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GEMS OF EVIL.

Queen Elizabeth's Ring.

STUART MARTIN in Pearson's Weekly.

Some years or so ago a strange thing was made by workmen who were excavating work near the bridge. By the side of one of the pits at the base of a warehouse was a stone, which they were digging up with concrete and wooden beams. They found a strange little box, which was hauled up and taken to the contractor's office.

The box was of hard oak, much decorated with brass and iron bands and hinges. It was neatly made and inside were found gold and silver enameled articles, gem stones and a ring of the workmanship.

The contractor, of course, delivered the box and its contents over to the police. The treasure trove was taken to be examined by experts.

Some days later the contractor took the box to the office of the expert to see if the jewels had been delivered in the great state of excitement.

"Look here," he said, "there's something wrong with these jewels. We've got to see down there. Every one of these jewels is a fake. The man who discovered the box has been killed; the crane was used to hoist the box up and broken down a scaffold on which we were engaged. The man who was leaning over the box was killed. The jewels were the cause of that."

"But there is another reason for it," he said, "I want to tell you. For three nights I have had a dream. This dream has come on each occasion. Mind you, don't believe in these things as a rule, but this has been so extraordinary that I must tell it to you. How do you think these jewels are?"

"Oh, several hundred years. They are certainly Elizabethan date."

"Well, that is strange indeed. This dream which I have had showed to me a tall, thin man in Elizabethan costume. He came forward and stood beside my bed, and I heard him asking angrily why I lifted his jewels. He distinctly said that the ring must not be touched."

"Heavy suppers!" exclaimed the expert. "Don't bother your head about the dream. He went back to his work by London Bridge to superintend the work of excavation—and as he was standing on the scaffold he overbalanced and fell on the pier far below. He was killed instantly."

In the meantime experts were examining the box of jewels. The ring which had been spoken about was the main object of interest. It was carried, gold with three small opals arranged in the form of a triangle. One of the experts, whom we shall call Mr. Armstrong, took the ring home with him in order to continue his examinations.

After dinner he was sitting with his wife and daughter in the drawing-room. The ring was on a table in the centre of the room, for he had been showing it to them.

"It looks dirty," said the girl, picking it up. "What do you say to my cleaning it?"

"All right," replied Mr. Armstrong, "provided you are very careful with it."

The girl began to clean it, and was doing this when a visitor was announced. The visitor was a member

of the Theosophical Society, an elderly man, who had spent much of his time in antiquarian research. The moment he came into the room he stared at the girl who was cleaning the ring and asked her what she was doing.

"Only cleaning an old ring dad has brought home," she replied. "What are you staring at me for?"

"Mr. Armstrong," said the visitor, "I experienced a strong sense of evil influence the moment I entered the room. Do you know anything about this ring?"

The expert smilingly told him the story of the find.

"Then I advise you to get rid of it," said the friend. "There is something wrong with it."

"But I want to discover where it came from and what it was doing at the bottom of the Thames," replied Armstrong. "Come on, you know a lot about these things. Let's go into the matter together."

The ring was handed over to the visitor, who began to examine it thoroughly; then he remarked that he must see the box and the other jewels which the box contained before he could state any theory.

The following day he arrived at the British Museum, where Mr. Armstrong was working in a private room. The latter looked worried and ill at ease.

"Do you know," he said as soon as his friend had seated himself, "I'm beginning to get scared of that ring. Shortly after you left us last night my girl became ill. She has been fevered and excited all night, and the doctor this morning says that he can't diagnose her case. Do you think—but it can't be—that this wretched ring has anything to do with it?"

"Yes, I think it can," replied his friend, "and I think I shall be able to prove to you that this ring had better be placed somewhere in the museum where human hands do not touch it. I have been delving into history since I saw you, but I want you to go with me into the Manuscript Room for further investigation. I believe that this ring once belonged to Queen Elizabeth."

"Queen Elizabeth! But it was found in the river—"

"The very reason that made me think of Queen Bess's missing jewels. Come into the Manuscript Room, please."

They went into the room indicated, and the antiquary asked for some old manuscripts and records to be fetched which he carefully laid out on a desk.

