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A Brief Account #
of the
MOST CELEBRATED DIAMONDS.

Translated from the GERMAN

by

JULIA R. ANAGNOS.

Second Edition.—Revised and Electrotyped.

The Howe Memorial Press.
Perkins Institution and Mass. School for the Blind.
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PREFACE.

A very beautiful set of crystal models of the world's most celebrated diamonds has been added to the collection of tangible apparatus, possessed by the Perkins Institution and Massachusetts School for the Blind, accompanied by a little German pamphlet containing a brief account of the individual history of each stone.

I have felt much interest in perusing this little manual, and I venture to hope that, although so brief in scope and simple in form, it may prove not unacceptable to other readers.

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these precious stones of immense value, whose history is interwoven with that of dynasties, and whose preservation has involved the sacrifice of precious human lives?

And stones are often the sole monuments of whole eras whose preservation in some historic form is of inestimable importance to the learning, the civilization and even to the progress of the present day.

If the poet exclaims: "The woods were God's first temples," how truly may we also say "The stones were man's first tablets!" The runic records of Scandinavia; the wonderful "Deluge Stone," with its inscription coinciding with the biblical account; the Rosetta Stone, throwing open the entire realm of Egyptology to the eye of modern research, all jut forth from the regions of the incalculable past, as colossal auxiliaries to the seeker after historic truth, while Alexandria burns, and Cicero's books

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"De Republica" are obscured by the palimpsest writer, as the cuckoo usurps the nest of the nobler bird. A Tischendorf has to search in the waste-basket of the Sinaitic monastery for the only reliable ancient Bible; but nature, nobler than man, bears these rocky records proudly on her eternal front. And shall we not place in the same line, though at a respectful distance, these gems telling their story of war and revolt, of revolution, downfall and uprising? If the geologist tells us of "Sermons in Stones," we think that these sparkling jewels have their "sermon" also. That emerald in the treasury of the Shah, for instance, on which are engraved all the names of his predecessors. How gladly would we decipher their titles, and calculate which of our European monarchs they were contemporary with? Then the lost stones! Ah, there we touch upon the tenderest point in the feelings

"De Republica", are observed by the Palm-press writer, as
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of the student of history. That which is lost always seems to us of far more priceless value than that which we have retained. The lost Iliad, the lost "Fairie Queen," how tenderly does the litterateur picture to himself what might have been their golden contents! How gladly would we have seen that fair ruby, "great like a racket-ball," which Queen Elizabeth showed in her cabinet to the ambassador of Mary Stuart when the latter, with some assurance "desired she would either send it to my Queen, or the Earl of Leicester's Picture." She replied: "If Queen Mary would follow her counsel she would get them both in time, and all she had, but she would send her a diamond as a token by me." The jewels amassed by Anne of Denmark, Queen of James First, and quietly disposed of by her nurse and compatriot, usually known as Danish Anna, would indeed have daz-

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zled modern eyes, and many another treasure has thus been allowed to slip into oblivion which we would gladly have seen preserved! The "enormous pearls" which encircle the throat of Mary of Orange in one of her portraits have long since faded from mortal sight with other of her jewels, save for the page of canvas which still preserves them to our view. The "collar of large pearls" brought by Anne of Austria when she came as a bride from Spain to France, and bequeathed by her to the French royal family as an ornament for its queens, was given by a fairer Austrian (Marie Antoinette) to the representatives of the republican government, although they refused at first to take it. The unfortunate James Second and his queen carried with them in their flight from England a number of valuables belonging to the royal collection, one of which, a historic ring of great interest,

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was pathetically restored to King George of England, by James's grandson, Cardinal York, sometimes known as Henry Ninth, from Rome, where the exiled Stuarts found their last resting-place. One even feels a painful thrill on reading that the magnificent crown prepared for the coronation of Queen Victoria was enriched from older crowns, so great is one's fear lest some priceless footstep of the Past may have been lost in the transfer. The care with which the really ancient regalia of England have been preserved, however, and their almost sacred value, rebuke the doubt.

