

Historic Jewels.

The South Kensington Museum in London contains what is probably the most remarkable collection of historic rings in the world. In this most exquisite and perfectly arranged of all treasure houses, the truth of kings, the romance and tragedy of famous lives gives a keen personal interest to the cases filled with gems that are both royal in themselves and have been made royal by the touch of royalty.

Amid the clasped hands and true lovers' knots we find one lined with the Scottish arms, having on the seal the letters M.H.—Mary and Henry—the wedding ring of Mary, Queen of Scots, and Henry Darnley. The name of Mary Stuart always thrills, but her loveliness we cannot gather from any of her authentic portraits in the national galleries. We must conclude that some grace of expression that could not be caught on canvas was her charm.

In black and white enamels on gold, with hexagonal bezel, we find the mournful token given by Charles I. on the day of his execution to Bishop Juxon. A hideous monkey-like skull grins in the centre, surrounded by the inscription, "Behold the Ende," and around the outside, "Rather Deth Than Fals Fayth."

The silver wedding ring of Rienzi brings to mind a strange and glorious conjunction I once saw to a loan exhibition for some charity in Rome, when Vatican and Quirinal and many a noble house had for the moment yielded their treasures. Around a small space in the centre where the King and Queen received their guests, were grouped the coronation robes of Napoleon, the torn blanket of Garibaldi and the wonderful dalmatic of Charlemagne, which proud Rienzi, wore when he entered Rome.

But to return to our gems.—One ring says, "Never to be forgotten 2nd of January, 1777." Does any one still remember?

With us the hair ring period of mourning has given way to the still more dangerous jetted Mercury winged widow, and we have no use for the rings hollowed out like little bottles to contain the tears which were a coquetry of ancient times. Certainly filling these was not as difficult a task as that prescribed in the savage country Mr. Grant Allen tells us of, where the bereaved are obliged to weep until they fill a bottle of a certain size, and if they cannot be beaten until they do.

The inscription "God Help Maria!" makes us wonder who the donor could have been.

Among the wedding rings is a type that should become fashionable in America, for it binds a heart and a coronet.

Simpler folks say,
"As God Decreed,
So we agreed," or,
"God hath wrought this choice in thee,

So frame thyself to comfort me." Chaste and simple is this "A Faithful Wife Preserveth Life;" more abrupt and brutal was the admonition, "Observe Wedlock."

A Jewish wedding ring with great bezels lifts from the hand in full relief the model of the holy tabernacle of the ark of the covenant.

"Bonnie Prince Charlie" smiles from a beautiful miniature, and near by is the ideal of a lover's ring, an enamelled figure of Cupid with spread wings carrying off a ruby heart, and the legend, "Stop Thief!"

The great Merovingian and Saxon rings are among the rarest in the world. Seven hundred dollars was paid by the museum for the bent and broken one of Arstan, Bishop of Sherburne.

"Iconographic" rings hold figures or portraits of saints in the Russian style. Others are reliquaries for bits of the true cross or fragments of saintly turbans, while one represents Mary Magdalene being carried to heaven by four angels. One formed to fifteen small crosses, was found on the fingers of a skeleton; it had no power to stay the hand of death.

Of great antiquity are the Roman key rings, used to keep the key of precious chests or caskets ever at hand, and which in middle ages secured the cumbersome iron "virtue lock" that husbands fastened on their wives before going to battle.

Of mystic rings there are many—the medieval circlet of "incantation" the charmed "toadstone," and the South German silver set with wolf's teeth.

A long coffin shaped ring with three cameos, the centre one representing Cleopatra holding the asp to her heart, is almost identical with one always worn by Cheiro of palmist fame.

An ancient Venetian, of three chains holding a revolving turquoise, brown with age, is engraved on one side, with a Venus Anadyomene and on the other with a Gnostic cypher. Amid more costly gems the turquoise holds its own with great persistence. One great turquoise cameo of the Rape of Proserpine in this collection is almost large enough to cover the back of the hand, and there are some very beautiful examples of those inlaid with Persian inscriptions.

