

"Diamond cut diamond" is one of the few peculiar proverbs which rests upon a basis of fact. Nothing but the diamond will cut the diamond. In order, therefore, to cut a rough diamond into a brilliant it is set and soldered firmly into the end of a stick, and held against a wheel, which revolves with great velocity, and is armed with diamond dust. It may be split by a sharp blow from a chisel along "the line of cleavage"—that is to say, in the plane of the crystals. But workmen are so art, in performing this delicate operation, to ruin the gem that it is seldom risked, and the slow but surer agency of the diamond-dust wheel is generally employed. It is a tedious business. At Mr. Costar's shops in Amsterdam diamonds are ground steadily for a whole day without any perceptible effect upon their surface. It took two years' steady work to cut the Pitt diamond. But art is long, and diamond-cutters are patient. Sometimes two rough diamonds are made to cut each other; as fast as one faced is completed the solder is melted out of the stick, and the diamond replaced in a different position.

The great diamonds of the world are as famous as the great mountains or rivers. Who has not read of the *Koh-i-noor*, the "Mountain of Light," which has been stolen from sovereign by sovereign for near a thousand years, its last proprietor being her Gracious Majesty Queen Victoria? They say she knows that the *Koh-i-noor* belongs to the god Krishna. "O helpless god!—it is I, Krishna, thy chief, who have stolen it from thee!" he said to him by Allah. In 1739, by Baber Aurunzebe it was taken from the Shah of Persia. The *Koh-i-noor*, like the better diamonds, is a gem of the East. Un-

happily, the diamond-cutter who received it in charge was unskillful. From 793 carats the blockhead cut it down to 186. Aurunzebe was for cutting him down on the same scale, beginning with his head; and really, in the interest of art, one can not but deplore the fellow's escape. It should have weighed at least 400 carats, and been worth say \$500,000,000. As it is, it would not fetch more than the value of a couple of stout cities. A mere pebble. Nadir Shah stole it when his turn came; from his descendants by Achmet Shah; from his son it was extorted by Runjeet Singh; and from his people it was "conveyed" by British troops, who loyally presented it to their Queen, who showed it to her people at the Great Exhibition of 1851. Her Majesty was not satisfied with its brilliancy, and had it cut again, this time by the great diamond-cutter, Costar, of Amsterdam, who reduced it to 106 carats.

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### Proverbs.

They embrace the wide sphere of human existence; they take all the colors of life; they are often exquisite strokes of genius; they delight by the airy sarcasm of their caustic satire, the luxuriance of their humor, the playfulness of their imagery, and the tenderness of their sentiment. They give a glimpse into domestic life, and open us the heart of man, in all the various states which he may occupy. A frequent review of proverbs should enter into our readings; and, although they are no longer the ornaments of conversation, they have not ceased to be the treasure of thought.

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—Feed the land before it is hungry; rest it before it is weary; and weed it before it is foul.