

a man in desperate straits does use it, it never goes unheeded. There is no man who dares disregard it.

Only a few months ago an unhappy citizen applied it to one of the rulers of the island, who was tearing down a building the ownership of which was in dispute between them. He knelt upon the steps of the courthouse, and his voice went quavering as he began the ancient cry, and then shrilled high and loud; and people stood about in silent awe until the formula was complete. The man rose all trembling and looked about him uncertain and in fear.

The court heard his case forthwith, and decided for him. But the rich man had already ceased the work before the court hearing, as soon as the poor man had cried 'Ha! Ro!'

An American, to whom the practice was new, questioned both men.

'He had to stop; he had no choice,' said the poor man. And the rich man said the same. 'I had to stop when he cried "Ha! Ro!" I had no choice.'

The old custom is written indelibly in the law-books of Guernsey, an age-old tribute to the love of justice of the ancient Duke Ro.'

#### AN EXCESSIVE BILL.

When the waiter brought the bill the farmer said: 'This bill is more than I expected.'

The waiter replied: 'You will find the things you ate all marked--ham, eggs, beans, potatoes, coffee, etcetera.'

'Thar, I knowed you was trying to beat me; I never ate any etcetera.'

#### IMPROVING THE RHYME.

A school teacher was trying to impress upon a scholar's mind that Columbus discovered America in 1492.

'Now, John,' he said, 'I will tell you the date in rhyme so that you won't forget it.'

'In fourteen hundred and ninety-two  
Columbus sailed the ocean blue.'

Now, can you remember that, John?

'Yes, sir,' replied John.

Next day the teacher said: 'John, when did Columbus discover America?'

'In fourteen hundred and ninety-three  
Columbus sailed the dark blue sea!'

#### A PUZZLED WITNESS.

His Worship: 'What we want you to tell us is the exact words used by the prisoner when he spoke to you.'

Witness: 'He said, your Worship, that he stole the pig.'

His Worship: 'No, no; he would not have used the third person.'

Witness: 'But, your Worship, there was no third person.'

His Worship: 'Then he must have said "I stole the pig."'

Witness: 'Well, maybe you did, your Worship, but he did not tell on you.'

#### THE CAUSE OF HIS DEATH.

Reader: 'I want a good novel to read in the train--something pathetic.'

News-stand Attendant: 'Let me see. How would *The Last Days of Pompeii* do?'

'Pompeii? I never heard of him. What did he die of?'

'I'm not quite sure, ma'am; some kind of eruption, I've heard.'

#### A LONG WAIT.

Little Tommy is very talkative, and on going out to tea with his father and mother the other night he was told that he mustn't speak until some one asked him

a question. After he had sat silent for half an hour, he could not stand it any longer, and he said:

'I say, papa, when are they going to begin asking me questions?'

## FAMILY FUN

### TRICKS, ILLUSIONS, AND INDOOR AMUSEMENTS.

(Special to the N.Z. TABLET by MAHATMA.)

**A Pretty Experiment.**--Hold half a dozen darning needles in a bunch by the point ends, and draw the north pole of a permanent magnet along them from the points towards the eyes, taking care to bring the magnet back to the points through the air. The magnet must *not* be rubbed backwards and forwards but move in contact toward the eyes only. The needles are pushed through the centres of discs 3-16's of an inch in thickness. These discs may be made from wine bottle corks. Treat an equal number of needles in the same way with the south end of the magnet, and thrust them through colored discs of cork (red ink is a convenient dye) for distinction. All the needles and discs may now be waterproofed by heating and dipping in varnish. Fill a basin with water and, when the surface is quite still, drop in all the discs, holding the north pole needles eyes upward. They will repel one another, and separate until the distances between them are all approximately equal. Now put in the red disc needles, also eyes upward. They will at once seek partners with the north pole needles, and arrange themselves in clusters. This is a pretty proof of the fact that like poles repel and unlike poles attract one another.

**Weight-Guessing.** Get a number of small bags and tie up in them shot or other small articles to make the weights of 4, 4½, 4¾, 5, 5½, 5¾, and 6 ounces respectively. Shuffle them up, and ask your friends to place them in a row in the order of their weight. The weights should be written on the bottom of the bags. The test is rather an exacting one, requiring considerable delicacy of judgment. An amusing experiment is to hand an object of known weight about among the company, asking each person to write down his guess on a piece of paper. The estimates will be found to vary widely.

**Egg and Card Trick.** Half fill a wineglass with water, lay a visiting card over it, and on this a wedding or other plain ring, by means of which you balance an egg, small end up, upon the card. A sharp flick of the finger will remove the card, ring and egg falling into the wine-glass.

**The Clock Dial.** Draw circles on a number of cards, and distribute these among the company with a request that each person fill in the Roman figures exactly as they appear on the face of the clock. Common mistakes are to put IV. instead of IIII. and to make VI. and the subsequent figures point to the outside.

**The Magnetic Match.**--Take two safety matches and arrange them crosswise at right angles to each other, about their mid points, the upper being balanced on the lower. A third match is then taken and, after having been subjected to some 'mystic passes' by which the demonstrator pretends that the match will acquire magnetic properties, one end is held about half an inch away from one end of the upper or balanced match. After one or two unsuccessful attempts the balanced match is seen to begin turning round and follow the match held in the fingers, very much as a compass needle follows a bar magnet. The solution is that whilst you are pretending to draw one match with the other, you are in reality very quietly blowing against the other end of the balanced match.

A few slices off GOLDEN EAGLE PLUG! Rub them!—notice the rich promising aroma! Light up!—How the blue smoke twists and twirls—sniff its sweetness—enjoy its goodness. No other for me! How about YOU? Also in tins.