"Now," he said, "listen to me. It is well known that almost every jewel which Queen Elizabeth possessed can be traced. Many of them are in various museums and in private collections. But there is a ring which disappeared in 1603 which has never been traced. I have looked at the enameled which were in the box with this ring. Do you see this one? What do you think it is?"

"It is the portrait of a young gallant of the Court, I imagine," returned Mr. Armstrong.

"It is a portrait of Robert Devereux, Earl of Essex."

Mr. Armstrong stared at his friend.

"How do you know?"

"Easily enough. His picture was common in Elizabeth's day. As you know, she was much attached to him, and he to her. You remember how she forgave him his faults time and again. He was disgraced for not quelling the rebellion in Ireland headed by the Earl of Tyrone, and on his return to England he was sent to prison. Queen Elizabeth gave him his liberty; but when he strove with the Earl of Southampton to raise London against the Queen, he was tried and condemned to death."

"But where does the ring come in?"

"Look at this manuscript," he turned over the leaves rapidly and pointed to several illustrations. One of them was the replica of the enameled portrait found in the box.

"That is the portrait of Essex. There is no mistaking it. Now, it is a matter of history that on one occasion of tenderness Elizabeth gave Essex a ring, with the injunction that he was to send it to her when he was in danger, and she would aid him."

"She waited for that ring to come to her when he was in the Tower. It never came, and he was beheaded. Now, look here. There is a description of the ring."

In the beautiful characters, with many illuminations, the story was written in the ancient manuscript. The ring was described. Its description tallied with the ring which had just been found, but it contained a footnote that ran as follows:—

"This ring bestowed on the Earl of Essex has strange qualities, bringing evil to those who may take it without the Queen's consent. It having been so blessed and cursed by bishops, popes, clergy, and soothsayers, that it contains a link between the Queen and Essex, which nothing can break."

Having read the footnote Mr. Armstrong began to see what was in his friend's mind, but the latter went on with his explanations.

"It is also a matter of history that two years after Essex was executed Queen Elizabeth was entreated to visit the Countess of Nottingham, who was dying."

"This lady confessed that Essex had entrusted the ring to her to be carried to Elizabeth, but that the Earl of Nottingham, being a bitter enemy

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of Essex, had forbidden her to deliver it.

"Old historians tell that the Queen was so shaken with rage and grief at the confession that she seized the dying countess and shook her like a rat as she lay in bed, and that it was this blow that really killed Elizabeth, who for ten days and nights took no nourishment, and eventually died."

"But how did the ring and the other jewels come to be in the Thames?"

"Because the Earl of Nottingham, fearful lest the Queen would cause his execution, fled the country. He sailed in a ship which was moored near London Bridge, and he threw the box of jewels overboard so that they could not be traced to him. You will find this in the confessions of his valet who was arrested after the fight, at the mouth of the Thames, where he was landed to return to his home."

"The dream which the contractor had the other night I do not try to explain. It may have been the spirit of Essex come back to issue a warning. But one thing is certain—the famous ring which played its part in the greatest tragedy of English history—the death of Essex and Queen Bess."

That was the strange finding of this notorious ring, and that is why it remains in a London museum in a case specially made for it so that no human hand will touch it again, certainly not in this generation.

"Umpire" and "Referee."

Umpire is derived from an old Norman-French expression "non-pair," an odd man, a third party who gave a casting vote. This became "umpire," who has gradually corrupted to "umpire."

Football, although very old, is a modern game compared with cricket. It is true that rough varieties of the game have existed for centuries, but football as we know it, with definite rules and organization, only became crystallized in the eighteenth century. When English had become a more definite tongue, with a tendency to coin new words as they were required from Latin instead of French. So we coined our modern "referee," the person to whom disputes are referred.

Scraped-out melons, grape fruit shells and lemon shells can be attractively used in serving cocktails.

