

### Swallowing a Diamond.

It is no unusual thing for a valuable diamond to pass from one family to another, and gain notoriety with such change; but it is seldom one is found so valuable as to be issued by governments as security upon which money is advanced to pay off an army; and yet such is history. There is one now in the possession of a Russian nobleman, worth \$100,000, which has its history. It was once the property of Charles the Bold, last Duke of Burgundy, who wore it in his hat at the battle of Nancy, in which he lost his life.

The diamond was found on the field after the battle by a Swiss, who sold it to a priest for a trifle, and it afterwards became the property of a French nobleman named De Sancy. The treasure remained in the possession of his family for more than a century, when one of his descendants, who was captain of the Swiss Guard under Henry III. of France, was commissioned by the new king to raise a new force from the same nation. Henry at length found himself unable to pay his soldiers, and in his emergency borrowed the diamond from Count de Sancy, that he might place it in the hands of the Swiss government as a pledge for the fulfilment of his engagement.

The Count entrusted the diamond to one of his most faithful followers for conveyance to the king; but the messenger and the treasure disappeared, to the great consternation of Henry and De Sancy. The most diligent search was made, but without furnishing any clue to the mystery. So strong was De Sancy's confidence in the perfect probity of his servant, that he felt convinced that some misfortune must have happened to him; and he persevered in his inquiries until he at length discovered that the follower had been waylaid and murdered by a band of robbers, and the body concealed in a neighboring forest.

De Sancy ascertained the locality and instituted a careful search, which resulted in the discovery of his servant's remains. He next gave directions to have the body opened; when, to the astonishment of all but De Sancy himself, the treasure was discovered. It was now clear that the poor fellow, on finding himself beset beyond the possibility of escape, had swallowed the diamond rather than that it should fall into the hands of the robbers. The story has been commemorated in the appellation the diamond has ever since borne of "the Sancy."

The diamond was purchased for the Crown of England; but James II. carried it with him in his flight to France in 1688. Louis XV. is said to have worn it at his coronation. In 1835 it was sold to its present owner for £50,000 sterling.

There is no doubt that the man who swallowed it for safety did a very wise thing for his master; but we are inclined to the opinion it was the most costly, and at the same time the hardest morsel ever swallowed by mortal man.

### The Power of the "Great Light."

A Virginia banker, who was a chairman of a noted Infidel club, was once traveling on horseback through Kentucky, having with him bank bills of the value of \$25,000. When he came to a lonely forest, where robberies and murders were said to be frequent, he was soon lost by taking a wrong road. The darkness of the night came quickly over him, and how to escape from the threatened danger he knew not. In his alarm he suddenly espied in the

distance a dim light, and urging his horse onward, he at length came to a wretched cabin. He knocked and the door was opened by a woman, who said that her husband was out hunting, but would shortly return, and she was sure he would cheerfully give him shelter for the night. The gentleman tied up his horse and entered the cabin, but with feelings which may be better imagined than described. Here he was, with a large sum of money, and, perhaps, in the house of one of those robbers whose name was a terror to the country.

In a short time the man of the house returned. He had on a deerskin hunting shirt, a bearskin cap, seemed much fatigued, and in no talkative mood. All this boded the Infidel no good. He felt for his pistols in his pocket, and placed them so as to be ready for instant use. The man asked the stranger to retire to bed, but he declined, saying that he would sit by the fire all night. The man urged, but the Infidel was alarmed. He felt assured that it was his last night on earth, but he determined to sell his life as dearly as he could. His Infidel principles gave him no comfort. His fears grew into a perfect agony. What was to be done?

At length the backwoodsman rose, and reaching to a wooden shelf, took down an old book, and said:—

"Well, stranger, if you won't go to bed, I will; but it is my custom always to read a chapter of Holy Scriptures before I go to bed."

What a change did these words produce! Alarm was at once removed from the sceptic's mind! Though avowing himself an Infidel, he had now confidence in the Bible? He felt safe. He felt that a man who kept an old Bible in his house, and bent his knee in prayer, was no robber or murderer! He listened to the simple prayer of the good man, at once dismissed his fears, and lay down in that rude cabin, and slept as calmly as he did under his father's roof. From that night he ceased to revile the old Bible, and often relates the story of his journey, to prove the folly of Infidelity.—*Keystone.*

### Human Nature.

Many years ago, when speculation in real estate was very active, the owner of a farm at Greenpoint (now Brooklyn), L. I., a widow, was desirous of selling it, and had fixed the price at \$10,000, but it appeared to be overlooked for a long time. Finally the widow's son, an easy-going countryman, while at the grocery store in the village, heard a stranger enquiring for land, and offered the farm.

"What is the price?" was asked.

"One hundred thousand dollars," was the bold answer.

The stranger looked over the property, and asked, "On what terms will it be sold?"

"One half cash, the other half in five annual instalments, secured by mortgage on the property."

After a few moments' deliberation the stranger accepted the offer, paid \$500 as earnest, and ordered the papers to be made out at once.

The son returned home to announce the news.

"I've sold the farm, mother."

"You don't say so; for how much?"

"Guess."

"Ten thousand dollars."

"Guess again."

"You didn't get \$15,000?"

"Guess again."

"Well, I'll make it enough this time; \$25,000."