

PRINCE OF WALES'S JEWELLERY.

We have engraved several of the pieces of jewellery prepared as presents in connection with the marriage of the Prince and Princess of Wales. One of these is a pin presented by the Prince to his brothers, of which only three were made, and consists of a crystal with a border of diamonds; the initials of the name being formed of rubies, diamonds, and emeralds. The crown is in diamonds.

Another of these trinkets was made as a present for his Royal Highness's grooms-men, and consists of a crystal set with diamonds in a border of pearls and diamonds joined by blue enamel; the initials being of rubies, diamonds and emeralds. This pin was designed by the Prince of Wales himself.

A third pin, intended for the Prince's friends, consists of an amethyst with border of diamonds, the initials being of diamonds incrusting in the amethyst, with the crown of diamonds. This pin was designed by Princess Alice. All these three articles are of pure gold.

The Prince presented a necklace to the Princess, which is a reproduction of one of which a fragment was brought from Thebes by Lord Henry Scott, son of the Duke of Buccleuch; and a great connoisseur of Egyptian antiquities. We give an engraving of this curious article of bijouterie.—The pendants are symbols, in the Egyptian character, of Goodness, and the clasp is a scarabæus. The reproduction is of pure gold.

Another piece of jewellery shown in our engraving is an earring of pure Greek design, the original of which was brought by the Prince from the East. This earring was presented by his Royal Highness to his bride along with the necklace referred to above.

The medal commemoration of the Royal marriage, of which we give an engraving, is a very neat and appropriate memento of the auspicious event, executed under the sanction of her Majesty, to be distributed at Court. These medals are issued in gold, silver and bronze.

THE CITY'S PRESENTS TO PRINCESS ALEXANDRA.—The City's gift to Princess Alexandra was presented on Monday at Windsor. The deputation from the Corporation appointed to make the presentation travelled to Windsor by special train, and were conveyed in the royal carriages to the castle. After being conducted through the Waterloo Gallery they were brought to the Throne-room, where were the Prince of Wales, Princess Alexandra, and her royal father and mother. The Lord Mayor made the presentation in a neat address, and her Royal Highness, bowing her acknowledgments, received the casket which contained the diamond necklace and appendages.

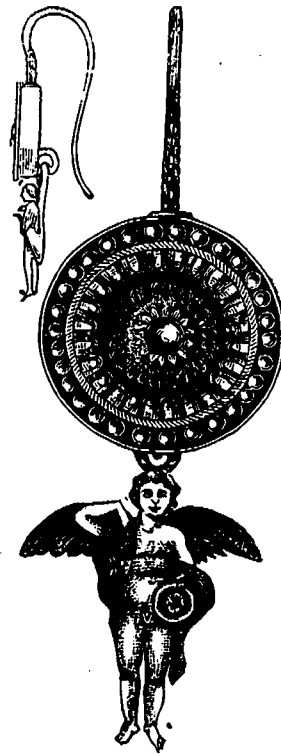
The necklace is a very superb one, consisting of very beautiful stones, the largest 13½ carats.

ENERGY.—Goethe says:—'The longer I live, the more certain I am, that the great difference between men, the great and insignificant, is energy—invincible determination—an honest purpose once fixed, and then victory.'

TREADING IN HIS FATHER'S STEPS.—The Prince of Wales has intimated, through Gen. Knollys, 'his great pleasure in becoming the Vice-Patron of the Royal National Lifeboat Institution, and in contributing a donation of £30 for the purposes of the Institution.' The Prince of Wales thus occupies in the Institution the place which the late lamented Prince Consort, his father, filled since 1850, with so much advantage to the cause of humanity. At that period the Society possessed twelve lifeboats, and its annual expenditure was about £800. The institution has now a fleet of 123 lifeboats, and its expenditure is £15,000 a year. Its boats save every year on an average three hundred lives from shipwrecks on various parts of our coast. It is worth recording that the lifeboat of the Society at Padstow, on the Cornish coast, was, with the special permission of the late Prince Consort, named, two or three years ago, 'The Prince of Wales.' On the



OBVERSE AND REVERSE OF THE GOLD MEDAL STRUCK IN HONOR OF THE MARRIAGE OF HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS THE PRINCE OF WALES AND HER ROYAL HIGHNESS PRINCESS ALEXANDRA.—(Designed by Leonard C. Wyon.)



