ, on which the hymn-tunes are played by one of the pupils, standing on the raised platform at the end of the hall. This organ is a gift to the school from past and present pupils.

There are three sets of class-rooms—the first, occupied by girls in the higher forms, opening on to the hall; the second, used by girls in the middle of the school, opening on to the gallery of the hall, and the third occupied by the younger children higher still. The class-rooms are supplied with rows of separate desks, each provided with a foot-rest and with a movable chair, having an extra support for the back. On looking round these rooms, one is struck by seeing on several desks dotted about the room what looks almost like a double top to the locker, but what is in reality a piece of wood several inches in thickness stained like the desk and shaped to fit the top of it. This is an appliance to raise the books of the short-sighted pupils, and so to prevent the injurious habit of stooping, so common amongst girls who suffer from myopy.

Beneath the examination-hall is the dining-hall, a cheerful, spacious room, with a panelled dado. In the basement are also cloak-rooms and a drying-room, furnished with hot-air pipes, to which on a rainy day wet garments are taken and returned in half an hour perfectly dry.

A short corridor leads from the dining-hall and cloak-rooms to the gymnasium—a large hall paved with square wooden blocks and furnished with parallel and horizontal bars, ropes and ladders, dumb bells, &c. The gymnastic teaching is in the hands of two ladies from the German Gymnasium, the classes, as well as the general health of the pupils, being under the superintendence of Mrs. Bovell Sturge, M.D. The girls who attend the gymnasium are all dressed alike in short, loose dresses, in colour dark blue, trimmed with light blue. Every now and then the young gymnasts are invited by Miss Buss to what is known as a "gymnasium tea"—that is a merry gathering in the gymnasium, where all appear in their gymnastic dresses, and after tea games of all sorts are carried on with great spirit, and great feats are performed with the gymnastic apparatus, soft mats being placed under the bars and giant stride in case of accident.

Above the examination-hall, in addition to the class-rooms, are a chemical laboratory, with every appliance for the teaching of practical chemistry, and a lecture theatre, with the