

QUERIES.

Any queries, domestic or otherwise, will be inserted free of charge. Correspondents replying to queries are requested to give the date of the question they are kind enough to answer, and address their reply to 'The Lady Editor, NEW ZEALAND GRAPHIC, Auckland,' and on the top left-hand corner of the envelope, 'Answer' or 'Query,' as the case may be. The rules for correspondents are few and simple, but readers of the NEW ZEALAND GRAPHIC are requested to comply with them.

Queries and Answers to Queries are always inserted as soon as possible after they are received, though owing to pressure on this column, it may be a week or two before they appear.—ED.

RULES.

No. 1.—All communications must be written on one side of the paper only.

No. 2.—All letters (not left by hand) must be prepaid, or they will receive no attention.

No. 3.—The editor cannot undertake to reply except through the columns of this paper.

RECIPES.

BROILED PORK CHOPS.— $\frac{1}{2}$ lb pork chops, salt, pepper. Trim the fat off the chops, and broil them before a clear fire, turning them two or three times so that they may be thoroughly done, but not dry; they will take about 15 minutes to cook. Tomato sauce is very nice served with chops; an economical way of making it is to heat some tomato ketchup, thicken with a little flour, and add $\frac{1}{2}$ oz butter. Serve very hot.

LOBSTER SALAD.—Lettuces, 1 hen lobster, 2 eggs. Well wash and pick the salad, let it drain in a cloth for 10 minutes, then chop it up rather finely, turn the meat out of the shell of 1 hen lobster and place all the small pieces among the salad, pour over some mayonnaise sauce, boil 2 eggs hard, pass the yolks through a sieve and lay some on the top of the salad; chop the whites, and arrange on the salad in some design, ornament with cucumber and beetroot, place on the best pieces of lobster; rub the coral through a sieve, and put on top of the whites of eggs.

APPLE FRITTERS.—Take four ounces of flour, two ounces of pounded sugar, one tablespoonful of salad oil, one gill of warm water, a pinch of salt, the whites of two eggs, three apples, one lemon. Pare the apples very thinly and remove the core by means of an apple-corer or a small fork; cut the apples in thin rings, lay them on a plate, and sprinkle one ounce of sugar over them, also the grated rind of the lemon, and set aside while you make the batter. Put the flour and remaining ounce of sugar in a basin, mix together with a wooden spoon, press to the side of the basin, leaving a hollow centre; pour in the oil and warm water, mix with the flour and sugar very gradually so as to avoid having knots, then beat quickly for ten minutes; break the eggs and carefully separate the yolks from the whites; put the yolks away for other use; have the whites upon a plate, add a pinch of salt, and with a long-bladed, broad knife, beat high and quickly until it is so stiff that a whole egg will rest on the top without sinking; mix this lightly with the batter in the basin. Take each apple ring and dip separately into the batter, and when thoroughly covered throw them into hot fat, as a bluish steam appears; cook on one side for about a minute and a half; turn and cook on the other till of a bright golden colour; remove with a slice on to porous paper, shake some sugar over, and keep hot; and when all are cooked pile high on a clean and hot napkin and serve at once.

VANILLA ICE CREAM.—1 pint cream, 1 pint milk, 4 eggs, $\frac{1}{2}$ lb sugar, 2 lemons, a teaspoonful vanilla essence. Beat the yolks of the eggs and sugar together, add the milk, cream, juice of 2 lemons, and vanilla essence, put them in a steppan, stir over the fire till sufficiently thick, but on no account let the mixture boil; strain through a hair sieve, let it cool, and then freeze.

HINTS TO MOTHERS.

VALUE OF ICE IN TEETHING.

