

# THE "GRAPHIC" READERS' OWN PAGE

## COMPETITIONS FOR OUR READERS.

### COMPETITION NO. 7—NEW ZEALAND AUTHORS.

Readers are requested to name the **THREE BEST NEW ZEALAND PROSE WRITERS**. For the purposes of this Competition, the phrase "Prose Writers" means the authors of novels, short stories, narratives of adventure and life in New Zealand, philosophical, religious, scientific, or other works published in book or pamphlet form (journalistic and poetical work being excluded). The phrase "New Zealand Writers" is meant to include not only natives of this country, but also all authors of whatever nationality who have been permanent residents of New Zealand and written works here. The Competitor who names the three chosen by the majority (or, failing that, two out of the three), will receive as a Prize

**A YEAR'S SUBSCRIPTION TO THE "GRAPHIC," VALUE £1.**

#### COUPON.

In my opinion, the **THREE BEST NEW ZEALAND PROSE WRITERS**, as defined above, are:—

(1) Name .....

Principal Work .....

(2) Name .....

Principal Work .....

(3) Name .....

Principal Work .....

Name of Competitor .....

Address .....

Cut out above Coupon, fill in, and address "Competition No. 7, 'Graphic' Office, Auckland." All Coupons must be received not later than **FRIDAY, MAY 15th**. Results of this competition will be announced in the "Graphic" of May 20th.

### COMPETITION NO. 8—SPOONERISMS.

Prizes are offered for the **BEST ORIGINAL SPOONERISM**. What is a Spoonerism? It is not exactly a "derangement of epitaphs," though it very nearly comes within that definition. It takes its name from a supposititious Archdeacon Spooner, whose tongue has a habit of getting twisted, with results that can best be described by illustrative examples. Thus, the good man told a lady on one occasion that he had been travelling "with two rags and a bug," when he meant to say "two bags and a rug." Again, when addressing his congregation, he reminded them that "St. Stephen was stewed to death by the unbelieving Jones." An example appeared in the "Graphic" of April 15th, wherein an orator was reported as saying that "the schoolwork is the hullhouse of civilisation." Our ingenious readers should be able to evolve some original Spoonerisms of an amusing kind, and we hope to receive a large assortment.

**1st Prize—A YEAR'S SUBSCRIPTION TO THE "GRAPHIC," Value £1.**  
**2nd Prize—FIVE SHILLINGS CASH.**

No Coupon is required. Write your "Spoonerism," affix your name and address, and send to "Competition No. 8, 'Graphic' Office, Auckland," to reach us not later than **FRIDAY, May 22nd**. Results will be announced in "Graphic" of May 27th.

### COMPETITION NO. 9—NEW ZEALAND ARTISTS.

Readers are invited to name the **SIX BEST NEW ZEALAND ARTISTS**, living or dead, including not only those who are natives of the country, but also those of any nationality who have resided in the Dominion and produced New Zealand pictures in Oil or Water Colours. To the Competitor who names the Six, or, failing that, the greatest number, of those chosen by the majority, there is offered as

**Prize—A YEAR'S SUBSCRIPTION TO THE "GRAPHIC," Value £1.**

#### COUPON.

In my opinion, the **SIX BEST NEW ZEALAND ARTISTS** are:—

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.....

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Name of Competitor .....

Address of Competitor .....

Cut out the above Coupon, fill in, and send addressed "Competition No. 9, 'Graphic' Office, Auckland," so as to reach the office not later than **MAY 29th**. The result will be announced in the issue of June 3rd.

### COMPETITION NO. 10—ACROSTIC.

For an **ACROSTIC** of Thirteen Lines of Verse, each line in succession, commencing with the initial letters of the words, "Weekly Graphic," the following Prizes are offered:—

**FIRST—A YEAR'S SUBSCRIPTION TO THE "GRAPHIC," Value £1.**  
**SECOND—FIVE SHILLINGS CASH.**

The subject should be an enumeration of the features of the "Weekly Graphic" and "N.Z. Mail," and the Competitors who do this most ingeniously and completely will win the Prizes. Entries must reach the office not later than **FRIDAY, JUNE 5th**, and should be addressed "Competition No. 10, 'Graphic' Office, Auckland." No Coupon is required. Results will be announced in the issue of June 11th.

It is stipulated as a condition of all Competitions that the decision of the Editor of the "Graphic" shall be final, and that no correspondence on the subject of the Competitions shall be allowed.

