ROMANCE OF A BRACELET.

Found After Two Thousand Years on the Banks of the Oxus—Interesting Historical Reminiscences Suggested by the Event.

A beautiful gold bracelet found upon the banks of the Oxus, and purchased for £1,000 by the South Kensington museum, carries imagination back to some of the most stirring events of antiquity. The very spot where it was discovered calls up to the mind a bewildering series of old-world episodes, the tragic histories of Xerxes and Darius, and the terrific prowess of conquering Alexander. It would be easy to go still further back, for the waters of the Oxus flow through the cradle land of Aryan civilization, and on either banks lie the deserts, once fertile provinces, in which the ancestors of European nations lived, fought and died. This bracelet, however, antique though it is—more than 2,000 years old—does not enclasp so wide an area of history. Yet it is surely enough for any single jewel that it should summon up to the recollection of the nineteenth century the prodigious events of Persian and Macedonian empires, and recall, as if by actual presence, the odalisques for whom the great Mede planted his pavilions of purple and gold under the plane-trees by the broad Asiatic stream, the ladies who graced the banquets of the mightiest of Babylonian monarchs as he lay encamped upon the Bactrian frontier, who shared with both Mede and Persian the terror of fight before a furious conqueror, who sat by Alexander's side when he feasted with his captains after victory, and who, in the surpassing splendor of their pride, asked as the amusement of an evening to see the stately city of Persepolis destroyed by fire. Here, in the very place where this jewel has lain hidden all these years, stood, perhaps, the sumptuous tents in which the lovely Thais held her court in the midst of the greatest army the world has ever seen; and—who knows? perhaps this very bracelet was her own, and once clasped the wondrous white arm that had a power, which all the hosts of embattled Asia could not compass, to stay the march of "the great Emathian," and dictate to the conqueror of the world the movement of his troops. Perhaps he clasped it on himself, and it may be that, as she pointed to the treasury city of Cambyses, doomed to blaze for her amusement, this circlet of enameled gold glittered in the light of the torch which, the legends tell us, Alexander fastened with his own hand to set, at her bidding, to the beautiful pillars of the Forty Pillars. Fancy can not riot over such a gem, for its possibilities are infinite; yet the fact remains that it has been found, and found, too, upon such historic ground as justifies much license of imagination, and conjures up all the romance of the old Oxus stream.