Here stand these great historic gems, however, preserved through all the ages (for if we count their geological birth, they are indeed immemorial), and linking the grandmother Past to the infant future with clasps of undying brilliancy. It seems to me that their intrinsic

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value forms the least part of their real worth, as in the case of coins, medals, etc. And if we speak of their age, shall we not call these treasures immemorial, as we ponder upon the æons of repose which they enjoyed in their prehistoric cradle, the bosom of old mother earth, rocked by her convulsions and lulled by her deluges, with earthquakes for a lullaby and eternity for a lifetime? To speak of more trifling matters, even the early races, China, etc., which it is now the fashion to rescue from oblivion and somewhat ostentatiously display, have their value as historical records and indications. Believing as I do, that the background of history forms a most important part of all present truth, I handle these portraits of the great originals with the deepest interest, and have transcribed the record of their vicissitudes with a student's reverence.

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THE MOST CELEBRATED DIAMONDS.

The Diamond is first mentioned among the Greeks about three centuries B. C. under the name of "Adamas," or the unsubduable, whence adamant. It seems to have attracted notice at a very early period, especially in India, the chief source of supply in ancient times. The old Jewish doctors regarded the jahalom, the third in the second row of stones in the breastplate of the high priest (Exodus 39: 11) as the diamond, and it is thus translated in the English and other versions. But as each stone in the breastplate bore the name of one of the tribes of Israel, and as there is no reason to believe that any method of polishing such hard stones, still less of engraving them, was then known, the identification cannot be accurate.

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in Pliny, who says it exceeds in value all human things, and that its use was confined to kings, and to few even of them. He mentions six varieties, the most remarkable being the Indian and Arabian, of such unspeakable hardness that when struck with a hammer even the iron and anvil were torn asunder. It also resisted the fire, and could only be subdued and broken down when dipped in fresh warm goat's blood. Similar fables continued to prevail during the Middle Ages, and even yet have hardly vanished from popular belief. As an ornamental stone, it was highly esteemed during the early times of the Roman empire, as some of the gems recorded by Juvenal testify, though only stones with naturally polished faces could be used. This fact is proved not only by the words of Seneca, "nec secari adamantus aut caedi vel deteri potest," and others, but from specimens of diamonds set in

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and others, but from specimens of diamonds set in

gold with no artificial Polishing, which have come down both from classic times and from the Middle Ages. (It may here be added that the tributary Princes of India at the Present day are said still to wear their diamonds unpolished). This unworkable character of the diamond long greatly limited both its use and its value, and the more highly colored rubies, and even emeralds and sapphires, were preferred to it. It was only after Ludwig van Berghem in 1476 discovered the mode of cutting and Polishing it, that the diamond slowly regained the first Place among gems. Even in the sixteenth century Benvenuto Cellini (writing in 1550) assigns it only the third rank in value, estimating a Perfect ruby of one carat weight as worth 800 scudi d'oro (a scudo being equal to about four shillings), a similar emerald at 400, an equal diamond at 100, and a sapphire at 10 scudi. In the

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same century the use of the diamond for cutting glass and engraving gems seems also to have become known. In France up to the age of Louis XIV, pearls were considered as the court gems par excellence. In the reign of that great monarch the diamond became the fashionable stone.

THE ORLOFF.

The Orloff, also called the Amsterdam diamond, is the largest in the world of undoubted genuineness, weighing 194 and three-fourths carats. It forms the point of the Russian imperial sceptre. Found in India, it is said, by one tradition, to have filled one of the eye-sockets of the idol of Sherigan in the temple of Brahma at Pondicherry. A grenadier who had deserted from the French army ob-

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tained employment in or near the temple, and stole the diamond from the idol. Another story tells us that Nadir Shah of Persia adorned his throne with the jewel, and that it was after his assassination that it commenced its wanderings. A ship-captain bought the stone for 14,000 thalers, and sold it to a Jew, who let an Armenian merchant named Schafra's have it. The latter sold it to count Orloff for the Empress Catherine Second of Russia for 450,000 silver roubles, and the negotiator, Lazaref, was raised to the rank of nobility with an annuity of 4,000 roubles.

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low, resembling the tail of a peacock's ear.

THE REGENT.

The Regent, or Pitt, a brilliant of the purest water, superbly cut, weighed when uncut 410 carats, and by the process of cutting, which occupied two years and cost 27,000 thalers, it was reduced to 136 carats. 10,000 thalers' worth of diamond dust was used in the operation, and the pieces ground off were worth 48,000 thalers. It comes from the mines of Pasteral, twenty miles from Masulipatam. The slave who found it, hid it, by wounding himself and putting the stone in the bandage. He was traitorously thrown overboard by the sailor to whom he had confided his secret, in order to make his flight possible. Thomas Pitt, then governor of Madras, bought the stone from Jam Chund, an Indian diamond dealer, for 312,500 francs. Others say that he bought it directly

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THE FLORENTINE.