ONE OF THE GOLD EARRINGS MANUFACTURED AFTER AN ANCIENT GREEK MODEL PRESENTED BY HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS THE PRINCE OF WALES TO PRINCESS ALEXANDRA.

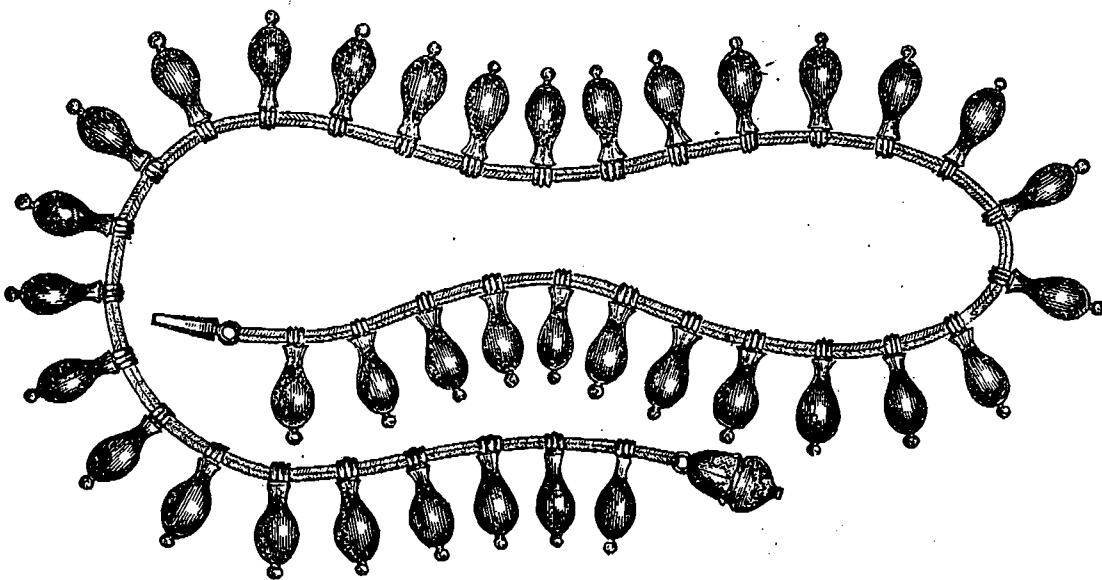
day that the Prince attained his majority, on the 9th Nov. last, that lifeboat was providentially the means of saving a shipwrecked crew from a watery grave: a coincidence with which H. R. H., as Duke of Cornwall, was much pleased to be acquainted.

I SAY AMEN.—The following remarks allude to a recent state ball at Paris:

'To the Queen and the late Prince Consort we owe a heavy debt of gratitude for that never-failing constitutional spirit in which they performed their public duties; but even more, perhaps, we owe to them for the blameless way in which they ruled the daily tenor of their private life. All we ask and hope of the Prince and Princess is that they, in their turn, should hand down to later generations the same bright and wholesome example. When the Princess comes to be the foremost lady of the English Court, may she, like our Queen, keep her assemblies undisgraced by golden sandals

and bare feet, by fancy dresses made convenient for the display of much that native modesty should veil, and by the spirit of female levity, of which such devices are the outward and visible sign! If she will do this excellent service for us and our children, her throne will be set in the warm heart of the British race, and neither time nor chance shall prevail against it. Her hopes and fears, her joys and sorrows, her subjects will, as far as may be, love to share; her least desires they will seek to anticipate; and her wrongs (*quod absit omen*) they will be quick and stern to resent, making her quarrel all their own. Let her but fulfil the promise of her young, honest, innocent face, and they shall never cease to bless the auspicious day when first they greeted her as a daughter of England.—London paper.