Once upon a time there stood upon the seacoast of Ionia a temple of Apollo, rich in treasures of gold and jewels. The Persians invaded Greece, and the ministers of the god impiously betrayed their trust and surrendered the costly spoils of the oracle to the enemy. When the foreign hordes retreated, baffled, homeward, the priests, afraid of the vengeance of their country, begged to be taken away and settled in some distant spot beyond the reach of angry Greece. So they left Ionia and traveled eastward until they came to the Oxus, and there, in that pleasant land, they planted themselves as a colony, still retaining their name of Branchidæ the hereditary ministers of the temple of Apollo that stood by Miletus. Yet they were not so far off but that the arms of Alexander could reach them, and, as he advanced toward India, rolling back the armies of Asia before him, scattering them as the sun scatters the mists right and left, the conqueror came to the Oxus and to this colony of these treacherous priests. The vengeance of Greece was rapid, cruel, and complete, and the Branchidæ ceased to exist. Here for a while Alexander encamped, and on that occasion, if fancy may dare to imagine it, some fair one of his court, perhaps the incomparable Athenian herself, lost her bracelet. It slipped off that arm—the despair of sculptors, the boast of Greece, the living sceptre which swayed the greatest soldier our earth has known. It fell down among the piled carpets and luxurious cushions with which the polite Macedonian, following the customs of the country he had conquered, had furnished the sumptuous pavilions of his tents. No matter; it would be found by the slaves next day. Nevertheless it was forgotten, and when the camp was struck the ornament, perhaps, got trampled into the ground, and the vast host of the conqueror passed over it, leaving it where it had fallen, to be discovered after a lapse of more than two thousand years. What had she, this imperious beauty, who held in thrall the man for whom the limits of our earth were too small; who commanded with a smile the destruction of royal cities, and threw away with a jest the destinies of nations—what had she to care about in such a trifle as a bracelet of enameled gold? Even if Alexander gave it her, would he not replace it with another? Susa, "the city of lilies," was within a day's camel ride, and were there not jewels enough in the pleasure palace of the Persian kings to smother all the courtesans of Corinth under their weight? So she lightly forgot it. The multitude of the Macedonian army, the nation of camp-followers, the myriads of beasts of burden, tramped and trudged over the spot where the tents of Thais had stood, and, fortunately for us, not one of all that mighty host saw that jewel where it lay. And so it has happened that after twenty centuries the bracelet lies in South Kensington. As a specimen of ancient goldsmiths' work it is of great value; for though antiquity was prodigal in personal ornament, we have but little left to assure us of the wondrous taste, the surpassing skill of the artist goldsmiths of Asia, Greece, or Rome. That they were magnificent in their works all history assures us; but the surviving jewels are all few to give any adequate idea of the taste and richness of their handicraft in shape. The present armlet is a plain "bangle," having at the ends two winged sphinxes like figures, with eagles' beaks and twisted horns, pointing, probably, to Assyrian influence, as the work is not a Greek ornament, though found in Nineveh are. Originally it was gilded, but the lustrous materials have all vanished, leaving only sufficient discoloration to prove that it was once there. That the bracelet was Asiatic and not European in its origin is probable, and there is reason, perhaps, for supposing that it was part of the spoil taken by Alexander as he swept onward, emptying the treasuries of imperial capitals, and plundering palaces and cities. Who made this pretty bauble that has come to England after all these years? Fancy finds the question as easy to answer as the other, who wore it? Nor, remarking how many fashions and patterns in ancient jewelry go back to the banks of the Ganges, and how in the old days of magnificence in jewellery, famous goldsmiths, masters of their craft, traveled like princes from court to court, and were passed on by the personal invitation of kings from palace to palace, is it beyond the possibilities of fact that this armlet was the work of some Aryan artificer? In primitive countries the goldsmith work in the open air; the customer comes and sits to watch his jewels being made. There is not light enough within the shop so the smith squats upon his carpet spread on the raised platform before the door, and there, in the bright sunshine, with his tastefully-formed implements about him, melts the metal and molds it, engraves and begems it, all in full sight of the busy street. Loiterers stop and watch. They tell each other it is for so-and-so. The goldsmith there has no secrets. His weights are public property as it were; his work proceeds under the eye of all his neighbors. To the western mind the simplicity of his processes, the apparently rude apparatus with which they work, raises a smile; but when the jewel is complete all the world confesses its beauty, and scornful Europe does not hesitate to adopt the pattern. So that the pattern of Thais' armlet, dropped on the banks of the Oxus, survives, through the "armillas" of Rome in the bangle of to-day; and the plain gold band with fantastic little creatures of mythic form and ornaments at the ends, just such as Alexander's favorite wore, may be seen any day in the jewellers' shop of our own metropolis.

This armillas or armlet was especially a favorite ornament with the nations of Mesopotamia, where men wore it as well as women. The Greeks considered it effeminate for men to do so, and the Romans imitated them, though the dandies of both nations might be seen with bracelets on the arm. As a military reward the armlet was highly valued, and a massive coil of gold twisted six times around the soldier's arm was as honorable as the Victoria cross. The jewel, to which we are referring, however, is too dainty in its design for any but a lady's arm, and though, of course, it may be all that is left of some handsome young Persian who carried his lady-love's favor into fatal flight, it is far more legitimate to suppose that it belongs to the sex whom such ornaments best adorn. Who she was the world can never know; but the place of its finding, and the date that is assigned to it, carry us back to the days of Darius and Alexander. Each of these great captains, as was the custom of the times, took with them on their campaigns the favorite ladies of their courts, and with such circumstances of luxury that they were able at a moment's notice to produce in any spot, whether desert or wilderness, the refinements and pleasures of their palaces; so that both in the Persian and Macedonian camps there were jewels enough, and to one or the other belongs probably the armlet that has just been discovered. It may be that some fair Persian almond eyes kindled out of their voluptuous dreaminess into momentary anger when the slave came to tell the petted odalisque that the bracelet could not be found. Or it may be that some quickly angered Athenian was the sufferer by the loss, and—alas for the manners of Greece!—that some poor Cytemnestra of a maid went away weeping from the tent conscious of boxed ears. Yet, whatever it may have been, we have got the armlet, and imagination can do with it nearly as it pleases.