The Florentine, or Tuscan, a beautiful rose-cut diamond in the Austrian treasury, is the third in weight, and is worth 700,000 thalers. Its weight is usually given at 139.5 carats, but Schrauf finds its exact weight

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133.16 Vienna carats. It is the same stone which Charles the Bold lost at the battle of Granson together with other valuables. A Swiss, who found it, sold it to a clergyman for a florin; the Priest sold it for three francs to the citizens of Berne. The next Possessor, who gave 5000 florins for the jewel, besides a Present to May, the magistrate, sold it to a Genoese, from whom Lodovico Moro Sforza of Milan obtained it for about 10,000 florins. Pope Julius Second, however, gave 20,000 ducats for the gem, when the Milanese treasure was sold.

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ready a history in its own country, which has its legendary roots in the dimmest antiquity. Its fortunes have been for the most part decided by the leading political events which have swayed the destinies of the land of its origin, its possessors having been almost always either the rulers or the conquerors of India.

The Indian legend tells that this magnificent jewel was found in one of the Golconda mines, near the Krishna river, and worn 5000 years ago by Karṇa, one of the heroes celebrated in Mahābhārata, the great Hindoo epic poem. At the commencement of the Christian era, it appears to have been the property of the powerful rajah of Oojein, from whom it descended to his successors, the rajahs of Central India. The first historical accounts of the Koh-i-noor are from the fourteenth century, when upon the subversion of the principality of Malwa by the

Mohammedans it became the Prize of Alaaddin, the Pa-
tan sultan of Delhi (1304). When sultan Baber made
himself master of Hindostan in 1526, the diamond, as
well as other treasures, was voluntarily presented to him
by its possessors of that period, as a testimonial of grati-
tude for their not having been taken by Plunder. It is
said that at that time it weighed 186 and one sixteenth
carats, exactly as much as when it came into the posses-
sion of the English. But this statement is contradicted
by Tavernier, who saw and measured the stone in Aur-
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wardly indeed that he was punished by the loss of his entire fortune. From Baber the gem was transmitted through a line of illustrious Princes to Mohammed Shah, the great grandson of Aurungzebe. From this Prince Nadir Shah, the Persian invader of India, got the stone by cunning in 1739. According to popular tradition, the unhappy Mohammed Shah used to hide the jewel in his turban, which he never took off. At the farewell ceremony, however, when the two rulers exchanged once more the assurance of eternal friendship and faith, Nadir Shah took his sheep-skin cap, trimmed with the costliest pearls, off his head, as if to strengthen his asseverations by an outward sign, and placed it upon the head of Mohammed Shah, but at the same time cocked his friend's turban upon his own head. In the turban, however, lay the magnificent diamond, and Mohammed could not, ac-

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according to the strict etiquette of his country, even make a
wry face at its loss. Nadir bestowed upon his Prize the
name of the Koh-i-noor or the Mountain of Light. The
empire changing times which dawned in India, and often
revolved around the jewel, made its destiny a wonderful
one. Upon the assassination of Nadir the gem fell into
the hands of Ahmed Shah, the founder of the Abdali dy-
nasty of Cabul. From this Prince it descended to his
successor Shah Shuja, on whose breast the English em-
bassy first saw it in Peshawar. The unhappy ruler saved
the diamond in Cashmere, but being expelled from his
throne became, in 1813, the nominal guest, but substan-
tially the prisoner of Runjeet Singh, the lion of the Pan-
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and artifice were fruitlessly employed, the Shah yielded a reluctant consent, and a day was fixed for its delivery to its new master. Accordingly on the first of June Runjeet waited on the Shah with a few attendants to receive the jewel. He was met by the exiled Prince with much dignity, and both being seated, a pause and solemn silence ensued, which continued for nearly an hour. Runjeet then getting impatient, whispered to one of his attendants to remind the Shah of the object of the interview. No answer was returned, but the Shah made a signal to an eunuch who retired and brought in a small packet which he set down on the carpet at equal distance between the chiefs. Runjeet desired an attendant to open the packet, when the diamond was exhibited, and the ruler of Lahore retired with his prize. Runjeet was highly elated by the acquisition, and wore it as an armlet at public festivals.

