A Brief Account

of the

MOST CELEBRATED DIAMONDS,

Translated from the German

by

JULIA R. ANAGNOS.

Second Edition.—Revised and Electrotyped.

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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 Tischendorff 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

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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,

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 aeons 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 laces, 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 adamas aut caedi vel deteri potest," and others, but from specimens of diamonds set in

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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 Berquen 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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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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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 Pastedl, 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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from the sailor for a thousand pounds. For the sum of one hundred and thirty-five thousand pounds the Pitt was placed by the regent duke of Orleans in 1718 among the regalia of France. During the reign of terror of 1792 it disappeared with the rest of the crown diamonds, but was found again, later. Under the republic it was once pawned at Berlin. Napoleon the Great wore it on his state sword hilt. It is said by some authorities to have been captured at Waterloo.

THE FLORENTINE.

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The Indian legend tells that this magnificent jewel was found in one of the Golconda mines, near the Kishna river, and worn 3000 years ago by Karna, one of the heroes celebrated in Mahabharata, 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

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Mohammedans it became the Prize of Alauddin, the Patan sultan of Delhi (1304). When sultan Babur 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 gratitude 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 Possession of the English. But this statement is contradicted by Tavernier, who saw and measured the stone in Aurungzebe's treasure in the year 1665, and describes it as of the shape of a half egg and weighing 280 carats, having been thus reduced by an unskilled stone cutter from 793 and five-eighths carats which it once weighed. The Koh-i-noor had, that is to say, been already once cut by the Venetian stone cutter, Hortensio Borgio, but so awk-

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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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cording 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 dynasty of Caubul. From this Prince it descended to his successor Shah Shuja, on whose breast the English embassy first saw it in Peshawer. The unhappy ruler saved the diamond in Cashmere, but being expelled from his throne became, in 1813, the nominal guest, but substantially the Prisoner of Runjeet Singh, the lion of the Punjaub. Runjeet resolved to set a Price upon the liberty of his captive, and demanded from him the Koh-i-noor. After a considerable interval, during which remonstrance

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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.

and artifice were fruitlessly employed, the Snow yielded a reluctant consent, and a day was fixed for its delivery to its new master. Accordingly on the first of June Rustibelt waited on the Snow with a few attendants to receive the jewel. He was met by the exiled Prince with music, dignity, and both being seated, a pause and solemn silence ensued, which continued for nearly an hour. Rustibelt then setting important, whispered to one of his attendants to remind the Snow of the object of the interview. No answer was returned, but the Snow 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. Rustibelt desired an attendant to open the packet, when the diamond was exhibited, and the ruler of Lenore retired with his Prize. Rustibelt was highly elated by the acquisition, and wore it as an ornament at Public festivals.

After his death it was preserved for a time to his successors, and was occasionally worn by Khurruk Singh and Sheer Singh; but in 1849, upon the abdication of Dhulep Singh, the Maharajah of the Punjaub, 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 SANCY.

The Sancy, celebrated for its singular history, is facetted 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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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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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.

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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.

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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.

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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.

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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

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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 Coochan 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 Encyclopaedia 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

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"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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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 birthplace 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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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.

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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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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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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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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

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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

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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

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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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It is well-known to our readers that the diamond, as elsewhere stated in these Pages, consists of pure crystallized carbon. Now 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 a superstitious practice of

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

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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

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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 liquefication 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

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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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