### The Three Best Plays.

#### RESULT OF COMPETITION No. 5.

As was to be expected, great diversity of taste has been displayed by our readers in replying to the question: "What are the three best plays by British authors? The number of voting papers sent in was not so great as we had anticipated; but the result of the voting has been reached by such substantial majorities that in all probability a larger vote would not have yielded a different verdict. The decision arrived at is somewhat of a surprise to us, for we anticipated that at least one of the modern dramas, of the "smart," sensational, or spectacular schools, would have found favour. Our readers have, however, stood firmly by the old favourites, with the result that the three best British plays are pronounced to be—

- HAMLET (Shakespeare)
- SCHOOL FOR SCANDAL (Sheridan)
- SHE STOOPS TO CONQUER (Goldsmith)

The two first-named plays received identical support, equal to 60 per cent. of the total number of voting papers, while "She Stoops to Conquer" came close up with support from 45 per cent. of the Voters. The other plays that stood high in favour were "Othello" and "As You Like It." As a curiosity in the matter of popular taste, it may be noted that "East Lynne" received as many votes as "Romeo and Juliet" or "Macbeth," and double the number recorded for "The Merchant of Venice" and "King Lear."

The successful plays were named by two competitors, and we have resolved to award two prizes of equal value to

- MISS G. STEVENS,  
Hamilton East, Waikato.
- and  
C. M. BUCKLAND,  
Akaroa, Canterbury.

Roughly, one-third of the unsuccessful competitors named two one of the three plays chosen by the majority; one-third named one out of the three; and the remaining third did not include one in their lists.

One voting paper had to be disqualified through not being written on the coupon form.

"Ah, no," said the pakeha. "Kakino—no good the Grey."

The said "nigger" put his brawny paw underneath the seat, and took thereout a carpet bag containing a greenstone "mere" of large dimensions, and, glaring at the writer, seized him by the "fur-lock," and cried, "Once! twice!" and paused a minute; so the said law clerk, thinking discretion the better part of valour, cried out, "Oh yes! Kapai Sir Geo. Grey!" at which the wily Maori laughed, released the hair of my head, and sat down, and silence reigned again. However, at the next station the writer gladly paid the difference in fare, and speedily changed carriages, counting himself lucky to have escaped with a sound cranium.

The above is an original story, and the events happened to the writer many years ago.

[This paragraph reached us too late to be adjudicated upon in the competition.]

#### DRESSING THE JOINT.

A lady had issued invitations for a dinner party, and a few days before the event was to take place she and her general servant had a difference of opinion, with the result that the general left in a huff.

After some trouble, a raw country girl, who had some knowledge of cooking, was engaged, and very minute instructions were given her as to her duties. The lady was somewhat fearful as to what sort of a dinner would be served, but the soup and fish were so excellent that all her fears vanished.

The fish was cleared away, and the joint should then have come in. Some minutes elapsed, but still no joint, so the hostess rang the bell. Another interval of several minutes, and then the maid appeared in tears, bearing a dish, the chief features of which were the youngest son's new suit of clothes.

"Why, Mary, what have you got there?" said the hostess.

"It's the joint, ma'am. You told me to dress it well, and as I couldn't find the proper clothes I put Master Tommy's new suit on it. I'm afraid it don't look very well, ma'am."

The guests went off into roars of laughter, and the dinner proceeded minus a joint.

#### AND HOME MIKE WENT.

The old soldier was in a talkative mood. "Did I ever see Wellington? Why, of course I did. I was lying on the ground, when I 'eard the sound o' 'osses' 'ooofs, and soon a voice called out: "Is that you, Mike?"

"I knowed the voice in a hinstant; it was the Doak of Wellington."

"Yes, sir," sez I, most respectful.

"Come 'ere," sez the Doak.

"I riz reluctant from the ground, for I was tired out. He sez to me when I came near him:

"Mike, I want you to go back 'ome."

"Why?" sez I.

"'Cause you're killing too many people," sez the Doak.

"And 'ome I went."

Our thanks are tendered to all who entered for this interesting competition. Further selections from the humorous paragraphs sent in will be published in future issues of the "Graphic."

### Humorous Paragraphs.

#### AN ABORIGINAL ARGUMENT.

It was in the summer of 1879, or thereabouts, during the stirring times of the Grey-Sheehan Ministry, that a young and budding lawyer was deputed by a certain "limb of the law" to serve a "blue paper" upon a certain defendant in a coming civil action.

The writ having been duly served, the law clerk started on his return home, and in order to save money for his own pocket, decided to return by way of second class, and did so accordingly. At one of the stations en route a big burly native entered the carriage, the writer and he being the only occupants, and the train proceeded on its way. The said native turned out to be a bit "boony," but a strong (Greyite). Sitting opposite to the legal emissary, he made a voracious grin, and said, "Kapai Sir George Grey."