I wish all mothers knew of the wonderful value of ice during baby's teething period. Keep for the purpose remnants of fine, firm table napkins, and tie securely inside bits of ice, making a bag of ice, which will fit comfortably into baby's mouth, and leaving enough of the dry linen hanging below for him to hold it by. A child will press hard and bite down eagerly upon this with gums so fevered and swollen that he would not allow anything else to touch them, so soothing is the cool, hard substance to them, while the water trickling slowly from the ice into a hot mouth becomes so warmed before reaching the stomach that no fear of harm need arise from that source. I have used this with two children most successfully. My little girl was teething through the months of June, July, and August, and never had a wakeful night nor a 'hot head,' mainly, if not wholly, due to the fact that I kept her feet warm and her mouth cool.

MOTHERS.

MARRIAGES IN CANADA.

THE chief social event of the lives of Canadian peasants is a wedding—almost the only set occasion for festivities. The priest then permits dancing among relatives, and allows unusual expenses to be incurred. Courtship is very short and circumspect. It generally lasts but a few months. Engagements are made very much after the pecuniary interests followed in France, and the marriages generally occur at from eighteen to twenty-two years of age.

A widower recently went to spend an evening with a neighbour, whose sister was an old maid whom no one

had thought of marrying. When he left the house her brother suggested that he should marry her. They returned to the house, and went together to her bed in one corner of her room, and woke her up. Holding the candle up to his face, he said:

'Midge, G., take a good look at me; I'm rather worse than I look by candlelight, and I've nine small children, and not a great deal of land. Will you marry me?'

She rubbed her eyes, still half asleep, looked him over for a moment, and said:

'Yes.'

'Then be ready next Tuesday.'

In another case, the day after the bans of marriage had been published, the intended found his betrothed crying by the window.

'What's the matter, Maria?'

'Well, Baptiste, my sister Louise wants very much to marry, because she's older, and it's her turn first. And it makes me sad to see her disappointed. Now, if you would only marry her! Everything is ready, you know, and it would be such a relief.'

'Well, well, don't cry about that,' said he, with a moment's surprise. 'I don't mind if I do. Go and tell her to get ready.'

ARE FINDINGS KEEPINGS?

THE finding of concealed wealth is now an event of rare occurrence, except in tales of romance and adventure. It was once not uncommon. For when civilisation was comparatively rude, and the ways of keeping valuables were imperfect, the earth was a favourite hiding-place for treasures, especially in times of war or invasion. The title to such valuables when discovered has been often the subject of dispute. Money, gold, silver or plate found hidden in the earth or in a secret place is termed treasure-trove—from the French *trouver*, to find. Such treasure, according to the law of England, was the property of the king, and in this country, strictly speaking, once belonged to the state in which it was found; but the title of the state has not, for a long time, if ever, been strongly asserted against a fortunate finder.

Lost articles of value found upon the surface of the earth, or in the sea, are, so far as concerns everyone but the owner, the property of the one who finds them. If they are afterwards taken from him by another, the finder can reclaim them as if he were the owner.

A chimney sweeper's boy, living in England more than one hundred years ago, had the fortune to find a jewel of unusual value. He took it to a goldsmith, who, after looking at it and weighing it, tried to buy it from the boy for a trifling sum. The lad refusing the offer, the goldsmith returned to him the setting, but would not give back the gem.

Upon the trial of an action brought by the boy against the goldsmith, the value of the jewel was concealed by the goldsmith, and he was directed by the court to pay the boy the price of the finest jewel which could be fitted to the setting. This incident resulted in settling forever the right of a finder to the possession of his findings.

In order to give the finder such a claim, however, the article must have been truly lost. If it has been simply mislaid, or put in a particular place by the owner, and afterwards left there through his carelessness, it is not legally lost.

A lady who leaves her purse on the counter of a shop where she has been trading cannot be said to have lost it; and if the purse is afterwards picked up by another, the proprietor of the shop is said to have a better right to hold it than the one who found it.

But if the purse had been accidentally dropped on the floor of the premises, and afterwards found there by a customer, that would have been a real case of losing, and the customer—if the owner cannot be found—would have as much right to keep the purse as if he had found it in the street.

In order to be a finder one must be aware that he has the thing in his possession, and he must show an intention of keeping it.