Women Bull Fighters Routed by a Bull.

A bull fight of a novel kind took place at Tarragona recently, the performers being women clothed in the male torera suit. The bulls were all young and full of fire. The first one let into the arena made straight for one of the toreras, and sent her spinning in the sand several yards off. A second torera rushed to the rescue with her capa, which she waved before the bull to draw off its attention from her discomfited colleague. The bull accepted the challange at once, and with a rapid twist of the neck caught the banderilla and sent her flying. She fell on her face, and followed the previous torera in her retirement, bleeding from several scratches. The third torera then advanced; but no sooner had the bull caught sight of her than he bounded toward her and tossed her. After this the bull took a quiet walk around the arena, waiting for fresh sport. No further competitor entering the list, the crowd began to show signs of impatience, which grew at every moment, until they finally began breaking up the seats and throwing brickbats into the arena, yelling anathemas at the cowardice of the toreras company. The stewards then announced that the money would be returned. This was done partially; but the cashier's office suddenly closed, that official having bolted with the rest of the takings.

A scene of indescribable uproar occurred when the fact became known, and the work of demolition was pursued with increased fury. The gendarmes were called in to restore order, but only succeeded in adding to the general confusion, in which they were roughly handled. The arrival of three companies of infantry enabled the managers to clear the amphitheatre. The most extraordinary part of the affair is that, undeterred by the fate of the first company of toreras and their manager, who were marched off to prison besides, the workwomen of the tobacco factories of Madrid are preparing to give an exhibition of their prowess, and a troupe is organizing to do the round of the arenas in all the principal towns of Spain.

Lord Dufferin's Secretary.

Lord Dufferin is to be congratulated as well on his courage as on his perspicacity in having appointed Mr. Mackenzie Wallace to the responsible and important position of his private secretary. It should be understood that the office is of much greater significance than its name would seem to imply. The private secretary of an Indian Viceroy is his chief's *alter ego* is great as well as in small matters; he is the power behind the throne. If he is a strong man and a wise man, he has immense influence for good; if feeble and foolish, he can do an immensity of harm. Few people out of India know to what degree the success of Lord Mayo's regime was due to Owen Burne. Evelyn Baring, as Lord Northbrooke's private secretary, was the Moltke of the famine campaign in Tirhoot. Poor Colley's skilful scheme of campaign for the Afghan war was of much benefit to the Viceroy whom he served so loyally.

Brother and Sister Blind.

Dr. R. B. Bloss, of Troy, during a recent hunting trip in the north woods, found at Port Hudson, Essex county, two unfortunate persons who aroused his deepest sympathy. One was a girl 18 years old, who had been totally blind from birth. Her brother, aged 19 years, was also blind, his sight having been ruined by cedar juice flying into his eyes while he was chopping in the woods. The sightless pair, unable to provide for themselves, were living in extreme destitution. Dr. Bloss determined if possible, to mitigate the sorrow of their condition. He has brought the boy to Troy and Dr. Mitchell, the oculist, thinks that the sight of one eye may be partially restored. For the other eye there is no hope. Some kind-hearted citizens have already given liberally for the aid of the boy who was entirely without money. Dr. Bloss expects to secure for the girl admission to the Batavia Institute for the Blind. Her touch is wonderfully delicate and she can thread a needle, sew, and distinguish slight differences of fabric through the sensitiveness of her finger tips.

You Cant Make $500 by Reading This, even if you have chronic nasal catarrh in its worst stages, for although this amount of reward has for many years been offered by the proprietors of Dr. Sage's Catarrh Remedy, for any case of catarrh they cannot cure, yet notwithstanding that thousands use the Remedy they are seldom called upon to pay the reward, and when they have been so called upon they have universally found that the failure to cure was wholly due to some overlooked complication, usually easily removed by a slight modification of the treatment. Therefore, if this should meet the eye of anybody who has made faithful trial of this great and world-famed Remedy without receiving a *perfect* and *permanent* cure therefrom, that person will do well to either call upon or write to the proprietors, the World's Dispensary Medical Association, of Buffalo, N.Y., giving all the particulars and symptoms in the case. By return mail they will get good advice free of all costs.

In almost every case where a man has fallen in love with a girl dressed in a bathing suit and afterwards married her a divorce has followed within two years.

