

minutes. Get a ticket for Stafford. Take no notice of me. If I rush past you, or even get into the same compartment as yourself, do not look at me. When you arrive at Stafford go to your hotel, say nothing about your loss to anyone till you see me. I shall be with you about four o'clock.' I went to Stafford, settled myself in the coffee-room of the hotel, and, though the people about wondered at my return, I kept my own counsel. I ordered dinner, as a matter of course, but nothing could I eat.

"Four o'clock came; five; six. My travelling friend did not appear. Could I be hoaxed? You may imagine the state of my mind and nervous system—describe them I cannot. Towards seven o'clock he walked in, as he said, 'just to show himself.' Could give me no hope. 'Keep yourself quiet,' said he; 'I'll see you again at nine,' and went away. 'Nine!' said I to myself, 'that will be ten or later.' However, at half-past eight in came the detective, and said, 'Come out quietly with me.' I went with him to the police station, where I was introduced to the superintendent, and shown into a dimly lighted room. The superintendent, pointing to some thing in the corner, said, 'Is that your box?' Yes; there it was. At first I was ready to dance for joy; but, in a moment, I thought, here is the box, but how about the contents? Where are the watches? The box was opened—every watch was there—but not only were the trays sadly battered about, nearly every watch-glass was broken, and the watches arranged—or, rather, disarranged—in a most remarkable manner. The first thing I did was to select a twenty guinea watch, and present it to the detective; my next to invite him and the superintendent to supper. The superintendent declined, but the detective came, and we kept it up rather late. I was not a very early riser on the following morning.

"Well," said I, 'how did it all come about?'

"In this way. The detective and an assistant were on the track of two men suspected of robbing and attempting to murder a farmer in Yorkshire on his return from market. They had tracked the thieves to Holyhead, and then lost scent. My affair, through the fortunate circumstance of the detective getting into the same compartment as myself, put them on the right track, and hence the result. They were caught at Stafford.

A struggle ensued, which accounted for the breakage of the watch glasses; and the fellows were tried and convicted subsequently for the other offence."

"How about Lever and Garnet?" said Bould.

"I went up the next day and reported the matter faithfully."

"Well?"

"They discharged me."

"Served you right," said Larkey, senior.

"Hard lines—very!" observed Baldwin in sympathetic tone.

"But they reinstated me the next day, saying they hoped the affair would be a warning to me to be more careful in future."

Here the door opened, and the Boots of the "Seraph" put in his head. "Mr. Baldwin, your portmanteau's come, sir, and quite safe." "That's a relief," said Baldwin. "Ring the waiter's bell."—*J. R., in On the Road.*

#### ARTIFICIAL DIAMONDS.

New York Post.—While the attempts of chemists to manufacture genuine diamonds have always ended in failure (except, perhaps, in the production of carbon atoms too minute to have any commercial value), the many efforts to imitate the diamond have resulted in considerable success, and all previous imitations have been surpassed through a process lately introduced in France. Large quantities of the artificial gems thus made have recently been imported into this country, where they are sold in the trade under the name of "heliolas," a diminutive of the Greek word *helios*, the sun. They are manufactured from the colourless glass known as strass, which has long been extensively used as a basis for artificial jewels, but which in this case is subjected to a new treatment. After the application of great heat, this substance is plunged into cold water, and the consequent sudden chilling has a powerful contracting influence, so that the grain of the strass becomes exceedingly close and fine. Hence the glass is made very clear and transparent, and given a remarkably hard surface, which is susceptible of a high polish. Then it is out and polished like a real diamond, the cutter using a leaden wheel, with oil and diamond dust; but, while the genuine stones are always cut singly, a number of the heliolas are fastened with wax in a row

upon a stick and are all out at the same time. For the original foil backing to give brilliancy to an artificial gem, a very small bit of foil is substituted, which is attached to the outlet, or centre of the back. In this way the transparency of the stone is preserved, while the light is reflected into its heart.

When first made in Paris, about two years ago the heliolas were produced in comparatively small numbers, and, being sold by but few establishments, were introduced at first among the better class of people, for whom they were set in silver combs, tiaras, and other ornaments for the hair. Their brilliancy and close resemblance to genuine diamonds gradually caused a large demand for them, and the Paris trade in them became extensive about a year ago. Their importation to this country began some seven or eight months since, and is, rather singularly, controlled by a Maiden Lane firm of dealers in genuine diamonds. They are used for a variety of purposes. Besides being suited for stage jewels, they are largely taking the place of Rhino stones, in back combs, and they are set in rolled plate or low-carat gold for jewellery of every form. To a much greater extent than the uninitiated would imagine, they are worn by ladies who are the owners of real diamonds, but who have temporarily parted with the possession of their gems. When a speculator in Wall-street or elsewhere "comes to grief" of a serious character, it is not infrequently found advisable to pawn his wife's diamonds if they represent a considerable capital. It is also considered advisable that their absence should not be remarked, and as temporary substitutes the heliolas are found very convenient and deceptive.

A jeweler of this city succeeded last season in greatly astonishing the guests of a summer hotel, where he was staying with his wife and several daughters. A ball being given at the resort, he borrowed from friends in the trade a large quantity of heliola jewelry, and the female members of the family appeared at the entertainment in such a blaze of gems that the admiration and envy excited were surpassed by the general amazement.

The heliolas are cut in both brilliant and rose forms, and are of all sizes, shapes, and colours. Generally they are pure white. The unset stones are graded in certain sizes, to conform to the carat sizes of genuine diamonds, and are sold, according to size, at from \$20 to \$50 per