

GEMS AND JEWELS RARE.

DIAMONDS STILL KEEP THE LEAD AMONG VALUABLE STONES.

Chat with a Chicago Jeweler's Clerk. Emeralds and Rubies Getting Scarce. A Doublet—An Uncommon Stone—Gems Distinctively American.

"Diamonds are still trumps among jewels," said a jeweler's clerk in a State street store, "and, in spite of the changing fashions in jewels, the diamond remains the king of precious stones as far as popularity goes. Turquoise, sapphires, emeralds and rubies are increasing in popularity, however, and are very expensive. The emerald and ruby seem to be getting scarcer and dearer every year. Why, a fine three carat ruby is worth \$45 any time, and the emerald is worth nearly as much. Some very common rubies will bring \$50 to \$100. There are fewer rubies being found every year. It is the same with emeralds, besides the later are seldom perfect. I cannot recollect having ever seen a flawless emerald, and I don't believe any one else in the store ever did either. In every one of them will be found a feather, a crack, or a cloud of some kind. It seems as if every stone had been struck with a hammer and stoned. The edges will be all right, but the center will look as if it had cracked without splitting, or else there will be a cloud or flaw of some sort. Rubies are apt to be the same, though not so much so as emeralds. The turquoise is on that point there are 'doublets.' Don't you know what a doublet is? Why, it's a making of two stones. Look at this emerald. Pretty, isn't it? Beautiful, that is green. Now turn it upside down. See that rim of red around the edge? A doublet always has that, no matter what the color of the emerald stone was. But it only shows when you turn the stone upside down. See, they have even put a flaw in the surface to further simulate gemstones. They can make doublets of any stone which will cement together, and make them so cleverly that the unpracticed eye will never detect the fraud if you call it that."

"Do you not have to guard against spuriousness in other gems besides the diamond?" "Certainly. Turquoise is simulated by jewel counterfeiters. Two small and inferior stones will be 'doubled' into a stone that will cause even experts to err in the greatest care. In examining, they will be pulverized and mixed with foreign matter in such a way that the new jewel will have nearly all the brilliancy of color and polish of surface possessed by the genuine. It is a rather tricky blue Persian turquoise is the rare variety at present and is very expensive. "In the window is a white sapphire. How is that? I supposed all sapphires were blue."

"Then you erred wrong, but you are with the majority. Most people think that all sapphires are blue, but that is far from the truth. The one in the window is pure white, as pure as a diamond. Besides those there are violet and yellow sapphires. The violet and pink varieties are very beautiful and considered extra fine jewels. The yellow sapphires partake of the nature of the chrysoberyl, which comes also in yellow and brown and pale green. It is a rather uncommon stone and a very beautiful one."

"What is that green stone on the cotton in the corner?" "That is another very uncommon stone. They call it Alexandrite. It is an oriental jewel, and there are not many brought to this country. It is very expensive and is very highly prized by connoisseurs, who are the purchasers of most of them. It is a peculiar stone, changing its light the day it is as you see it. A fiery green, and by night it is full of reddish lights. It comes in various sizes, from one to eight carats, and is sometimes almost as expensive as a diamond."

"Are opals popular?" "Much more so than they were. There was a time when you could hardly sell an opal at any price. Now there is a constant demand for them. The superstitions regarded them as unlucky, and widespread was the belief that it was seldom you saw one worn."

"How about cat's-paws?" "Cat's eyes are very hard stones, found in various countries. The best come from Persia and the east. I have one of the brownish tint that is worth \$300 any day. A cat's eye weighing three carats will bring \$400 easily. Their eyes are inexpensive and very popular. The tiger's eye is not a stone, as is generally supposed, but petrified wood. It is found in very large quantities in northern Michigan, but most of the better kind comes from the petrifaction of Arizona. There they find it in sections as large as tree trunks. They are made up into necklaces, rings and other articles of jewelry."

"Which distinctively American stone is the most valuable?" "I can't say that any distinctively American stone is very valuable, but we produce a few diamonds. They come from Iowa and Wisconsin. They are small and are too yellow. I did not think this country, however, will ever produce very many diamonds; still it is interesting to know that genuine stones can really be met with occasionally. Here's an odd stone, that mottled green and black ones. They call it chrysoberyl. They come from northern Michigan, and in that size are worth about \$15. Sometimes they are mottled and purple exactly like the upper shell of a turban, and I once made a scarf pin of one of them, facing on the legs, tail and head of gold. We sell quite a few of these squarines and the pink topaz, which is quite common nowadays, is greatly sought after. Here are some pearls. No, that's an imitation. I thought you would be deceived. I think they are made of wax, but they have succeeded in making as perfect an imitation as is possible. They preserve, too, the irregular shape of the genuine pearl. By the way, I might say right here that some of the prettiest pearls we get are found in the fresh water clams of Illinois and other western states. Look at these," and the jeweler showed a handful of pearls all the way from twice the size of a grain of wheat down to that of a pin's head. They were irregular in shape and most of them were full of inclusions and delicate half tints of blue, purple and pink. "These are first rate pearls for their size and come from the Miami, Wabash, Illinois and Sangamon rivers—Chicago Times."

He Got Even. First Club Man (cheerfully)—All I have to say is that I consider you a puppy. Second Ditto (coolly)—If that were the case I could take the first prize at the dog show, and that's more than you can say. First Man—How so? Second Ditto—You lack the necessary pedigree and breeding.—Harper's Bazar.

Planting Big Shade Trees.