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The thrust of a bowie-knife doesn't hurt the victim at the moment any more than the prick of a pin. It is a good deal more merciful to stab a man than to hit him with brass knuckles.

Throat and Lung Diseases.
a specialty. Send two letter stamps for a large treatise giving self-treatment. Address World's Dispensary Medical Association, Buffalo, N.Y.

A Parisian landlord who forgot to charge an American ten centimes for the candle which a waiter lighted to go up and ask if his name was Jones has been sent to an insane asylum.

Let the World Know it.

You can purchase a bottle of Polson's NERVILINE, the greatest pain remedy in the world. Nerviline cures headache, neuralgia, toothache, pains in the side or back, rheumatism, &c. As an internal remedy, Nerviline is prompt, effective and pleasant to take. Nerviline has no equal as a pain subduing remedy, and a test bottle costs only ten cents. Call on your druggist and invest 10 cents. Nerviline, Nerviline, nerve pain cure.

A cat has been discovered in France with an eye like that of the Cyclops. It seems to us that if any change is to be made in cats it should be made in their voices and not their eyes.

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PUTNAM'S PAINLESS CORN EXTRACTOR, the great remedy for corns, is absolutely safe and painless, does its work promptly, without in the least interfering with the comfort of patients, and is absolutely alone as a safe, painless remedy for corns. Do not be imposed upon by dangerous counterfeits. Use only Putnam's Corn Extractor. Beware of base substitutes. Sold everywhere by druggists and dealers in medicine. Take only Putnam's Painless Extractor. N. C. Polson & Co., proprs. Kingston.

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have again resumed business, and want to hear from all their old customers. We have the "inside track" in the gun business, and will furnish you Firearms and Sporting Goods at, and in some cases less than trade prices. Winchester Rifles 1873 model for $19 90, other goods just as cheap. We have removed from Yonge St., and have no connection with the old stand. Note change of address. Send 6c. for new ill. catalogue.
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Notice is hereby given that a dividend of four per cent. for the current half year, being at the rate of eight per cent. per annum upon the paid up capital of the bank has this day been declared, and that the same will be payable at the bank and its branches on and after Monday, the first day of December next. The transfer books will be closed from the seventeenth to the twenty-ninth day of November, both days inclusive. By order of the Board. D. COULSON, Cashier, Bank of Toronto, Toronto, 29th October, 1884.

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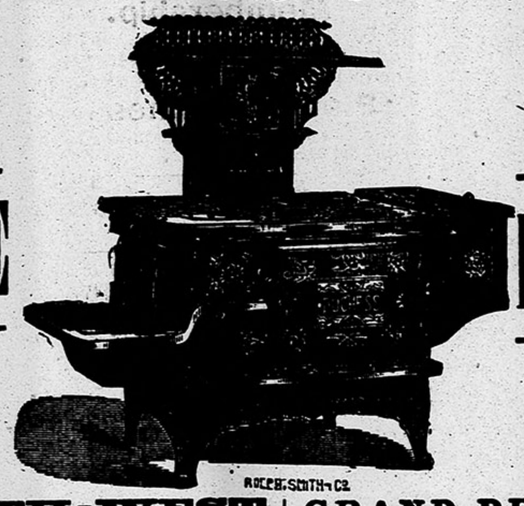
THE  BEST

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1. Is husband mentioned in the Bible.
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510 to 715. Two hundred and six fine Silver Plated Sugar Spoons and Butter Knives	206

All these seven hundred and fifteen rewards will be given out strictly in the order *the correct* answers to those Bible questions are received at **TRUTH** office. The first *correct* answer taking number one, ($1,000 in gold) the second correct answer number two, (one of the pianos), and so on till they are all given away.

Then after this list will follow the Middle Rewards, which will be given in this way:—At the conclusion of the competition, (Feb'y. 15th,) all the answers received will be carefully counted by three disinterested parties, *when to the sender of the middle correct answer will be given number one, a fine stylish trotting horse and carriage.* The next correct answer following the middle one will take number two, (one of the pianos). The next correct answer, number three and so on till all these middle rewards are given away. Here you have the list in full.

