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LAW OF TREASURE TROVE.

Points Regarding the Ownership of Articles Found. Nearly two hundred years ago a London chimney sweep found a piece of jewelry and carried it to the jeweler to learn its value. Under pretense of weighing it the jeweler extracted the stones and then offered the sweep a trifling sum in payment. This he refused, and thereupon the other handed back the setting without the stones. The sweep sued him, and the judge instructed the jury to find a verdict for the plaintiff, and to assess the damages at the value of stones of the first water, as the defendant would not produce those he had taken out, in court. The rule is still the same, and when Mrs. Ellen Quinn, when sorting rags in a paper mill in Indiana, found two \$50 bills in an envelope, and handed them to her employer to see if they were genuine, and he kept them, the law said he must give them back or render their value. He argued that she was in his employ as a sorter of rags, and that he had bought the paper by weight and that the bills were included, but the court said as he did not know they were there it was of no avail. Likewise, when Mrs. Blanchard found three \$20 bills in the parlor of the hotel in which she worked at Lewistown, Pa., the court said they were hers if no owner claimed them. Mrs. Blanchard was very honest about the matter and when she found them took them to the proprietor, who said he thought they were the property of one of his guests, but he tried in vain to find the owner. Mrs. B. then demanded the money back, but he declined to give it, until the supreme court ordered him to do so, telling him that the finder of lost property has a claim to the same against all the world save the true owner. The conductor of a Philadelphia horse car some years ago found \$100 among the hay on the floor of his car. He gave it to the superintendent, who was not able to find the owner, and it was held; it was decided by the court that the money must be returned to the finder. But the right of the finder depends on the honesty and fairness of his conduct. The circumstances attending the finding must manifest good faith on his part. There must be no reason to suspect that the owner was known to him or might have been ascertained by proper diligence. It is enough is known to the finder to enable him to prosecute with success a search for the owner, and instead of using this knowledge he appropriates to his own use what he has found, he may subject himself to an action for larceny. But it seems that if he cannot find the owner at first and then uses the money, he cannot be held liable if he acted in good faith. The property, however, must be lost, and it is not so in the meaning of the law when the owner intentionally lays it on the table, counter or other place and then forgets to take it away. In such cases the proprietor of the premises is entitled to the custody, and, in case the owner cannot be found, to the article. But if the article be dropped on the floor or elsewhere by the owner then it belongs to the finder if the owner cannot be identified. Some years ago a man went into a Boston bank for the purpose of making a deposit, and laid his pocket book, containing valuable papers on one of the desks which are usually provided for customers, outside of the bank counters. He left it there when he went out, and it was found by a boy, who upon the offer of a large sum for its return, took it to the owner and claimed the reward. The owner refused to pay, and the court sustained him, deciding that as the pocket book had been placed on the desk voluntarily it was not lost, but had been left in the custody of the bank, and therefore the boy was not entitled to the reward. So, too, when a customer of a barber shop found a pocket book belonging to another customer, on the table of the shop, it was held that the barber, and not the finder, was entitled to its custody.

Newspapers and Newspapers.

The clergy long since recognized the power of the press and admitted its substitution of much work once belonging to the pulpit and platform. It is to be feared, says the Astor, that this substitution may prove harmful in time unless the patrons of the press enforce upon it the same rules of conduct by which public opinion hedged in platform and pulpit. That which the press has substituted was pre-eminently a teaching force amongst men. It was not merely the delivery of ethics. It was an educational effort brought to bear upon public opinion for its enlightenment and right direction. If the press have taken the place of the pulpit in any respect it must be in this, for it is certainly not as a disseminator of news. Now if the press is the promoter of ethics, and a propagator of opinion, it is right to consider what else it does, for as a teacher it is to be judged by the consistency and propriety of its editorial tone alone. In its editorial columns it may teach and exhort, plead and instruct, appeal to sentiment and play upon passion. Of all this the New York Tribune, under Greeley, was a fine example, as was the World in the hands of Manton Marble. They formed public opinion in regiments and marched it forth to battle, under captains of tens and captains of hundreds, just as Peter the Hermit sent the crusaders to fight for recovery of the holy sepulcher. But it is questionable whether many newspapers on this continent are to-day fulfilling such a function. They are the organs of news, which often generates into the peddling of gossip. The pulpit preached and the platform taught. The newspaper tattled. What forever would have been left in a sermon if it were followed by a mess of neighborhood gossip, about engagements to marry and suits for divorce, and the far sadder trips and stumbles of the sons and daughters of men? By far the greatest space in the average newspaper devoted to news is filled with that which the public has no just right to know, and it is displayed without charity, mercy, good taste or justice. If a girl lured by the roses and raptures, imperil her good name, is it great in a newspaper to parade her picture and salaciously describe her lapse? It is, in the narrowest sense, like parade made of the man who may be responsible, far more than she, for the evil example which is given to the mass of an improper public curiosity. The rule to "gently scan your brother's man, still gentler sister woman," enforced upon the press as it is upon the pulpit, would do much to confine the press more closely to its work of enlightening and guiding public opinion. The condition of affairs now and soon to be in this country calls with startling effect for such work in the press. The promotion of wholesome discussion upon great questions should draw trained brains in journalism, and should retire trained tattlers. We should feel more interest in what our neighbor thinks of great issues which involve his welfare and ours, than we do in the properly secret relations between him and his household. No agency yet devised can be made as useful as the press in teaching men to think, and surely it is a gross misuse of a majestic opportunity, if this agency be turned simply into a device to make them thoughtless by pandering to their passions and prejudices.

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