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retired with his prize. Runbet was highly elated by the
acquisition, and wore it as ornament at public festivals.

After his death it was preserved for a time to his successors, and was occasionally worn by Khurrak Singh and Sheer Singh; but in 1849, upon the abdication of Dhulep Singh, the Maharajah of the Punjab, and the annexation of his dominions to the British empire, it was stipulated that the Koh-i-noor should be surrendered to the Queen of England, to whom it was accordingly delivered by the deputy-chairman of the East India Company on the third of July 1850. After having been a central point of attraction at the first world's exposition in 1851, it was entrusted to the well-known diamond-cutter, Coster, of Amsterdam, to be cut since it still preserved the unfavorable form given it by Borgio. The cutting itself was done by Voorsanger in the workshop of the crown-jeweller at London, and took thirty-eight days. The weight had decreased from one hundred and eighty-

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six and one sixteenth to one hundred and six and one sixteenth carats, but its beauty was incomparably enhanced; for there is no diamond even approaching the Koh-i-noor in size which can be placed beside it in point of noble form, purity, brilliancy and fire.

THE STAR OF THE SOUTH.

The Star of the South, a beautiful longish brilliant, still weighing 125 carats, weighed 254 before it was cut. It was found by a negress in 1853, in the Province of Minas Geraes, and is the largest of the known Brazilian stones. It is in the possession of Mr. Halphen.

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THE STAR OF THE SOUTH.

The Star of the South, a beautiful diamond, still
weighing 125 carats, weighed 224 before it was cut. It
was found by a peasant in the Province of
Minas Geraes, and is the largest of the known Brazilian
stones. It is in the possession of Mr. Halpern.

THE SANCY.

The Sancy, celebrated for its singular history, is faceted in drop-form, is of the purest water, and weighs 53.5 carats. It belonged to Charles the Bold of Burgundy, who wore it on his body at the battle of Nancy, where he fell. Tradition gives concerning this stone a similar story with that of the Florentine. A Swiss soldier found the stone and sold it for a florin to a priest. In 1469 the Sancy came into the possession of Anthony, King of Portugal, who sold it (from pecuniary necessity) to a Frenchman, through whom it reached Sancy, from whom it has received its name. When Sancy went as ambassador to Solothurn, King Henry Third commanded him to send him the diamond as a pledge. The servant, who was to deliver it, was however attacked and mur-

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him to send him the diamond as a pledge. The servant
who was to deliver it, was however attacked and mur-

dered on the way, but not until he had succeeded in swallowing the diamond. Sancy had the corpse opened, and found the precious stone in the stomach. James the Second of England possessed the diamond in 1688, when he went to France, (Revolution of 1688-9. Accession of William and Mary). Later it was in the possession of Louis XIV and Louis XV, who wore it at his coronation. In 1835 it was bought for half a million roubles by Prince Paul Demidoff, chief hunting-master of the Emperor of Russia, but was sold again in Paris in the year 1836 for 625,000 francs, and was to be seen at the Paris world's exposition of 1867, having previously changed owners many times.

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625,000 francs, and was to be seen at the Paris world's
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many times.

THE EX-EMPRESS EUGENIE.

The diamond of the Ex-Empress Eugenie weighs 51 carats.

THE POLAR STAR.

The Polar Star, a beautiful brilliant in the Russian treasure, weighs 40 carats.

THE SHAH.

The Shah, likewise in the Russian treasure, where it came as a present from the Persian Prince Chosroes, son of Abbas-Mirza, is of the highest purity, column-shaped, and weighs 86 carats.

THE EX-EMPERESS EUGENIE.

The diamond of the Ex-Empress Eugenie weighs 21 carats.

THE POLAR STAR.

The Polar Star, a beautiful brilliant in the Russian treasure, weighs 40 carats.

THE SHAH.

The Shah, likewise in the Russian treasure, where it came as a present from the Persian Prince Cossob, son of Abbas-Mirza, is of the finest purity, column-shaped, and weighs 86 carats.

THE PIGGOT.

The Piggot or Lotteried diamond, brought by an Earl of this name from the East Indies to England, and raffled for in a lottery. It weighs 82.25 carats. Value 750,000 francs.

THE NASSUCK.

The Nassuck belongs to the Duke of Westminster, who had it re-cut, whereby the stone was reduced from 89.34 to 78.5 carats weight. Value 800,000 francs.