Carthage Ruins Disclose Infant Sacrifice of Ancients

LONDON—Scientists searching in the ruins of Carthage, in Northern Africa, have torn the veils from the insoluble mysteries which 2,000 years ago attended the worship of the Goddess Astarte. Astarte was associated with Baal as the chief deity of the ancient Phoenicians, of which race the Carthaginians were one of the most important branches. The scientists have discovered sacrificial vaults in the inner sanctuary of the Temple of Astarte, each of which contains the charred bones of thousands of infants ranging from newborn babes to the babes of one or two years old. The piles of bones are fifteen feet deep. They believe they found one of the temples where the secret rites of human sacrifice to Astarte were practiced from the seventh century before the Christian era until the days when the Romans conquered and destroyed Carthage and forbade further sacrifices. Astarte is always represented as a tall stern-faced woman, standing upright and clutching in the left arm an infant child. In the old rites Phoenicians offered newborn children to Astarte, and the bones of children

which the scientists have now found are probably accounted for by the fact that families afflicted by illness or misfortune sought to appease her anger by sacrificing all their children.

Household Notes.

If the fresh towels and napkins are put on the bottom of the pile when they are put away all will be need. To pop corn successfully do not

have the popper too full, start with a moderate heat and increase gradually. When substituting evaporated milk for milk use one-half cup evaporated milk and one-half cup water for one cup milk.

Public Telegram

Bonar Law Gives Warning to France.

UPHOLDS CHECK OF TURKS.

LONDON, Oct. 6. The New York Times, through Bonar Law, President leader in the House of Commons, sent the following letter to The London Times on the Near East situation:

"I have followed with the greatest anxiety recent events in the Near East and the position at this moment seems to me very alarming. It would serve no useful purpose to criticize or even consider the circumstances which led up to the present situation. What is alone important is to find the right course of action to be taken now."

"When the Greek forces were annihilated in Asia Minor and driven into the sea at Smyrna, it seems to me certain that, unless a decisive warning had at once been issued, the Turkish forces, flushed with victory, would have attempted to enter Constantinople and cross into Thrace."

"If they had been allowed to do so, what would have been the result? In the first place, our withdrawal in such circumstances would have been regarded throughout the whole Mussulman world as a defeat of the British Empire; and, although it may be true that the supposed pro-Greek sympathies of the British Government have alienated Mussulman feelings in India, the danger of trouble in India from that cause would be as nothing in comparison with the danger which would arise as a consequence of what would have been regarded as British impotence in face of the victorious Turkish army."

"Further, such an advance of the Turkish forces would probably have meant the repetition in Constantinople of recent events in Smyrna. It would certainly have involved Thrace in horrors similar to those which have occurred in Anatolia, and the probability—indeed, I think it certain—of the renewal of war throughout the Balkans."

"It was therefore undoubtedly right that the British Government should endeavor to prevent these misfortunes. It is not, however, right that the burden of taking the necessary action should fall on the British Empire alone, but by the will of the allied powers which won the war, and America is one of these powers."

"What, then, in such circumstances ought we to do? Clearly the British Empire, which includes a large body of Mohammedans than any other State, ought not to show any hostility or unfairness to the Turks. In the agreement arranged with the Allies in Paris by Lord Curzon proposals were made to the Turks which are certainly fair to them; and beyond these terms, in my opinion, the Allies ought not to go."

"I see rumors in different newspapers, which I do not credit, that the French representative with the Kemalists forces has encouraged them to make impossible demands."

"The course of action for our Government seems to me clear. We cannot alone act as policemen of the world. The financial and social condition of this country makes that impossible. It seems to me, therefore, our duty is to say plainly to our French allies that the position in Constantinople and the Straits is as essentially a part of the peace settlement as the arrangement with Germany, and that if they are not prepared to support us there we shall not be able to bear the burden alone, but shall have no alternative except to invite the Government of the United States and to restrict our attention to the safeguarding of the more immediate interests of the empire."

Public Telegram

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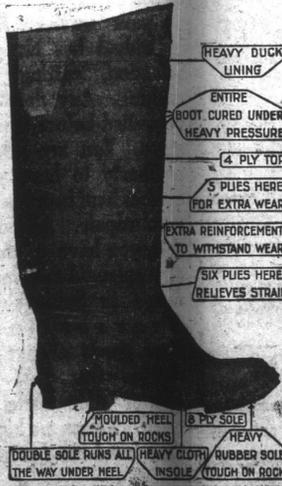
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