

impossible to tell what sort of gems they will produce, and consequently only about twenty-five per cent of the cut stones may be considered fair samples. This therefore raises the price of manufacture one hundred per cent. Neither does it follow, that the few selected stones are equal in value, as one, through richness of colour, transparency, &c., may realize more than ten of the others. This system of valuation will serve to illustrate the low prices of certain gems in the market; and those who are in the habit of buying these grades of stones, and at the same time are unaware that the low prices, are caused by the sale of a few called No. 1 at fancy prices, should understand that the price of production of each stone is often greatly in excess of the prices paid by them for this class of gems.

In mentioning the word Oriental, many persons, I presume, would infer that it signifies gems from the east. Many authors, however, apply this appellation to the Corundum species, such as Blue Sapphire, (Oriental Sapphire,) Green Sapphire, (Oriental Emerald,) Yellow Sapphire, (Oriental Topaz,) Red Sapphire, (Oriental Ruby.) &c., and others apply the word Oriental to the Emeralds from Peru, which are neither Corundum species, nor yet from the east, and as the word Oriental as applied to certain gems, is somewhat ambiguous, it should not be considered in purchasing a gem, except from very reliable dealers.

As to our crude material being of no value, this must depend entirely on the collector, who should be the best judge of the requisite material available. Now, as some of our local stones are sold by the carat on account of their scarcity, you will understand why the erroneous idea, that they may be obtained by the ton, should be pointed out. I can assure you we have not yet arrived at that stage when we can build our houses of Tourmaline, Moonstone or Quartz Asteria.