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10 to 20. Ten fine Solid Gold Stem Winding and Stem Setting genuine Elgin Watches	1,000
21 to 32. Ten Ladies' fine Solid Gold Stem Winding and Stem Setting genuine Elgin Watches	1,000
33 to 50. Eighteen Solid Quadruple Silver Plated Tea Services	1,440
51 to 70. Thirty Double-barrell English Twist breach-loading Shot Guns	2,700
71 to 110. Forty sets (20 vols. to set) complete Chamber's Encyclopædia	2,000
111 to 134. Twenty-three Gentlemen's Solid Coin Silver Htg. Case or Open Face Watches	690
135 to 162. Twenty-seven Solid Aluminum Gold Htg. Case Watches	540
163 to 350. One hundred and eighty-eight dozen sets of heavy Silver Plated Tea Spoons	990
351 to 600. Three hundred and fifty Solid Rolled Gold Brooches, newest design	1,050
601 to 940. Three hundred and fifty-six copies of Milton's or Tennyson's Poems	865
941 to 1,254. Three hundred and fourteen Solid Silver Plated Sugar Spoons or Butter Knives	314

After these will follow the *Consolation Rewards* for the last comers. So, even if you live almost on the other side of the world you can compete, as it is *the last correct* answers that are received at **TRUTH** office that takes these rewards. The plan is this, your letter must be *post-marked when mailed* not later than the closing day of this competition which is *February fifteenth,* (fifteen days allowed after date of closing for letters to reach us from distant places,) so the more distant you are the better your opportunity for securing one of these elegant and costly

CONSOLATION REWARDS

1, 2 and 3. Three elegant Rosewood Square Pianos	$1,540
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8, 9, 10 and 11. Four Ladies' Solid Gold Stem Winding and Stem Setting genuine Elgin Watches	400
12 to 17. Six Solid Quadruple Silver Plate Tea Services	540
18 to 29. Eleven sets Chamber's Encyclopædia (10 vols. to set)	500
30 to 39 Ten Solid Coin Silver Htg. Case or Open Face Watches	300
40 to 90. Fifty-one Aluminum Gold Htg. Case Watches	1,000
91 to 121. Thirty-one Solid Quadruple Silver Plate Cake Baskets, elegant design	450
122 to 300. Eighty-nine dozen Solid Silver Plated Tea Spoons	445
201 to 400. Two hundred volumes Tennyson's Poems, elegantly bound	450

This finishes the largest and most elegant list of rewards ever offered by any publisher in the world. *It will positively be the last unless* the results of this competition far exceeds the preceeding ones, as I certainly cannot afford to continue them. I have now kept faith with my subscribers and the public in continuing these Bible competitions for a year, as promised, and this great one, offering this immense list of rewards will be a fitting close to the affair. Bear in mind every one competing must send *one dollar* with their answer for which **TRUTH,** (the cheapest and best weekly for the money) will be sent six months. You therefore pay nothing extra for the privelege of competing for these costly rewards, as one dollar is the regular subscription price of **TRUTH** for a half year. You cannot fail to be well pleased with your dollar investment even if you do not succeed in gaining any one of these rewards, as **TRUTH** is extra good value for the money as thousands of our subscribers have testified. Long lists of winners in previous competitions appear in nearly every issue of **TRUTH,** and full lists of winners in this entire competition will be published in the issues of **TRUTH** immediately after the close of the competition on fifteenth February, with the full name, street and number, when in cities, and in fact all the addresses as completely as possible, in order that all may be satisfied that there is no fraud or humbug in this matter. In order to prevent fraud, the proprietor of **TRUTH** reserves the right to deny any person or persons the privilege of competing for these remarks. We have always done *exactly as promised* during this year in conducting these competitions, and our reputation for fair and honorable dealings, is too well established now to risk overthrowing it. Look up these Bible questions, it will do you good apart from anything else. These competitions have done, we are assured, a great deal to promote the study of the Bible among all classes. Now this may be your last opportunity to secure an elegant piano, a gold watch, a fine horse and carriage, in addition to a half year's subscription to one of the most widely circulated and most popular weekly magazines you may have, so attend to it now. Don't delay. All money must be sent through the post office or by express. None can be received by telephone or telegraph. Don't forget that we don't guarantee that everyone will get a prize, but out of nearly twenty-four hundred rewards you doubtless will secure something. Be prompt. Answer as soon as possible after seeing this notice, and **TRUTH** will at once be forwarded as an acknowledgment of your subscription, and your letter will take its place in the order it is received at this office. There is no favouritism, and all are treated alike, fairly and squarely.

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