THE PASHA OF EGYPT.

The Pasha of Egypt, a beautiful octagonally-cut diamond, of 40 carats weight. Value 700,000 francs.

THE PICCOT.

The Piccot or Lottiered diamond, brought by an Earl of this name from the East Indies to England, and raffled for in a lottery. It weighs 82.25 carats. Value 720,000 francs.

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The Pasha of Egypt, a beautiful octagonally-cut diamond, of 40 carats weight. Value 700,000 francs.

THE GREAT MOGUL.

The Great Mogul was found in Golconda in 1550, and is said to have weighed in its original state 900 carats. But Tavernier, the French traveller,—to whom this great diamond is supposed by some to have been shown by the successor of sultan Baber in 1665,—reduces its weight to 279 carats. The title whence it takes its name is that borne by the heads of the powerful monarchy founded in India in 1519 by Baber, a descendant of Timour the Tartar (otherwise known as Tamerlane, which is a corruption of Timour Lenk or the Lame). Sultan Baber was likewise extracted from the same clan which gave to the Moguls their original great chief and founder, Genghis Khan. The empire of the Great Mogul lasted till the close of the eighteenth century.

THE GREAT MOGUL.

The Great Mogul was found in Golconda in 1520, and is said to have reigned in its original state 600 years. But Tavernier, the French traveller, to whom this great diamond is supposed by some to have been shown by the successor of Sultan Baber in 1662, takes its weight to 270 carats. The title whence it takes its name is that borne by the heads of the powerful monarchy founded in India in 1519 by Baber, a descendant of Timour the Tartar (otherwise known as Tamerlane, which is a corruption of Timour Lank or the Lame). Sultan Baber was likewise extracted from the same clan which gave to the Moguls their original great chief and founder, Genahis Khan. The empire of the Great Mogul lasted till the close of the eighteenth century.

A mystery seems to envelop the Past and Present existence of the Great Mogul: and, were it not for the different weights given for the two stones, one would be inclined to think that Tavernier had seen but one great diamond in 1665, of which different accounts have come down to us.

THE HOPE.

The Hope diamond, of the purest blue, 44.25 carats in weight, is in the possession of Thomas Hope, member of Parliament.

A martyr seems to have been present at the trial of the Great Moul: and, were it not for the different views of the two stones, one would be inclined to think that the martyr had seen but one of which different accounts have come down to us.

THE HOPE.

The Hope diamond, of the first size, 44.25 carats in weight, is in the possession of Thomas Hope, member of Parliament.

SUPPLEMENTAL REMARKS.

It seems to me not inappropriate to supplement the foregoing account with a few additional facts regarding diamonds in general.

A new and very interesting theory now prevails with regard to the origin of the Koh-i-noor, and the Russian Orloff, namely that they were formerly parts of one stone belonging to the Great Mogul, or emperor of the Mongul dynasty. It is indeed a wide divorce, which can place one fragment of a gem in the sceptre of Russia and another among the regalia of her opponent, England. The threatening attitude which these two mighty powers occupy toward each other to-day in Asia induces a smile at the thought. As we see them looming up like two giant beasts of prey over their prize, we are led to utter a

SUPPLEMENTAL REMARKS.

It seems to me not inappropriate to supplement the foregoing account with a few additional facts regarding the same.

A man was very interestingly conversing with me on the subject of the Kon-i-nook, and the Russian Oloft, and the parts of the stone which were formerly used in the Great Moral, or Emperor of the Moral. It is indeed a wide which can place one fragment of stone in the centre of Russia and another common the residue of her opponent, England. The latter contains two mighty powers which by tower each other to-day in Asia induces a smile at the thought. As we see them looming up like two giant beasts of prey over their prize, we are led to utter a

Prayer that poor Asia be not torn asunder between their conflicting empires, as was the stone which produced the Orloff and the Koh-i-noor. A third fragment of the original enormous mass is thought to be found in a stone of 132 carats obtained by Abbas Mirza at the storming of Coohax in Khorassan, in 1832. This portion was long used by a peasant as a flint for striking fire. The lower side of the Koh-i-noor is flat, and undoubtedly corresponds to a cleavage plane; and the three united would have nearly the form and size given by Tavernier as having existed prior to the unfortunate cutting by Borgio. The Encyclopædia Britannica adds: "The Koh-i-noor would thus exceed all other diamonds in size, as it does in brilliancy." It can certainly be hailed as the mother of modern regalia, as well as the ornament of pre-historic heroes. Well might we say of the cutting of this

stone, as Monckton Milnes does of the Pearl, in his
"Dewdrop Falling."