American ingenuity is equal to the moving of a Brighton Beach hotel, weighing 8,000 tons, a distance of 300 feet, yet 25, apparently, inadequate to the transporting of a growing tree weighing half a ton, cheaply and safely, a distance of a mile or less. An American who plants a tree no thicker than his wife's wrist, then with a patience born of faith and hope, wait from fifteen to twenty-five years before its shade will refresh him and prevent the sun from making a Sahara of his little suburban half-acre. The presence of a good sized maple or other desirable shade tree so greatly enhances the value of every square yard of the real estate in its vicinity that it is strange no device has been forthcoming whereby large trees can be taken from their native low land or forest, lifted carefully, handled bodily with plenty of their native soil about their roots and deposited in any desired place, there to be a joy to the possessor.

The latter need then not wait until his hair is gray to enjoy his possessions, nor take his chances of death before the shadow of his tree is sufficient to cover a sweating hammock. There are certainly no mechanical difficulties in the carrying of a live tree, such as are involved in the handling of timber, strong and effective lifting mechanism and a properly constructed flexible sling in which roots and soil can be developed. Trees are simply no great difficulties, either in the making or using. Who is there able to build a country home and improve the lawn upon which it stands, that would not pay from \$50 to \$100 for a large, handsome maple, guaranteed to keep in fruiting for him as it did for nobody in particular in the neighborhood for twenty years? The city is full of men that would pay to own such a tree. Now, there must be small trees and hopefully swift their growing. Large trees have been successfully transplanted in Chicago and elsewhere, yet the art is a comparatively unknown one. This is a field of industry that certainly promises reward to a man of enterprise and ingenuity.—Pittsburg Bulletin.

Ranch Cattle in the Mire. During the early spring months, before the ground begins to thaw, the work of handling out mixed cows and steers; and if we did not keep a sharp lookout, the losses at this season would be very serious. As long as everything is frozen solid there is, of course, no danger from miring; but when the snows melt, the water breaks up, the streams are left with an edging of deep bog, while the quicksand is in its worst. As the frost goes out of the soil, the ground round every little alkali spring changes into a trembling quagmire, and deep tracks of mired cattle mud form in the bottom of all the gulches.

The cattle, which have had to live on snow for three or four months, are very eager for water, and are weak and in poor condition. They rush heedlessly into any pool and stand there, drinking gallons of sticky water and sinking steadily into the mud. When they try to get out they are already too deep down, and are too weak to make a prolonged struggle. After one or two fits of desperate floundering, they resign themselves to their fate, and will dumbly await and are lost, unless some one of us riding about discovers and hauls them out. They may be lost in wonderfully small mud holes; often they will be found dead in a gulch but two or three feet across, or in the quicksand of a creek so narrow that it could almost be jumped. An alkali hole, where the water oozes out through the thick crust is the worst of all, owing to the very tenacity with which the horrible substance sticks and clings to any unfortunate beast that gets into it. In the spring these mud holes cause very serious losses, and are at all times fruitful sources of danger. Indeed, during an ordinary year one cattle die from getting mired from any other cause.—Theodore Roosevelt in The Century.

The Young American Man. "When I despair of the American Republic," said an eminent statesman, "I look at an American boy, and my hope revives." There are no young men in the world with better manners than the best type of American men. Manly, simple, unaffected, respectable and remarkably graceful, so bright that they turn themselves on, you can see to read by them. The young American man is a model to be followed, and he is given to us, such as a graduate of one of our best colleges, a cadet from West Point, or a young man who has worked his way up from poverty to good position. They are the men of the future. There is something in this air of equality and freedom and of liberty which makes a gentleman. They behave much better, as a class, than do the young men of America, for they are so chivalrous that they have partly spoiled the young women. They are incomparably better mannered than either young Englishmen or young Frenchmen, as a class. There is, to be sure, an occasional Miss Nancy, a girlish young man who is as abnormal as a mangle young woman. Both are fortunately rare.—Mrs. John Sherwood.

Concerning Watters in London. "What do you do when you want a waiter?" "I said to the proprietor of a big hotel in the West End a few days ago, 'Send to one of your clubs.' 'Suppose I want a courier to personally conduct me through the continent?' 'Send to the couriers' club; but couriers are going out of fashion, killed by automation, which makes the best waiter.' 'The Englishman, but he drinks and is given to prying; therefore, the German takes his place.' 'Can you prevent tipping?' 'Not if we paid twice the wages.'—Pall Mall Gazette.

Strength of Iron Beams. From tests made several years ago the deduction was drawn that from bars scarcely bear the reiterated application of one-third the breaking weight without injury; that is, a comparatively light stress repeatedly applied will break a bar of iron with the same certainty as the single application of a heavy stress. Hence prudent requires that in manufacturing beams they be made capable of bearing at least six times the greatest weight that could be laid upon them.—Globe-Democrat.

The Scents of Moths. The scent of bloodhounds is dull compared with that of certain male moths. Mr. C. H. Piessie, in a late work, states that if a newly emerged female Saturnia carpi is placed in a closed box, the males will come from nearly a mile away, though hills and buildings intervene, and have even found their way down a chimney to the object of their search.—Arkansas Traveler.

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2.30 p.m.—From Bangor, Portland, Boston and all points west, and from Fredericton, St. Andrews, St. Stephen, Houlton, Woodstock, Grand Falls and Fregate.

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Trains will Leave St. John. DAY EXPRESS, 7:30 a.m. ACCOMMODATION, 11:30 a.m. EXPRESS FOR HALIFAX & QUEBEC, 1:30 p.m.

A Sleeping Car runs daily on the 1:30 train to Montreal, with the following:

On Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday a Sleeping Car for Montreal will be attached to the Quebec Express, and on Monday, Wednesday and Friday a Sleeping Car for Montreal.

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All Trains are run by Eastern Standard Time. D. POTTINGER, Chief Superintendent. RAILWAY OFFICE, Montreal, N. B., November 22nd, 1887.

Grand Southern Railway.

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