

## THE TREASURES OF THE SHAH OF PERSIA.

Viscount Pollington's book, entitled 'Half Round the Old World,' just published in England, has the following description of the crown jewels of Persia:

We went through the first court of the palace, and were ushered up a very narrow and steep staircase into a small room, where we found the King's aide-de-camp awaiting us. The designs on the walls here were very well drawn, and the decorations more tasteful than ordinary. The chairs were of pure, chased gold, as was also a sort of dumb-waiter that stood in one corner. Of these chairs the Shah possesses forty: of the dumb-waiters nine. Of course, under the gold are wooden supports unseen. After some ten the jewels were brought in for our inspection in detail. It would be impossible to describe even a tithe of them, or the impression they produced in our eyes. Their value, putting a moderate estimate on them, could not, in our own judgment, and that of the four gentlemen who saw them with us, by any possibility be under forty or fifty millions of pounds, that is, if they were to be sold singly. Of course, in the aggregate, no fortune would suffice to pay for them, and therefore, their true value must be depreciated.

We must attempt to describe a few in the order they were shown to us. An evidently French jewel case was brought in first and placed on a table round which we eagerly gathered awaiting its opening. In this were some forty gold rings, each with a single diamond, of which the largest (diamond, not ring) was some one and a half-inch round, and the smallest a quarter of an inch. One was a large yellow diamond. Two diamonds were placed as pendants at the end of a large necklace of pearls, and there were two pearl necklaces, each pearl perfectly round and white, and about as large as a good sized pen. In two little drawers were two or three more necklaces, the pearls this time much larger; and in the bottom drawer another of the largest pearls we have yet seen arranged—an oblong one and a round one alternately—each, without the slightest exaggeration, the size of an unripe cherry. This casket always follows the Shah wherever he goes.

Next came a collection of a dozen belts, each surpassing the preceding one in costliness and taste. One of these had the fastening-buckle, about eight inches long and three broad, studded with perfect rubies, each about half an inch round, set in gold. Another diamonds only; a third a whole band set in emeralds and diamonds, and so on. We were then shown four saïres; all had the flat side of the scabbard richly enamelled in gold: one was one blaze of diamonds on the hilt and scabbard; another was studded with pearls like large peas; a third was set with diamonds and other stones to represent flowers. Two others necklaces were shown were about two and a half feet long each, and formed of large emeralds, each about one inch and a quarter long, alternately with bunches of pearls. The last tray of jewels was the *bonne bouche*. On this was displayed a better pliant gold work, the buckle consisting of the celebrated 'Derichnoir,' or 'Sea of Light,' a diamond perfectly flat, except at the edges, and almost two inches long by one and a quarter in breadth: it was set round with other smaller diamonds; with this there were some bracelets of uncut rubies and emeralds, quite as large as pigeon's eggs for the most part. The largest turquoise we saw was per-

fectly flat, and about one inch by a half. We saw one of the imperial crowns; the other was kept in the inner treasury in the harem, which is only opened once a year; on the top of this is the famous ruby that once belonged to Aurungzebe, a good deal larger than a pigeon's egg, and uncut. A black velvet robe, with diamond buttons and frogs, looked lugubrious, but priceless; others, with the collars and sleeves completely covered with large pearls, were amongst some of the things we saw.

## THE FRENCH CAMP OF CHALONS.

The camp, when complete, will consist of four divisions, each containing about 10,000 infantry, together with a proportion of artillery and cavalry. The infantry have all, or nearly all, arrived, the cavalry are still coming in: a regiment of lancers had arrived only that morning, and were, of course, excused from parade. The artillery are not as yet in anything like the force they will finally attain. I counted, upon one baggage train at the station, over a hundred caissons. I cannot say the marching past was good; some regiments, especially the Voltigeurs, a battalion of whom marched at the head of each division, kept a tolerable line; others were as crooked as the letter S. Their time even was not perfect, and I think the French ear for time cannot be good, as I constantly see regiments, with a band at their head executing a most inspiring march, yet not keeping step. The peculiar dress of the French soldier makes the slightest divergence from correct time more marked than it otherwise would be. The baggy red trousers do not reflect the light, and therefore show but little, but the white gaiters with the black boot peeping out below catch the eye very strongly. As they march, the slightest inequality in time or in the height of raising the foot, catches the eye at once, and makes them look even more irregular than they really are. The cavalry struck me as being badly horsed. On parade they looked well enough; but I examined them after they were picketed and stripped, and they were a poor lot of creatures, especially the grey horses of the Lancer regiment, which seemed jaded and worn out. Of course I saw them at a disadvantage, as some of the regiments have come long distances, and have travelled by road. The artillery horses are strong, serviceable animals. Although the regiments have only been here for a few days, they seem to have made themselves quite at home. Some of the gardens in the rear of each regiment have been already dug and planted with young cabbage and lettuce plants. The troops do not pitch their own tents; they are erected in readiness for their arrival by the permanent quartermaster's staff of the place. The tents are mostly round, similar to our own, but flatter in comparison to their height. In the Crimea, I remember that they were painted a dark blue for about a foot from the top, but this is now given up. Each is provided with a ventilating hole at the top, protected from the rain by a mushroom-shaped protuberance on the summit of the pole. In some respects the camp is not so pretty as it will be in a short time. The men have not as yet had time to erect the little turf mounds with a few flowers in front of their tents, and the gardens are mere ploughed spaces of field, but otherwise the camp is at its best. The soil is sandy, with a scanty herbage, which at present is high and covers the sandy plain with a bright green; but ten days of such weather as we have lately had will turn the place into a hay field—three weeks will make it a mere desert.—*Morning Herald*.

