

light coloured or white; not unfrequently stalactitic markings may be seen in a transparent base.

It is a pity that our Agates, which have been so lavishly distributed over the Dominion, beautiful in their natural colours, should be ignored for the more spurious and gaudy articles imported, and palmed off on tourists and others at the Lake Superior and Niagara resorts as Canadian. These Agates come principally from Brazil and India, and, according to some authors, may be recognized from the German by being water worn, whereas the German are generally coated externally with delissite. They are, however, all cut in Germany, and after being polished are steeped in oil, and finally boiled in sulphuric acid, by which process they are often converted from the pure white Fortification Agate to the black Onyx with its white concentric rings. This is caused by the oil entering the more porous portions of the stone and then being carbonized by the sulphuric acid.

*Onyx*.—This variety is found occasionally at the Agate localities before mentioned, and differs only from that mineral by its colours being arranged in parallel layers, which are either black, brown, red, yellow, etc., striped so as to exhibit alternate colours, arranged like a sandwich, it is then termed Sardonyx. However, rarely more than two colours are seen in the imported stones. It is on this particular mineral that some of the finest masterpieces of art are still preserved in some of the European museums. A marvellously fine antique Sardonyx Cameo of five strata, representing the bust of Faustina, was said to have been sold at the sale of the effects of the Marquis of Dree for 7,000 francs.

We often hear from jewellers and others of the "Oriental Onyx." This name enhances its value considerably, and yet these are identical with the German stones, and as there is every reason to suppose that the same process coloured the stones from India as those from Germany, their quality and translucency is identical, and more particularly as no lapidary or jeweller can tell one from the other, why should there be any difference?

Some fine Onyx pebbles were brought from Queen Charlotte Island, B.C., by the Marquis of Lorne. They were of a pale yellowish colour striped with white. But perhaps the finest specimens of this