

PRECIOUS STONES.

Many of Them That Are Little Known But Very Valuable—How Diamonds Are Classified—The Emerald and the Sapphire.

Mr. Will Oskamp, what is one of the peculiarities of your business?

Our people have to be educated in the matter of appreciating certain valuable stones. The people of London and New York are thoroughly posted on the subject of stones, and therefore they know the value of them.

Out here the diamond is looked upon as the most valuable; in fact, the only really precious stone that there is. As a consequence we labor under a disadvantage, as compared with dealers in the east.

Of course, I know that there are some here who are informed on the subject of precious stones, but I mean that as a class our people have much to learn.

For instance, if I were to ask almost anybody that came in here if he would like to buy an Alexandrite he would not know what I meant.

Tell me something about gems? What is an Alexandrite?

It is dark green in color in daylight and dark red at night. It is named after the czar of Russia, and owes its celebrity to its prominent hues of red and green, the chosen emblematic colors of that empire's flag.

Is it true that you can't break a diamond?

A diamond will crack or break as any other stone, but the cracking will reduce \$1,000 to nothing, spite of the vulgar tradition that you can't break a diamond. Only about one in ten is royal, the others being black and colored (useful in the arts).

How do you get at the value of diamonds?

The valuation of gems is arbitrary, depending on many considerations. Among them is water. If perfectly limpid like a drop of the purest water it is called "first water." Color comes next. Colorless ranks highest, whitish next, while the merest suspicion of green or blue rather brightens the rank of the white stones. Rose comes next, and then yellow or amber, but they must all be perfect in water and flawless to rank among the first class.

What about agates?

They are translucent—all colors. Agates are built up layer on layer, sometimes hundreds to the inch. Those stained by manganese or iron in moss-like figures and veins (moss agates), sometimes closely resembling persons and things, command very high prices.

Can you give me a chapter on the amethyst?

It is transparent purple or violet in color. A cluster as mined generally contains other crystals of blue, green, yellow, red, gray and white. The red crystals are properly rose quartz, the clouded ones smoky quartz; the green are prase, the yellow false topaz, and the perfectly clear are rock crystals. The finest rock crystals are found in great numbers near Hot Springs, Ark., in "diamond mountain."

What is a hard stone aside from the diamond?

The aquamarine—a transparent beryl of greenish blue. It is a lovely stone—sister of the emerald, and very hard. It will cut all the amethysts, but not the topaz, and is not affected by acids. The chrysoberyl (cat's eye) is very hard, but ranks below sapphires, rubies, etc. It is transparent to translucent green in many shades. The chrysoprase is apple green, and some stones are very beautiful and highly valued.

How does the emerald rank?

The translucent or subtransparent and green variety of the beryl, just as the aquamarine is the transparent and blue variety, but it is very much more highly prized. Emeralds rank next to the diamonds, rubies, and finer sapphires. Oriental emerald is the green sapphire—very rare, very beautiful and valuable.

Are there stones that can be passed for another?

The garnet, which is transparent and red, depends upon its value altogether on its looks, for it can often pass as a ruby.

What is a bloodstone?

A variety of chalcedony of a deep green color variegated with blood-red or yellowish spots! It is properly called heliotepe.

Name some other stones. I've run out.

There is the hyacinth cinnamon stone, transparent, yellow, red, and brown. There are garnet hyacinths and zircon hyacinths. Although its intrinsic qualities ought to rank the zircon hyacinth first the market rates it second. Then there is the legalite (blue spar), transparent and deep blue. Only the fine varieties are valued for jewelers' purposes. Next the malachite, translucent green, used for clocks, vases and other ornaments, slabs, etc. Mexican onyx, translucent greenish white, with veins of all colors, makes lovely paper weights, inkstands, pipe-bowls, etc. The onyx is constructed in films or layers of different colors like the agate, except that in the onyx the films are flat, while in the agate they are like the petals of an onion. The onyx is chiefly valued for cutting cameos. The choice colors in true onyx are white, black, and brown. Sardonyx has also a film of carnelian red. The opal's transparent white, pale yellow, grey, green, and red. It owes its value to its peculiar power of exhibiting a wonderful play of colors as it is turned to various angles. The most remarkable is the fire-opal. Precious opal is the very finest and most delicately shaded and tinted of opals. Of the ruby there is the spinel, transparent light, medium or dark red. The oriental sapphire is ruby of the same description, and very difficult to distinguish from the spinel. It is a degree harder. As a general rule the orientals are the most valuable, and spinels of equal beauty are handicapped by reputation. Oriental rubies of the very finest quality are more valuable than diamonds of the same weight.

Let me see—there is the sapphire, transparent, azure, celestial, etc., and blue. Sapphires of the most celestial hue and all other good qualities are worth much less than oriental rubies of the same size. Yellow sapphires are called oriental topaz, green ones oriental emerald, and violet ones oriental amethysts.

The precious topaz is transparent and yellow. There are other varieties—greenish, bluish, reddish, and some are perfectly colorless. When these are entirely transparent and otherwise perfect they have a high value also, for they often pass as rubies, sapphires, and diamonds. Another highly valued stone is the tourmaline. It is transparent, yellow, red, green, blue. The clear, rich stones are greatly prized. The red is called rubellite, and is often spotted as a ruby, as is the yellow for a topaz. Some amber and honey-colored yellow tourmalines are among the most beautiful gems in existence.