In thumb rings the most splendid are those given by the Popes to Cardinals—though they did not always accompany the scarlet hat, and Wolsey's great anxiety lest a ring should not be sent with his precious head covering stands recorded. Of heroic size, they stand up several inches from the hand, and of course would be good in effect only when worn with massive vesture. Usually they are set in brass or bronze, with great cabochons, or uncut stones. One with the lion of St. Marks in alto is crested with greenish chalcodony; those most prized hold a "rough emerald or cabochon ruby, umb rings of a more painful sort are "thumb-rings" or thumb-puffs, used

to hold the thumbs of prisoners while their clothes were being cut from them. The example at South Kensington was found behind the panelling of an old sixteenth century house.

The "puzzle" rings Lord Lytton used to characterize as "ingenious stupidity." The baroque pearls of the Virgin del Pilar and the grotesqueness of little jewelled men and animals are uningenious stupidity.

The collection is rich in superb cameo heads of those whom art has immortalized—in Greek and Roman intagli, that in the finest lines pictures the loves and the woes of the gods; but before the wealth of precious stones the pen falls helpless, as we have no adequate words for these dazzling harmonies.

A BOY'S SUFFERINGS.

ATTACKED WITH INFLAMMATORY RHEUMATISM AT AN EARLY AGE.

Each Successive Year Brought Fresh Attacks With Increasing Severity Until He Was a Physical Wreck.

From the Sun, Belleville.

Mr. and Mrs. W. R. Kelly are people who are deeply grateful for a kind intervention of Providence whereby the life, health and happiness of their twelve year old son, Master Harry, has been restored and preserved. Mr. Kelly is one of the best known conductors on the Midland division of the G. T. R., and is now residing in this city. A sun reporter having heard of the cure of the little fellow and the joy of his parents, called at their home and was met by Mrs. Kelly, who on being informed of the object of his visit, at once told the story of the cure and how the results were attained. We were living in Madoc when our boy was about five years of age and in the spring I went to call him one morning. He replied to my call by saying he could not rise. I at once went to him and found that he was unable to walk. Medical aid being summoned we discovered that inflammatory rheumatism had our little boy in its grasp. All that attention and doctors could do was done and the attack passed off, but the following spring while in Peterboro he was again seized with the dread disease and again we were in terrible dread of losing the child. When the warm weather came again he rallied, but was very weak and only a shadow of his

former self. Despite all we could do he was again attacked in the next spring. You can imagine the fear and dread with which we watched these recurring attacks, each one more severe than the last, and each one leaving our boy in a worse condition than those that went before. His last attack confined him to bed for three months, and his heart was dangerously affected. His sufferings were terrible, and it was pitiful to see him trying to carry food to his mouth. His nervous system was so shattered that a form of St. Vitus' dance had affected him, and his hand and arm trembled so that he could not feed or aid himself. Some friends advised me to try Dr. Williams' Pink Pills and recommended them so highly that my husband and myself decided to try them. We gave them to Harry for several months and when the spring came watched anxiously, fearing a return of the trouble, but were thankful and delighted to see no symptoms of it, nor has he been troubled for the past three years. "What is the condition of his health at present?" asked the reporter. "He is as sturdy and as healthy a boy as parents could wish for. I attribute his recovery and present health to nothing but Pink Pills, and I cheerfully recommend them to all."

Rheumatism, sciatica, neuralgia, partial paralysis, locomotor ataxia, nervous headache, nervous prostration, and diseases depending upon humors in the blood, such as scrofula, chronic erysipelas, etc., all disappear before a fair treatment with Dr. Williams' Pink Pills. They give a healthy glow to pale and sallow complexions. Sold by all dealers and post paid at 50c. a box, or six boxes for \$2.50, by addressing the Dr. Williams' Medicine Co., Brockville, Ont. Do not be persuaded to take some substitute.

Why has milk gone up? she asked as she took in the day's supply at the door.
We have had so little rain, madam, that the pastures are all dried up.
Yes, and so are the wells.

What a day may bring a day may take away.

Uniform indulgence is not a favorable school.

What belongs to the public belongs to nobody.

What one knows it is useful sometimes to forget.—Publius Syrus.

