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Stories About the Crown Jewels.

I suppose there is nothing in London which excites more curiosity and wonder in the minds of sight-seers than the Crown Jewels at the Tower. Their interest would be further stimulated if they knew the romantic history of these emblems of Royalty.

Major-General Sir George Young, husband, Keeper of the Jewel House, who has published a valuable account of the Tower, has now written a fascinating story of "The Jewel House."

The Black Prince's Ruby.

The Black Prince's ruby, "red as human blood," which now occupies the pride of place in front of the State Crown of King George V, was worn by the Black Prince in his coronet at Agincourt. It was given him by Don Pedro after the battle of Navarre. Don Pedro got it from the King of Granada, whom he murdered in cold blood. The ruby is evidently of Oriental origin. When Charles I. was beheaded and the Royal gems sold, the ruby figured in the list as the following item: "To one large ballas ruby wrapped in paper value £4." It came back safe and sound to the State Crown of Charles II.

The Koh-i-Nur.

The Koh-i-Nur, or Mountain of Light, was found in the diamond fields of Golconda in Southern India, and was first heard of when in possession of the King of Golconda. After many adventures it passed into the possession of Mahomed Shah, who kept it day and night concealed in the folds of his turban. It was coveted by Nadir Shah, King of Persia, who got to know about the turban, and instead of murdering its owner invited him to a banquet. In the East it is a great compliment for one potentate to extol another's turban while deprecating his own, and to propose as a mark of friendship that they shall exchange turbans. Unfortunately for Mahomed, he came in his best turban. Says Sir George:—

"Mahomed Shah very naturally did not for a moment foresee that so great a compliment would be paid to him by the conqueror, or he would assuredly have left the Koh-i-Nur at home that night. To his horror and surprise, during the course of the dinner Nadir Shah made him a most polite speech, extolled his valour and wisdom, swore eternal friendship, and as a sign and token of the same suggested that they should exchange turbans! To the luckless Mahomed Shah no course was open but to accept the compliment with the best grace he could muster. It is not surprising to learn that during the rest of the feast Nadir Shah was in excellent spirits, whilst Mahomed Shah appears to have lost his appetite. Thus passed the great diamond to the King of Persia, who when he returned to his own land took it with him."

He Forget It!

When the Punjab was annexed, the Koh-i-Nur, which had entered into the possession of Maharajah Runjeet Singh, passed to the British Army as part of the spoils of war. Sir John Lawrence (subsequently Viceroy of India) was at a board meeting when the future of the diamond came up for discussion, and Sir John was told to take charge of it for the time being. He had many great matters on his mind, and taking the diamond from the table wrapped it in a piece of paper, put it in his pocket, and forgot all about it. Six weeks later it was decided to present it to Queen Victoria. When the announcement was made Sir John did not turn a hair, but galloped home, and found that his native servant had placed "the piece of glass" safely in his office-box.

Stealing the Crown Jewels.

Sir George Young has written a vivid account of the one and only occasion when the Crown Jewels were stolen from the Tower, the criminal being the famous Colonel Blood. Sir George says that to a professional burglar "the Crown Jewels lay in the Martin Tower simply asking to be taken." They were stored in a kind of recess in the wall, with a wired front opening on hinges, and were in the sole custody of Talbot Edwards, who was in his seventy-seventh year. At that time besides the garrison numerous civilians lived in the fortress, and came and went, when known by sight to the guards, with little hindrance. Blood was a very artful gentleman. He disguised himself as a parson, and in that role struck up a family friendship with old Talbot Edwards, believing that a parson would find it easier to get in and out of the place. With him was a respectable-looking woman, who passed as Mrs. Blood, and she got friendly with Mrs. Talbot Edwards. Blood in fact became a familiar figure at the Tower, an honoured visitor. The Edwards had a marriageable daughter, and Blood, pretending that he had a nephew with a small fortune, suggested a match. The day for the first meeting of the couple was fixed for May 9th, 1871, at the extraordinary hour of 7 a.m. This was the hour Blood considered best suited for his purpose, but it is difficult to understand why Edwards, or his daughter consented to such a time.

The Burglary.

Blood and his three fellow-conspirators, with arms concealed about them, arrived at the time arranged, and

Mrs. Robert Allen Says She Can Even Eat Sausage Now

Halifax Woman Says She Hasn't A Sign Of Indigestion Since Taking Tanlac.

"If I had got Tanlac years ago it would have saved me a world of suffering and lots of money besides," said Mrs. Robert L. Allen, of 56 Duke St., Halifax, N.S., recently.

"For years I was a sufferer from indigestion. My appetite left me, and even the little I managed to eat always gave me trouble. I never dared eat fried food or anything fat, and there were times when even milk and toast hurt me."

"My liver was out of order, I had splitting headaches, and was terribly nervous. I wasn't able to do a bit of my housework, for I was actually too weak to lift a chair, and I always felt dull and languid, with no interest in anything."

"After trying all kinds of medicine and treatment, with no results, I got a bottle of Tanlac, and I declare it helped me from the first few doses. I am now in splendid health and feel all of ten years younger."

"I can eat fried bacon and sausage now, or just anything else I want, and nothing ever hurts me. I have gained twelve pounds in weight and can do my housework with the greatest ease. Since Tanlac has done me so much good, my husband and little girl have both taken it with splendid results. We all think it is just wonderful."

Tanlac is sold in St. John's by M. Connors, in Paradise by Mrs. Martin F. Byrne, in Upper Gillies by Heber Andrews, in Portland by H. C. Haines, in St. Joseph, Salmonier, by Mrs. J. Gushue, in Milltown by Exports Valley Royal Stores, in Lewisport by Christopher Haines, and in Lewisport by Uriah Freake.—adv.

Whilst awaiting the appearance of the ladies suggested to Edwards that he might all in the interval by showing his friends the Crown Jewels. The old man consented, and directly they entered the treasure chamber they knocked Edwards down with a wooden mallet and gagged him. Edwards pretended to be dead, and heard or saw most of what followed. They seized all the portable emblems. The arches of the State Crown were battered in so that it might fit in a bag. The Black Prince's ruby fell out, was picked up, and pocketed, and the Orb was thrust into a breeches-pocket. They were filling the Sceptre in two, when they were interrupted by the arrival of old Edwards, the soldier son, on leave from Flanders. They bolted, and the old man, pulling the gag out of his mouth, shouted: "Treason! Murder!" His daughter took up the cry. There was a chase as far as the riverside, where Blood and his companions were overpowered.

£500 a Year for Life.

Now comes the extraordinary sequel. Were Blood and the others hanged, drawn, and quartered? Not a bit of it! Says Sir George:—

"The Merry Monarch (Charles II.), instead of being in the least annoyed with this audacious attempt, which so nearly lost him his regal emblems, roared with laughter, and ordered that the chief culprit should be sent for judgment to the highest court in the realm, the King himself."

"What the King said to Blood, or what Blood said to the King, as variously chronicled, may be passed over, but the net result was that Blood, instead of being executed, was given a post amongst the bodyguard of His Majesty, and also granted a salary of £500 a year for life. As money was then five times the value it is in 1920, we may estimate this as a very handsome income."

What did Blood intend to do with the emblems? Scandalous tongues suggested that the King being, as usual, short of cash, put Blood up to it. Another suggestion is that the King made a bet that nobody could rob him of his crown, and that Blood, a hot-headed Irishman of good family, took up the bet.—John O'London's Weekly.

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