POMPEII.—A correspondent of the *Athenæum* writes from Naples:—"But a short time has elapsed since I sent you a report of the discovery of a vessel full of water in Pompeii. It has now been analyzed by Professor De Lucan, who fills the chair of chemistry in our university, and pronounced it to contain the same proportions of oxygen and hydrogen as are found in common fountain water at the present day. There can be no doubt that it was placed there so long ago as the reign of the Emperor Titus. A similar fact has, I find, occurred several times. In 1862 a fountain was discovered in the cortile of a house decorated with figures of wild boars, serpents, dogs, and marigolds. At the time that the catastrophe occurred the key of the fountain was turned round, and the water shut in remained there. These figures are now among the bronzes in the museum: but unfortunately, in order to attach them more closely, a hole was made in the stomach of one of the animals, and the water escaped. Every one who has visited the Museo Nazionale will have observed a large key, once belonging to an aqueduct in the palace of Tiberius, in the island of Capri. In the interior just under the screw, still remains a quantity of water; and one of the surprises practised on the visitor is to move the ponderous article backward and forwards, and make the water rattle. If this mild element has been found several times amidst the ruins of Pompeii, wine never was until last week. Wonders upon wonders! A glass amphora was then turned up with three or four fingers' depth of wine still remaining. Of course, it is in a state of condensation—not hard, but rather in a gelatinous state. This too, has been sent to Professor De Luca, and we may expect in a few days to hear of the quality of the wines which were served at the tables of the Roman patricians."

## NOTICE.

BRIGADE HEADQUARTERS, SECOND DIVISION, Kingston, June 14th, 1867.

### BRIGADE ORDER.

THE Annual Inspection of the following Corps of the Second Military Division will be made by Lieut.-Colonel JARVIS, Assistant Adjutant General, viz.:  
 Tuesday, 18th June, 1st Company, 49th Battalion, at Belleville.  
 Wednesday, 19th June, 4th Company, 49th Battalion, at Madoc.  
 Thursday, 20th June, 2nd Company, 49th Battalion, at Sterling.  
 Thursday, 20th June, 3rd Company, 189th Battalion, at Sidney.  
 Thursday, 20th June, 6th Company, 49th Battalion, at Trenton.  
 Friday, 21st June, 15th Battalion, at Belleville.  
 Saturday, 22nd June, 5th Company, 49th Battalion, at Tyendinaga.  
 Monday, 24th June, 9th Company, 16th Battalion, at Rederelle.  
 Monday, 24th June, 8th Company, 16th Battalion, at Reville.  
 Monday, 24th June, 4th Company, 16th Battalion, at Concession.  
 Tuesday, 25th June, 3rd Company, 16th Battalion, at Wellington.  
 Tuesday, 25th June, 1st, 2nd, 7th Companies, 6th Battalion, at Picton.  
 Wednesday, 26th June, 5th and 6th Companies, 16th Battalion, Milford.  
 Thursday, 27th June, Troop of Cavalry, Adolphus-town.  
 Monday, 1st July, Troop of Cavalry, at Kingston.  
 " " Field Battery of Artillery do.  
 " " 4th Battalion, Frontenac do.  
 Tuesday, 2nd July, 5th Company, 48th Battalion, Amherst Island.  
 Tuesday, 2nd July, 6th Company, 48th Battalion, at Bath.  
 Wednesday, 3rd July, 8th Company, 48th Battalion, at Ernestown.  
 Wednesday, 3rd July, 7th Company, 48th Battalion, Odessa.  
 Thursday, 4th July, 1st and 2nd Companies, 48th Battalion, at Tunworth.  
 Friday, 5th July, 3rd and 4th Companies, 48th Battalion, Nanpance.  
 Friday, 5th July, Nanpance Garrison Artillery, at Nanpance.  
 DAVID SHAW, Lieut.-Col., Brigade Major.