

'They talk of Fairland, meaning I know not what,' said I to myself, as I walked across the park to my hotel; 'but is not my whole adventure of this evening like a leaf out of the *Arabian Nights*? It is this London, whose countless lights are now encircling me a thousandfold, which is the true city of enchantments after all. The millionaire awakes to find himself a beggar, his securities waste paper, and his mansion a village. The beggar, on the other hand, clutches untold wealth more suddenly than the goldfinder of the Macquarie. Young gentlemen (late) of fortune become *ecclesiastics, commissionaires, gentlemen-usurers, cattle-farmers* of the Australian bush. The transformation scenes were certainly not so rapid and complete a quarter of a century ago.'

For my part, however, I felt grateful that such things should be. Two hours ago, I had left my palace a solitary monarch, with subjects enough obedient to my pur-strings, but with not a single friend; the Great Desert of London had spread its golden sands before me, and I had walked upon them, casting a lonely shadow; but now, so gracious is the least touch of human sympathy, this Arabia Deserta seemed changed into Arabia Felix. I was no longer companionless and unregarded; two fellow-creatures yonder (not to mention John Thomas, into whose not unwilling palm I had just slipped five shillings) had some sort of not unkindly interest in me. My native land had begun to welcome me in these two unknown ones, X and Y.

Amber.

Amber, so extensively employed as mouth-pieces for meerschaum pipes and segar holders, is believed to be a fossilized vegetable gum or resin. Anciently a fabulous origin was attributed to it. As it was found on the sea-shore, after a storm, it was said to be the solidified tears of the sisters of Phaeton, or of sea nymphs. It is of a yellowish color, frequently streaked with milky white, the yellow color being semitransparent. These specimens which have a clouded milky appearance are the most highly

valued, as the clear yellow can be imitated by recent and cheaper gums. It is singularly electrical, when rubbed developing negative electricity to such a degree, that in manufacturing it into the forms in which it is sold the workmen are sometimes affected with nervous tremors, and they are obliged frequently to change the pieces they handle.

It is found on the Baltic coast of Prussia, either washed ashore after a gale, or entangled in masses of seaweed. Mines of it are also wrought in Prussia. It is found in America at Amboy, N. J.; at Gay Head, Martha's Vineyard; and at Cape Sable, in Maryland. Leaves of fossil plants and tropical insects are sometimes found imbedded in it, a fact that has given rise to some pretty poetical conceits. In the East it is highly valued, and has been used as a form of concentrated wealth, as are diamonds and other precious stones. When heated, it exhales an agreeable odor, and for this, among other reasons, is in great request as mouth-pieces for pipes.

Roman Women of Fashion.

If we closely compare some particular fashion of ancient days with the fashion of our own time, we shall be surprised to notice the slightness of the difference in taste.—Take, for instance, the mode of arranging the hair. But, before all, take the hair itself. Yes, take it, touch it, look at it, handle it, look at it long, till you make sure of its color. It is the very color we admire so much to-day—red hair, blonde hair, and blonde women were then as much admired and as much sought after as the choicest blonde blossoms of our drawing-room of to-day. So great was the preference given to blonde and yellow and red hair, that all sorts of toilet