The purchaser of an old secretary or bureau sometimes finds put away in a secret drawer money or jewels long forgotten. To whom do they belong? The seller did not know that they were there, and showed no intention of claiming them when the furniture was in his possession. They cannot, therefore, belong to him, but are rightly claimed by the person who first discovers them, whether he be the purchaser, a servant, or anyone else who is not a trespasser.

To keep what one has found is not an absolute but a special right, which the true owner may dispute by demanding his property and proving his claim to it, to the reasonable satisfaction of the person who holds it.

When the owner has offered a definite reward, the finder may keep the lost article until the reward is paid to him. But he cannot demand a reward where none is offered, nor can he hold the lost property as security for any expense incurred in keeping it, though he would be entitled to be paid by the owner for such outlay.

One who is so fortunate as to find what belongs to another must always act honestly and with what the law calls 'good faith' toward the owner. If, at the time of the finding, he knows, or has the means of knowing, or believes he can find out, who the owner is, and makes no effort to discover him, but intentionally keeps or disposes of the lost property, the law regards him as no better than a thief.

On the other hand, if the owner does not appear, the finder acquires, at common law, an absolute title to the thing found, though by statute some of the states have in various ways limited and regulated the gaining of such a title.

Occasionally you see a very rich man who is so economical that he would enjoy being poor.

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ONE USE FOR WEALTH.

LOLD ABERDEEN is reported as telling the following story of himself. He left London at midnight in a sleeping-car for the north. In the morning when he was awakened he saw a stranger opposite him.

'Excuse me,' said the stranger, 'may I ask if you are rich?'

Somewhat surprised, his lordship replied that he was tolerably well-to-do.

'May I ask,' continued the stranger, 'how rich you are?'

'Well, if it will do you any good to know,' was the reply, 'I suppose I have several hundred thousand pounds.'

'Well,' went on the stranger, 'if I were as rich as you, and snored as loudly as you, I should take a whole car, so as not to interrupt the sleep of others.'

TOO MUCH EMOTION.

IT is seldom that anything really funny happens in a criminal trial in court. Such proceedings are generally melancholy enough. But in France, where the people have a genius for comedy, the courts often supply amusing episodes. Lately a man was brought before a Paris tribunal for stealing a flute out of the window of a musical instrument dealer, and making off with it under his coat. In France the judge cross examines and really prosecutes the accused person, and the judge asked this man:

'What is your occupation?'

'Flute,' answered the man, in a tearful tone.

'What do you say?'

'I say flute, sir—the little flute.' The prisoner sighed deeply, and his voice all through the examination was full of sorrow.

'You are a musician, then. You are here charged with theft.'

'Oh, your honor, have pity on a poor man encumbered with a family—encumbered with three children, sir.'

'It is true that you have three children, but you abandoned them five years ago.'

'That was because I was so soft-hearted, your honor; I could not bear to see them suffer.'

'However that may be, on the seveneenth of July last you took a flute from the window of a dealer in the Rue St. Denis, and made off with it under your coat.'

'It was a very little flute, sir—almost a flagolet.'

'What made you take it?'

'The desire to earn my own living, sir, by playing it. I took a prize once, sir, at the Conservatory, for playing a flute; and if I had a flute now I might be a celebrity at this moment—I might be earning my three francs a night.'

'Indeed!' said the judge. 'Bailiff, bring in the flute which was found in this man's possession.'

The flute was brought in and placed in the prisoner's hands. He began to weep softly.

'Then you are going to give it to me?' he blabbered.

'You are going to have pity on a poor man?'

'We are simply going to hear you play,' said the court.

'No—play?'

'Certainly. A prize-winner at the Conservatory ought to be willing to give us a specimen of his skill.'

'Before all the court? Why, I don't like to play here—I'm so embarrassed.'

'Oh, the court will be indulgent. Don't play anything operatic—just give us "In the Moonlight," or some simple ditty.'

'Without an accompaniment, your honor?'

'Yes.'

The prisoner ran his fingers over the flute uneasily. 'I can't do it, your honor, I really can't—my emotion is too much for me!'

The man was sentenced to two months' imprisonment.

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