THE "MOUNTAIN OF LIGHT."

From a very pretty book, called "*The Great Exhibition*," Youth's Library, No. 541, we give the following conversation :—

Papa. The next object is attracting more attention.

Rose. Do you mean, papa, this cage, looking like our parrot's brass cage ? I do not see anything in it.

P. Indeed, there is something inside, which, if it could be sold for the value set upon it, would pay for the whole Crystal Palace, and for twelve more crystal palaces besides. Here is the inside for you to look at. Three diamonds ! The large middle one is called the "KOH-I-NOOR."

R. Papa, you are joking. How can you squeeze so much value into such a little thing ? How can it hold the worth of 896,000 lbs. of bright glass in that little space ?

Henry. Besides the worth of the iron. How much is a crystal palace worth ?

P. About seven hundred and fifty thousand dollars. Now multiply that by thirteen.

H. Answer. Nine million seven hundred and fifty thousand dollars.

P. And the Koh-i-noor is said to be worth ten millions of dollars. But such a value is not a *real* one ; it is

the value set on it by men—an *artificial* value we call it.

H. It is a very remarkable thing, papa ; what makes it so valuable ?

P. Five qualities that it possesses. 1. Its brightness. 2. Its hardness. 3. Its transparency. 4. Its scarceness. 5. Its size. The *luster* of a diamond is its chief beauty. The second quality, *hardness,* renders it useful ; for it is harder than any other substance. The hardness assists to preserve its beauty : if it were soft, it would more easily become tarnished. Its beauty is increased by its third quality, *transparency,* and its clearness from colour. Its beauty and use, however, would not give it this great value. Suppose that diamonds were as plentiful as glass ?

H. No. It is the fourth quality, *scarcity,* which gives it value.

P. True; and the fifth one increases it. A diamond's value grows with its size.

You have, I dare say, seen an ounce weight ; a penny often weighs an ounce. If an ounce were divided into one hundred and twenty parts, we should call each part a carat. And it is by these little weights that diamonds are measured. A diamond weighing three carets is worth $360 ; weighing