In the snow-country it is better to go in the wrong road than to stop going altogether.

The motives which take a man to the house of God lie between himself and his Maker.

What is your idea of fame?
Fame? Well, in its finest phase, I think it is the incredulous surprise which a man's home folks exhibit when he does anything noteworthy.

DR. ALLISON'S
Kidney "Buds"

Day by day is winning the good will of all kidney sufferers. Have you a pain in the Back, Bladder, or Kidney trouble, just try them once you will love them. They're good, 2 full boxes post paid to any address for 25c. in stamps. They are a highly prized English Remedy, endorsed by thousands. ALLISON MED. CO'Y. Brockville, Ont.

SPORTING NEWS.
Mamma, what is football?
Well, it's a kind of baseball in which the players pitch with their legs.

Shiloh's Consumption Cure cures where others fail. It is the leading Cough Cure, and no home should be without it. Pleasant to take and goes right to the spot.

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A bright young woman has obtained a patent on an attachment for skirts by which they may be lifted on crossing muddy places on the street, a series of cords being attached to the skirt at the back and sides, with the opposite ends running through an opening in the back of the waistband and around to the front to draw the skirts by pulling up the cords.

LITERARY NOTE.
What wonderful guides and counselors books are.
Yes; especially bank books.

DREADFULLY NERVOUS.
Gents.—I was dreadfully nervous, and for relief took your Karl's Clover Root Tea. It quieted my nerves and strengthened my whole Nervous System. I was troubled with Constipation, Kidney and Bowel trouble. Your Tea soon cleansed my system so thoroughly that I rapidly regained health and strength. Mrs. S. A. Sweet, Hartford, Conn. Sold by all druggists.

MEETING BOTH ENDS.
Smith walked up Market street the other evening with a box of candy under one arm and a big package of meal under the other.
Hello Smith, said Brown, gone to housekeeping? I didn't know you were married.
I'm not yet.
What are you doing with that candy and meal then?
Going to see my girl.
Do you have to furnish the family with meal already?
Oh, no; the candy is for the girl and the meal is for the dog. I have to square myself with both.

MORE WISDOM.
What is your idea of fame?
Fame? Well, in its finest phase, I think it is the incredulous surprise which a man's home folks exhibit when he does anything noteworthy.

HOW TO GROW TULIPS.

If a Canadian were to pay Germany a visit and pass through the streets of some of her enterprising towns he would be surprised to notice the great interest citizens take in floriculture. In the summer they have their lawns adorned with a perfect display of plant life. During the winter when it is not practical to grow flowers in the open air a great deal of attention is devoted to indoor plants. Their favorites are Tulips, Narcissus and Lily of the Valley. The ladies take great pride in their success with tulips which is evident by the beautiful decorations in the windows and private conservatories. It might be of interest to a good many to know how to successfully grow tulips with very little work and at the same time afford great pleasure. In the first place you procure good healthy bulbs from the Florist, use ordinary flowerpots from four to five inches in diameter, fill them with an inch from the top with black garden loam, now place three or four bulbs on the surface at equal distances from each other and not too close to the side of container, it is then necessary to cover the bulbs with some of the earth, two or three upright jars will suffice to make the ground settle more firmly, water place pots in cellar or other dark room free from frost, cover well with sand and allow to stand from four to eight weeks. After this period you may examine to see if germination has taken place, which can be noticed at the stem of the bulb. They are now taken to suitable places for blooming. In three or four weeks the plants will be in flower and if not kept too warm, say about 50 to 55 degrees Fahrenheit, may be kept in that state from four to eight weeks.

In order to have Tulips during the whole winter I would propose to every person so interested to remove only a certain number from the cellar repeat in three or four weeks, and so on until the close of the cold season. The Narcissus could be treated in a similar manner with same success. One of the peculiarities of these plants is that they require very little light, and a moderately low temperature and so suitable for our climate. I might mention that the Lily of the Valley requires a little different attention at certain stages of which I may have an occasion to write later.

Be not deceived. A Cough, Hoarseness or Croup, are not to be trifled with. A dose in time of Shiloh's Cure will save you much trouble. Sold by all druggists.

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