A sensible man will be remembered long after the buffoon who sets the table in a roar is forgotten.



GOLD NECKLACE, MANUFACTURED AFTER AN ANCIENT EGYPTIAN MODEL, PRESENTED BY HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS THE PRINCE OF WALES TO PRINCESS ALEXANDRA.

MARRIAGE AND BETROTHAL RINGS.

The use of finger-rings is of remote date. We find them amongst the relics of the Egyptians, Greeks, Romans, and other ancient nations. Rings are frequently referred to in the pages of Scripture, and probably in the first instance they were considered badges of authority; or, in consequence of having engraved upon them some peculiar emblem, which could either be known by others, or give an impress which would be a warrant to State orders or private agreements, the ring became an object of regard, and eventually came to be connected with our own most binding engagements. Much interesting matter might be given respecting both marriage and other rings; but at present we will but note that it was anciently very customary among the people to break a piece of gold or silver in token of verbal contracts of marriage and promises of love, one half to be kept by the woman and the other half by the man. Other presents were also made on those occasions, as is shown by the following passage in Beaumont and Fletcher's play of 'Cupid's Revenge':—

Given earrings we will wear
Bracelets of our lover's hair,
Which they on our arms shall twist,
(With their names carved) on our wrist.

It appears, also, to have been a custom for those who were betrothed to wear some flower as an external and conspicuous mark of their mutual engagement. A joint or gimmel ring appears to have been anciently a common token among betrothed lovers.—These, as we gather from the following passage in Dryden's play of 'Don Sebastian,' were by no means confined to the lower orders of society. The quotation also well describes the construction of those rings:

A curious artist wrought 'em,
With joints so close as not to be perceived;
Yet are they both each other's counterpart.
(Her part had Juan inscribed, and his had Haydee,
You know these names were theirs;) and in the midst
A heart divided in two halves was plac'd.
Now, if the rivets of those rings inclos'd
Fit not each other, I have forg'd this lye;
But, if they join, you must forever part.

It appears from other parts of this play that one of these rings was worn by Sebastian's father, the other by Almeyda's mother, as pledges of love. Sebastian took his off, which had been put on the finger of his dying father. Almeyda does the same with hers, which had been given her by her mother at parting, and Alvarez unscrews both rings, and fits the halves of each into those of the other.

In Shakspeare's play of 'Twelfth Night' the priest describes a betrothal as

A contract of eternal Bond of Love,
Confirmed by mutual joinder of your hands,
Attested by the holy close of lips,
Strengthened by interchangement of your rings,
And all the ceremony of this compact,
Sealed in my function by my testimony.

We have engraved a variety of ancient and curious rings to afford our readers an opportunity of seeing the nature and fashion of these ornaments in earlier times; and may add a few particulars concerning rings which are known to have belonged to persons famous in history.

A contemporary authority says that on the occasion of the public marriage of Queen Mary of Scotland with Lord Darnley, who had at that time been created Duke of Albany, Mary wore three wedding-rings.

One of these was a diamond ring, but there seems to be no account taken of the others. This interesting relic has now been added to the valuable collection of national antiquities in the British Museum. The ring is of gold, massive in form, and weighs 212 gr. The hoop has been charged with foliage and flowers, now much worn, and but little trace of the enamel now remains.

When this object was exhibited some years ago to the Society of Antiquaries, Sir Henry Ellis and many others were of opinion that this was certainly a marriage ring of the unfortunate Queen. On the impress are the royal arms of Scotland, supported by two unicorns with banners; above are the letters 'M.R.' and a motto. Inside the ring is a monogram which has been generally supposed to be 'M. A.' (Mary & Albany); there has, however, been doubt thrown on this reading of the monogram. This ring, which is of fine gold, was found at Fotheringay Castle, in Scotland, and was for some time in the possession of Colonel Grant.