"Oh Unbelieving! So it came to shine,
Chief jewel in a monarch's diadem."

The Austrian diamond is of a beautiful lemon yellow color, and cut in rose. Its weight is 139 carats. It was purchased for a bit of rock-crystal on a stall in the market place of Florence, at the cost of a few pence. It belonged first to the Grand Duke of Tuscany, and is now in the possession of Austria.

The most valuable diamond found in the United States was picked up by a workman at Manchester, on the banks of the James River opposite Richmond in 1856. Another valuable diamond was found among the gold washings of North Carolina about the year 1842. This was of curvilinear form and was set without cutting. Others of

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of North Carolina about the year 1842. This was of
carrilite form and was set without cutting. Others of

less importance have been discovered in Georgia.

There is a very fine green diamond among the jewels of the celebrated "green vaults" collected by one of the kings of Saxony at Dresden. It was this monarch's foible to collect the most valuable jewels, and the oddly shaped pearls and other curiosities of these vaults must indeed be exceedingly interesting.

The great diamond in the possession of the king of Portugal is uncut, and weighs in the rough 1,680 grains. Some doubts have been entertained with regard to its genuineness. This diamond is from Brazil, the birth-place of the celebrated "Star of the South." The latter gem lost 129 carats in cutting. How different from this regrettable waste was the thrift shown in the cutting of the splendid Nassuck, now owned by that noble friend of the blind in England, the duke of Westminster, who has

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remarkable waste was the third shown in the cutting of
the splendid Nassuck, now owned by that noble friend of
the blind in England, the duke of Westminster, who has

lost only nine carats by the operation. The Nassuck was originally part of the booty obtained by the Marquis of Hastings's army in the Deccan. One would be glad to learn its earlier history, since these oriental stones seem frequently to have had some deep religious significance, a fact very cleverly worked up by Wilkie Collins, in his magnificent romance of the "Moonstone."

The brilliancy and indestructibility of the diamond attracted attention to it at very early periods, and caused it to be highly esteemed as a gem. Asia was long its only fatherland, where its most famous homes were the island of Borneo, Bengal, and the famous mines of the kingdom of Golconda, in Hindostan. The city of this name was the repository of the diamonds collected in the territory of the kings of Golconda. The mines of Golconda are no longer worked, the expense therein incurred being

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greater than the profit reaped.

A diamond of 367 carats was found at Landak (Borneo), celebrated for the superior quality of its stones and is said to be still in the hands of the chief of Pontiana. This stone is shaped like an egg with an indented hollow in the smaller end, and should be worth at least 3,500,000 dollars. One is glad to think of at least one of the great eastern diamonds being preserved by a native chief, since so many of their brilliant treasures have gone to grace the crown of aliens.

The diamond mines of Brazil were discovered early in the last century. They are said to have yielded at the rate of 36,000 carats per annum from 1730 to 1814. At this time there was a great diminution in their products; but an enormous increase began to manifest itself, thirty years later. When the "Star of the South" was

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mo), celebrated for the superior quality of its stones and
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ucts; but subsequent discoveries have been made to maintain itself.
Thirty years later, when the "Star of the South" was

found, in 1853, there were impressions upon its faces which appeared to have been made by other diamonds, so that the whole was probably a group of diamond crystals. Diamonds have been found massive in Brazil, in the form of pebbles. Their color is black, their specific gravity 3.012 to 3.416.

It was related by Dr. Beke in a paper read at a meeting of the British Association, that a Brazilian slave, seeking for diamonds in the river, broke with his iron bar through a crust of silicious materials, cemented together by oxide of iron, in which he discovered a bed of diamonds, which were afterwards sold for 1,500,000 dollars. This immense quantity, being carried to England, so overstocked the market that few of the English houses were able to stand up against it.

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It is the custom in Brazil to liberate the negro who finds

a diamond weighing seventeen and a half carats; and thus, with the "treasure trove" which kind mother earth indulgently yields to his grasp, he buys that Pearl of greater price, his freedom!

Twenty years ago the finest gems of commerce were in great part supplied by the old jewels of Portuguese, Spanish, French and English families, and the best market for them was the United States.

