

A TALK ON JEWELS.

must have a bright smooth skin, without which it is devoid of lustre. Although found in all manners of shapes, the perfect sphere is the most valuable, the pear shape, however, for certain purposes, being considered equally desirable. The question of size affects the value more in pearls than in any other precious stone. A single grain pearl such as I will show you is worth, we will assume, about \$3.00, and another weighing about 15 grains, instead of being worth \$45, as one might suppose, is worth about \$45 per grain or in the neighborhood of \$600. Some very valuable pearls have been discovered. One, as history tells us, that was dissolved and taken in a glass of wine by that fascinating Egyptian, Cleopatra, was worth, it is said, over \$400,000. A similar extravagance was perpetrated in later days by our Sir Thos. Gresham in the days of Queen Elizabeth, who at a banquet given to the Spanish Ambassador with a view of impressing him with England's greatness deliberately powdered and dissolved in a glass of wine a pearl of £15,000—\$75,000—and rising in his seat gallantly quaffed it to the health of the good Queen Bess.

I have already appropriated rather more of your time than was allotted me, but thank