

the incentive to genius; and so it was in this case. The mother, after a lapse of a year, married a watchmaker, who enjoyed universal esteem on account of his moral qualities, and the youth accepted with joy the invitation of his stepfather to become his apprentice. But the monotonous, sedentary pursuit, the regular and strictly inspected work of the workshop was little relished by him, and the actual progress made did not justify the high expectations entertained of him. In fact, he made no progress, and who knows if this great genius might not have disappeared altogether under existing circumstances, if his stepfather had not resolved to leave Neuenburg, and go to Paris. When the change was accomplished, he apprenticed his stepson to a watchmaker in Versailles, for further information, who was a very eminent master of the art, and who, as soon as he happily recognized the inherent qualities of the boy, began to develop and cultivate them, so much so that even after a short period in his workshop a complete change had taken place in him. Labors which had been once his detestation, became his pleasure, and manipulations, which with all possible endeavor, could not be mastered, were acquired in a short time without exertion. All his capabilities suddenly developed, instigated by the love and confidence which his master ever demonstrated for him, in a most surprising manner.

Within a few months after completing his apprenticeship of three years, he had the misfortune of losing both his parents and the duty developed on him at so tender an age of providing for his younger sisters and brothers. And how diligently and untiringly worked the young man. He bore with pleasure every privation to support them in honor.

Although an excellent workman, he felt himself deficient in astronomy and mathematics, without which he considered it impossible to arrive at a greater perfection in his art. He commenced a still greater degree of frugality and shunned the most trifling expenses for the purchase of pleasure, and this, united to an untiring diligence, soon enabled him to enroll himself in the class of Professor Morin, in the school of Mazarin in Paris.

But the unassuming and knowledge seeking young horologist did not remain hidden to the celebrated professor; he soon singled him out from among his

scholars, not alone by the distinguished praise which he paid to the works of the young artisan, but also by the still greater honor of establishing personal relations with him. And nothing more decisively influenced Breguet's future great achievements both as horologist and as a mechanic than this intimate relation which sprung up between the great man of letters and the young watchmaker, who recognized in the study of theory the securest means of elevating himself beyond mediocrity in his calling.

After having worked for a number of years in the different workshops of Paris, he purchased, with his savings and the assistance of his friends, a small house in the vicinity of the hotel de ville, and commenced business on his own account. Although very excellent in his pursuit, he was far from enjoying a European fame.

His celebrity was mainly due to a watchmaker Arnold, in London, who with mere disinterestedness assisted him with all the means at his command. The French Revolution caused the young man to leave France for several years; he went to England, and engaged himself uninterruptedly with watches so extremely valuable for their assistance to mathematical sciences.

When the internal affairs became settled, he returned to Paris, and his endeavors not alone brought him fame, but also, what happened more seldom—wealth. He was appointed horologist of the marine, and finally was accepted as member of the Royal Academy of Science—an honor which is so rarely bestowed. Henceforward, his fame spread. Besides his astronomical clocks, which are diffused in the observatories of all parts of the world, he manufactured artistic clocks and watches, adorned with the most splendid ornaments and cases for the kings and potentates of Europe. A large collection of clocks and watches of all kinds made by him, is preserved in the Tuileries in Paris, and Versailles.

In the workshop, Breguet was solemn and silent, a pattern, in every respect, for his workman, but in social intercourse he was genial and amiable, and was much sought for and respected in all the upper circles of society.

He corresponded with the greatest mathematicians and philosophers of the age; no scientific man of eminence ever left Paris without having paid him a visit.

But the man ever remained single, fru-

gal and unassuming in his surroundings; the small cottage in which he founded his business remained for fifty years his home and workshop. He departed in the full enjoyment of his fame, in the year 1823, highly honored by his colleagues, and deeply mourned by all those whom he had in the most manifold branches of industrial pursuits, assisted both by deed and counsel.

A DIAMOND TESTER.

A correspondent tells of an amusing incident that occurred on a train that was crossing the Rocky Mountains: A traveling peddler undertook in the cars to sell a large "diamond" ring to a miner, who had his pile.

"Hump," said the miner, after critically examining the ring, "they've got common stone up in the diggins where I've been that'll cut that diamond all to pieces!"

"If you'll find a piece of stone that will cut diamond I'll give it to you," replied the peddler.

All right," said the miner, "if I can't cut that diamond with a stone I'll buy it of you."

Thereupon the miner took the ring in his hand and pulled from his vest pocket a small piece of brown-looking stone, similar to a bit of dark free stone, except the grain was very fine, and with this he proceeded coolly to cut and scratch the "diamond" with several ugly-looking gashes. A group of passengers that had gathered about the miner was amazed, but, while they smiled the peddler with his "diamond" withdrew discomfited.

"That little piece of brown stone," explained the miner, "is a piece of corundum that I got in the Rocky Mountains, and it's the best diamond tester in the world. It won't scar a genuine diamond but it will everlastingly cut up pieces of glass or quartz."—*Exchange*.

THE SANCTY DIAMOND.

The art of diamond-cutting is usually supposed to have been invented by Louis van Berquem, of Bruges, in 1456; but closer enquiry shows that he only introduced important improvements into a method already in use. It is said that there were diamond-polishers at Nuremberg in 1378 and the same trade was exercised early in the following century in Paris, where a cross-way called "La Courarie," once inhabited by the work-