

A person who has found goods does not acquire any absolute title by such finding, but he does acquire a qualified title that will be good against all the world except the rightful owner or his representatives. This was decided in the important case of *Armory v. Delamirie* (i). There the plaintiff, a chimney-sweeper's boy, had found a jewel, and taken it to the shop of the defendant, a goldsmith, to know what it was; he there delivered it to the defendant's apprentice, who, under a pretence of weighing it, took out the stone, and the master, the defendant, offered him, the plaintiff, three-halfpence for it. On his refusing to accept this, and requiring to have the jewel back, the socket was returned to him without the stone, and this action was brought in respect of the wrongful conversion, for the recovery of the jewel, or for damages. It was objected that the plaintiff had no title to enable him to sue in respect of the wrongful conversion, but the Court decided that he might do so, as though he had no absolute title to it, yet he had a title against everyone but the rightful owner. So also where a person picked up a parcel of bank notes in the defendant's shop, and temporarily deposited it with the defendant to restore to the true owner when he was ascertained, and no owner appeared to claim them, it was held that the original finder might recover them from the defendant (k). These cases illustrate the rule already stated, that bare possession is generally sufficient title as against wrongdoers. If an honest finder sells to a person *bonâ fide* in market overt, he will give a perfect title, as there is here no one liable to be prosecuted and convicted.

Any money, coin, gold, silver, plate or bullion found (*trouvée*) in the earth or sea, the owner whereof is unknown, is called treasure trove. The property therein, and the title thereto, under different circumstances,

(i) 1 S. L. C. 374; 1 Strange, 504.

(k) *Bridges v. Hawkesworth*, 21 L. J. (Q.B.) 75.