In the gold regions of Siberia a few diamonds have been found, thanks to baron von Humboldt, who thought he had met with appearances in a territory belonging to count Demidoff, analogous to those of the Brazilian district, Minas Geraes, and recommended a search for the gem. Fifty small diamonds have been obtained from the Ural district.

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and again in 1859 on the Macquarie river. In 1869 they were discovered in Mudgee by gold-diggers, and worked for a time pretty extensively. Here as well as in the Bingera diamond field they are sparingly distributed, the largest mentioned being under six carats.

Far more important are the diamond fields of South Africa. In 1867 a dutch farmer obtained from a boer a bright stone which his children were using as a plaything. This stone was sent to the Cape, where its true nature as a diamond was recognized, and subsequently forwarded to the Paris exposition and sold for 2,500 dollars. This valuable discovery soon led to further researches, and diamonds were obtained from various places near the Orange and Vaal rivers in Griqua Land West. Hence diamond-digging has become a regular branch of industry to a numerous population, and the largest stone from

Cape is the Stewart of 288 and three-eighths carats, found on the Vaal river in 1872. It was an irregular octahedron of the purest water, and one inch and a half in diameter, and is of a light yellow since cut.

The colors of the diamond, as may be seen from the foregoing remarks, are as various as those of the Pearl, usually used as a symbol for extreme whiteness, but of which we have pink, brown, black and grey. The pink Pearls and diamonds are extremely beautiful.

The colorless diamonds are the most esteemed, and are distinguished as diamonds of the first water from their resemblance to a drop of clear spring water. Very fine diamonds, however, sometimes present a deep red tinge, also yellow, orange, green, blue and black. Red diamonds seem very rare, but there is a brilliant of ten carats among the crown jewels of Russia, which cost

75,000 dollars, and in Dresden some very fine yellow stones, the largest of twenty-nine and a half carats. There is also among the Dresden regalia a magnificent green diamond, which appears among a mass of enormous clear ones in the regal sword belt. We have ourselves seen a very fine brown diamond on the finger of a Greek merchant in London.

The diamond is pure crystallized carbon. It is not acted upon by acids or alkalies, and when protected from the action of the air may be heated to whiteness without injury. Heated in the open air, it burns at the temperature of 14 degrees Wedgwood, or about that of melting silver, and is dissipated in the form of carbonic acid gas, thus proving its composition to be pure carbon, or in other words, charcoal. The primitive form of the crystal, and that into which the numerous secondary forms may be

converted by cleavage, is the regular octahedron, consisting of two four-sided pyramids joined at their bases. The faces of the crystals are often rounded off, so as to present a convex surface, and the edges are also often curved. The cleavage planes greatly facilitate the cutting of the diamond, and also present the most brilliant natural surfaces. Some diamonds found of a spherical figure are deficient in these planes, or they lie in a concentric arrangement which renders their cutting almost impracticable by any known process. Diamond cutting was little understood until 1476, when an artist residing at Bruges introduced the practice of using diamond powder for forming and polishing the facets. Holland long maintained a monopoly in this trade, and the smaller diamonds are almost entirely manufactured for the European market at Amsterdam. The Pitt diamond was, how-

ever, cut and polished in London, (the process being said to have occupied two years), as most of the larger sized stones continue to be. It is a very laborious and tedious operation. The grinding into the required form is entirely done by the hand.

The forms into which the diamond is cut are the brilliant, the rose, and the table.

The brilliant is composed of a principal face, which is called the table, surrounded by a fringe composed of a number of facets, which is all that is visible above the bezel when set.

The rose is entirely covered with facets on the surface, and is flat below.

The table form is adopted in consequence of the shape of the mass, whether crystal or fragment, and produces the least effect. It is principally used in India, where the

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native jewellers cleave stones into plates, having often a large surface with little proportioned weight or brilliancy, except at the edges, which are ornamented by being cut into facets.

It is interesting to know that the first facet of the Koh-i-noor was cut by the Duke of Wellington.

The imitation of diamonds has been carried to an astonishing degree of perfection among the French. Monsieur Bourguignon was especially successful in this operation, the sand employed for the production of his splendid diamonds being procured from the forest of Fontainebleau, and forming a considerable article of trade. The setting of these mock stones is always of pure gold, and of the newest fashion, and the ornaments when completed rival in delicacy and lustre the purest diamonds which nature has produced, and only by the closest inspection

into facts. The first of these was the fact that the proportion of the population which was employed in the service of the State was very small. The second was the fact that the proportion of the population which was employed in the service of the State was very small.

