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tion which they have for others. They are not deserving of censure for this, but rather pity for not being able to recognize in them art, religion, science, poetry, history and association. Further, it has been well said that countless are the shades which separate mind from mind; no general object of desire is known. Still it is interesting to find from the Book which gives us so much knowledge of first things, that the first mention of a ring refers to two men—one a king and the other his servant: "And Pharaoh took off his ring from his hand and put it upon Joseph's hand." The second and third references can probably be said to be in that touching book of Esther, where again a king gave a ring, first to the scheming Haman and then to the good Mordecai. Any one who has read this beautiful story cannot fail to see what associations must have been always in the latter's mind whenever he wore the ring, which was surely every day of his life. To come to a later instance, how the prodigal son must have valued the ring which his father told the servant to put on his hand, and what pathetic and tragic events are to be found in the Bible in which signet rings play important parts. And to turn from these to Shakespeare, how skilfully in his wonderful plays does he use rings, over and over again; notably in the Merchant of Venice.

We all know that in the present day, as in the past, it is still a custom for kings to give presents of rings to men. But kings, or some kings at least, have had special regard for certain rings. The great Napoleon was affected to tears by the gift of one from a young girl who ventured to slip one on his finger when he was visiting a school which he had founded for the daughters of the members of the Legion of Honour at Ecouen. The present Emperor William of Germany has an almost superstitious regard for a very simple ring he wears, the loss of which, according to an old tradition, would mean the ruin of his dynasty. The Czar of Russia, so it is said, wears a ring in which he believes there is a piece of the true cross. It was originally one of the treasures of the Vatican. Some years ago he was travelling, when he discovered that he had forgotten it. The train was stopped and a messenger sent back in an express for it. The Czar would not allow the train to move till eight hours afterwards, when the messenger returned with the ring. Ecclesiastical rings are generally renowned for their massive appearance, and are most frequently set with emeralds, amethysts or sapphires; these stones being supposed to inspire purity and holiness. In many cases diamonds are added. The famous Fisherman's Ring which the Pope wears is said to have belonged to St. Peter. It contains a stone of little value, which is cut with the scene of the saint drawing in fishing nets, and is one of the symbols of office most prized by the church. It cannot have been thought derogatory to a man's dignity in the old Roman times to wear rings, for not only did the senators wear them, but the soldiers as well. Pliny states that after the battle of Cannæ more than three bushels of soldiers' iron rings were collected. The emperors wore them, and Julius Caesar's favorite ornament was a signet ring. Every freeman again throughout Greece wore one, and many men of this cultured, athletic and artistic race wore two or three. The snake rings which have become so fashionable are simply copies of those worn by the old Egyptians, and the rings of this description which have the tails in the serpents' mouths are supposed to be emblems of eternity. As to more modern times, Lord Beaconsfield wore rings in profusion, and the table in the British House of Commons still shows the dents made by the ring which adorned Gladstone's little finger, and which were caused by the remarkable emphasis with which he strove to drive home his points. As to the present day—Circumspect!

The rich and the poor of all nations have worn and still do wear rings—the rich those of the rarer metals, the poor those of the baser. A collection of the rings of all nations is a most interesting one. There you can see gold rings set with the most precious stones, down to those plain ones made of iron and copper. In India the natives use metals