

## Answers to Correspondents.

Answers to questions will be given if possible and as early as possible, only when the question is accompanied by the name and address of the questioner. The name is not for publication but as an evidence of good faith. The problem in behavior printed each month may be answered by any reader on a post-card. The best answer will bring the writer the present of a book.

### PROBLEM IN BEHAVIOR.

The problem for this month is as follows:

Mr. and Mrs. Brown, age 50 and 48, live on a farm of 160 acres. They owe \$1,000 on a mortgage. They are in need of farm implements to the extent of \$250. With hard work they manage to save \$500 a year. They have two girls age 12 and 14, both fond of music. Should they spend part of their earnings in providing music lessons for their children? This would of course necessitate the purchase of an organ.—Proposed by Mrs. Clow, Erin.

### NOVEMBER PROBLEM.

The November problem brought a great many solutions and it was difficult to award the prize. However, the editor has awarded the palm to Miss Mary L. Stevens, 370 Slater Street, Ottawa. Both question and answers are given below:

#### Question.

Mrs. Hall hears on Wednesday that an acquaintance of hers, Miss Brown, is to be married the next day, Thursday. She sends her a few lines of good wishes to reach her on her wedding day. On Thursday morning Mrs. Hall receives a note from Miss Brown saying that even although she is exceedingly busy, she must write and thank her for the lovely present, which is just what she wanted, and which she has not got. Mrs. Hall has sent no present, and did not intend doing so. What should Mrs. Hall do.

#### Answer.

This is certainly a very embarrassing situation for both Mrs. Hall and Miss Brown. If Miss Brown has received a gift which she believes came from Mrs. Hall, then is Mrs. Hall in duty bound to the donor of the present and also to herself to put Miss Brown right in the matter. Miss Brown being but an acquaintance it would not be well for Mrs. Hall to exceed the demands of etiquette by sending a present even though she may feel forced to do so by circumstances or coercion. Mrs. Hall should seek a personal interview if possible, and if not, she should write a kind, straightforward letter, advising her of the mistake and expressing her very best wishes. Such conduct would display honesty to herself, to the sender of the present, and to Miss Brown. If Miss Brown does not appreciate such action and feels hurt, then

No grief should throb the heart,  
No tears be shed.  
For friendship that is bought  
'Twere better dead.

Other good answers are as follows:—

1.—Mrs. Hall should send Miss Brown a small present, with a note of explanation, otherwise, her conscience will never rest easy. Miss Brown has probably made the mistake of confusing someone's present, thinking it was sent by Mrs. Hall, a natural result of the "topsy-turvy" state of affairs owing to preparations for her marriage. Another explanation might be—that Miss Brown thinks more highly of a few lines of kindly wishes than an expensive present, carelessly sent, more as a duty to get rid of, than from any real feeling of esteem or affection for a bride.

2.—"Mrs. Hall should write at once to Miss Brown to say that she sent a note of good wishes, but did not send any gift. She should express a hope that Miss Brown has already identified the giver, and should conclude a friendly note by a renewed expression of good wishes."

3.—"Mrs. Hall, having done all she intended, should take no further action in the matter. On receipt of her note on Thursday morning, Miss Brown would most likely find that she had made a stupid mistake—pardonable, perhaps, on the ground of excitement; but for either party to make any attempts at explanation would only be to render confusion worse confounded."

4.—"Mrs. Hall should take an early opportunity of calling on her friend (formerly Miss Brown) after she is settled in her own house, and then she should explain pleasantly that Miss Brown had

been giving thanks where thanks were not due, and ask her if she has discovered the real donor of the beautiful gift."

5.—It seems to me that if Mrs. Hall wishes to cultivate the friendship of Miss Brown and spare her feelings, she is "stuck" for a present. But how to send it and smooth out the affair, that is the question. Perhaps the present accompanied by the following letter would clear up the atmosphere and make everybody happy.

My Dear Miss Brown:—

You will understand how surprised I was to receive your letter of thanks when I inform you that I did not send the present to which you referred.

You have evidently mistaken some other gift for mine. Although I have a gift ready for you I did not intend to send it before your return from your honeymoon. As this is the day on which you cease to be "Miss Brown" my present, which accompanies this letter, will be waiting for you on your return. I only hope, Miss Brown, that you will appreciate it as much as the one in mistake, for it carries with it my sincere regards and very best wishes for your happiness and prosperity.

Yours sincerely, Mrs. Hall.

### A RUNNING RECORD.

Give world's record for a running horse. J. H. Tolman, Alta.  
Held by Caimon. Time 1.33 1-5—England.

### A FRECKLE CURE.

I have heard that Othine—double strength—2½ oz. will remove freckles. Please tell me how to make it into a cold cream, if it will not be injurious to the skin.

N. C., Winnipeg.

There is no drug or mixture of this name usually held by druggists. It is evidently some American patent composition. Therefore beware!

### MISS OR MADAM.

Should I begin a business letter to an unmarried woman with "Dear Miss"? or is "Dear Madam" correct for either a married or single woman?

"Dear Madam" is correct, whether the woman addressed be married or single. "Dear Miss" is not in good taste unless the name follows,—as, "Dear Miss Smith."

### DISINFECTING BOOKS.

Two handsome books were accidentally left in the room where one of my children was ill with scarlet fever. Must they be destroyed if there is any way of disinfecting them?—Worried Mother.

If you have an atomizer half fill it with a forty per cent. solution of formaldehyde. Stand the books upright on the end wide open with the leaves separated as much as possible, and spray thoroughly with formaldehyde. If the binding is very delicate and likely to be injured by the moisture procure a tight tin box, large enough to hold the book and a saucer filled with the formaldehyde. Stand the book upright as described and close the box, leaving it for an hour at least. It is said that one cubic centimetre of formaldehyde to three hundred cubic centimetres of space will thoroughly disinfect any book in fifteen minutes. The best advice of all, however, is to destroy the books.

### ANSWERS WANTED.

Which of our readers can furnish the following to correspondents?

(a) The Poem—"Pat McCarty's Dance."

(b) The poem and music beginning with the words "They tell me papa, that to-night, you wed another bride."

### BRIDGE LENGTHS.

Kindly give length of Victorian Bridge, at Montreal, and C. P. R. Bridge at Lethbridge.—W. F. Cowley, Alta.

Length of Victorian Bridge at Montreal is just a fraction under one and a half miles from shore to shore. C.P.R. Bridge, Lethbridge, is 1 mile 47 feet.

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