It is interesting to know that the first of these facts was cut by the Duke of Wellington. The imitation of diamonds has been carried to an extent which is not to be wondered at. The imitation of diamonds has been carried to an extent which is not to be wondered at. The imitation of diamonds has been carried to an extent which is not to be wondered at.

can the difference be detected. The chief objection to them is their liability to become dull in time by deliquescence, i. e., melting under the influence of the atmosphere.

Since the above was written, the scientific and jewel-loving worlds have been startled by the announcement, containing an apparent paradox, that real diamonds can be artificially made! It is not for us to enter here upon the technical minutiae of the process which has wrought this wondrous impossibility, if we may use the term.

It is well-known to our readers that the diamond, as elsewhere stated in these pages, consists of pure crystallized carbon. Now how to convert this carbon into crystal by other than the slow processes of nature, has long been the question in the scientific world. The ignorant miners in one district had had a superstitious practice of

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re-burying fragments of diamonds, with the belief that they would produce something more valuable in time. It is needless to add that this innocent experiment came to nothing.

But how would our ancient alchemists have rejoiced in the prophetic instincts of their long disappointed souls, could they have seen, not the gold for which they bent so long and vainly over the crucible, but diamonds, infinitely more precious and beautiful, issuing from the labyrinths of scientific research! Truly, they "builded better than they knew," when they set the world their noble example of long perseverance after fruitless endeavor, and how often, in realms of thought and action, as well as in those of tangible experiment, is the searcher's instinct led on to a mightier goal than that he dreams of. We subjoin an extract from the account read by J. B. Hannay before the

English Royal Society on the twenty-sixth of February,
1880:—

“When the carbon is set free from the hydro carbon in presence of a stable compound containing nitrogen, the whole being near a red heat and under a very high pressure, the carbon is so acted upon by the nitrogen compound that it is obtained in the clear, transparent form of the diamond. The great difficulty lies in the construction of an inclosing vessel strong enough to withstand the enormous pressure and high temperature, tubes constructed on the gun-barrel principle (with a wrought-iron coil,) of only half an inch bore and four inches external diameter, being torn open in nine cases out of ten. The carbon obtained in the successful experiments is as hard as natural diamond, scratching all other crystals, and it does not affect polarized light. Crystals with curved

faces belonging to the octahedral form, have been obtained, and diamond is the only substance crystallizing in this manner.

The process of diamond making may be summed up as follows: A hydro carbon gas—such as marsh gas, for instance, which is composed of hydrogen and carbon—is put into a stout iron tube of considerable thickness. A nitrogen compound—presumably cyanogen—is also introduced, with a view to the nitrogen combining with the hydrogen, and leaving the carbon free. The gas in the iron tube is subjected to enormous pressure to liquefy it, the tube being heated to aid in this work. The liquefaction of oxygen by Pictet, of Geneva, was effected by pressure in this way. The pure carbon passes under pressure from a gaseous into a liquid form, and finally crystallizes, in which condition it is found upon the iron tube being

opened. The diamonds obtained, however, have been thus far so small, and the expense of producing them is, of course, so great, that we need hardly suppose that the world will be flooded with the new gems during the present century, at least. The discovery has, in its present aspect, more of a scientific than of a mercantile importance; and thus those persons who are so fortunate as to possess shares in any diamond mine need not tremble for their stock.

And now we are reminded that perhaps it is time to set the reader free. He has followed us patiently through the diamond mines and workshops. We have seen together the greatest warriors as well as the greatest scientists connecting their eminent names with the fate of diamonds, from Napoleon girding on the Pitt or Regent as the chief ornament of his sword of state, to Humboldt

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linking in his mighty brain the geological structure of Siberia with that of the far-distant South America, and from Newton suspecting the inflammable composition of the diamond at about the same time that Cosmo Third de Medici was confirming with his celebrated burning-glass the previous experiments of Boyle and the earlier hints of Boetius de Boodt (1694). In the hands of the Florentine Philosophers a diamond was ignited by means of this large parabolic reflector, and burned with a blue lambent flame, and we hope they will never burn any more. The reader has his own mine of knowledge which he wishes to work, or his own workshop of deeds which he wishes to accomplish, and so we will shut up our little diamond shop, and bid him an affectionate farewell.

J. R. A.

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