The turquoise opaque is blue-green. Turquoise mines in Persia have been worked for thousands of years. We get ours mostly from New Mexico. The ultramarine is translucent, bright blue to green. It is a much valued gem for brooches and other jewelry, in which slab-shaped blocks can be utilized. Also for expensive inlaid work in mosaics. It ranks higher with the artists as a color than aquamarine, but as a gem it is not valuable.

Pearls of the greatest value have a fine orient white, black, or pink tint; that is to say, a distinctive color, with a lively luster that sparkles in the light. The price of pearls depends upon their size, beauty and variety.

CELEBRATED DIAMONDS.

Beautiful Gems Worth Thousands of Dollars.

The largest diamond known is that of the "Rajah of Mattan" in Borneo. It was found on the island about twenty years ago, and weighs 367 carats; it is a pear-shaped stone, with a small hole or crevice at its short end.

"Great Mogul"—The diamond known under this name has received an amount of attention beyond any other. Under the name of the "Kohinoor" (mountain of light) it played an important part in the exhibition of 1851.

The history of this stone dates back to 56 B. C.; but there is nothing known with certainty about it until the beginning of the fourteenth century. After the annexation of the Punjab by the English government it came into the possession of the queen of England on June 3, 1850. Its weight then was 186 1/16 carats, of an irregular egg-like shape, and valued at \$700,000. It was then reduced to 106 1/6 carats, and made into a regular cut brilliant.

The "Orloff," or Amsterdam diamond, weighs 191 3/4 carats, and is set in the top of the Russian imperial scepter. It is of pure water, but not cut to advantage. It was bought by Catherine II. in the year 1775 of Shafra in Amsterdam, for \$450,000, giving him at the same time a title and a pension of \$20,000 for life.

The diamond well-known under the name of the "shah" was given to the emperor of Russia by Prince Cosroes, younger brother of the Albe Mirza, when he was in St. Petersburg. It weighs only 75 carats, but is perfectly pure, without a flaw or cloud, and it is interesting inasmuch as it is only partly cut, many of its natural surfaces being preserved. The cut facets contain Persian inscriptions, and there is a little groove around the top of it to which a cord was fastened, in order that it might be worn about the neck.

One of the most perfect brilliants is the celebrated Pitt, or Regent, which is among the French crown jewels. It weighs 136 3/4 carats. It once ornamented the sword of Napoleon I. Before it was cut it weighed 410 carats.

The Florentine diamond, among the crown jewels of the emperor of Austria, weighs 130 carats. It is of pure water, of beautiful color, and, notwithstanding its color is somewhat of a citron tint, it is valued at \$25,000.

The Sancy diamond weighs 53 1/2 carats, and came from India about the fifteenth century. It was sold by Napoleon to the emperor of Russia for \$375,000.

The Star of the South is the largest diamond found in Brazil, and weighs 234 carats. It is a brilliant of the purest water.

The Pasha of Egypt is cut on eight sides, weighs 40 carats, and cost \$140,000.

The Pigott diamond, brought from India by Lord Pigott, weighs 82 1/2 carats. In 1801 it was sold in a lottery for \$150,000.

The Nassac, formerly in the possession of the East India company, weighed 80 1/2 carats; but since Lord Westminister had it cut anew it weighs only 78 1/2 carats. Its value is about \$150,000.

A Great Sea on Fire.

The shores of the Caspian abound with naphtha springs extending for miles under the sea, the imprisoned gases of this volatile substance often escaping from the fissures in its bed and bubbling up in large volumes to the surface. This circumstance has given rise to the practice of "settling the sea on fire," which is thus described by a modern traveler: "Hiring a steam barge we put out to sea, and after a lengthy search, found a suitable spot. Our boat having moved round to windward, a sailor threw a bundle of burning flax into the sea, when floods of light dispelled the surrounding darkness. No fireworks, no illuminations, are to be compared to the sight that presented itself to our gaze. It was as though the sea trembled convulsively and thousands of shooting, dancing tongues of flame of prodigious size. Now they emerged from the water, now they disappeared. At one time they soared aloft and melted away; at another a gust of wind divided them into dark streaks of flame, the foaming, bubbling billows making music to the scene. In compliance to the wishes of some of our spectators our barge was steered toward the flames, and passed through the midst of them, a somewhat dangerous experiment, as the barge was employed in the transport of naphtha, and was pretty well saturated with the fluid. However, we escaped without accident, and gazed for an hour longer on the unwonted spectacle of the sea on fire."

Some lawyers' minds are legal blanks.

Two Sisters and Their Beaus.

John Quincy Adams and John Hancock, "thesinger," married two sisters, the daughters of a noted Methodist divine in Connecticut. John Quincy was a favorite with the old people, and Mary's choice was approved by them. So, when the banns were published the parent said: "Mary, if you will furnish the text I will preach you a wedding sermon." She was equal to the task and gave the text: "Mary hath chosen the good part, which shall not be taken from her." Needless to say that justice was done to the occasion and the text. Not so with Margaret, who in the meanwhile was receiving the attentions of her John in a very inexpensive way, as far as her parents were concerned, for it is said that "she never crossed his legs under their festive board." So when the banns were published she said to her father: "Father, you preached a wedding sermon for Mary; cannot you preach one for me?" He at first demurred, but at last consented and called for the text, when Margaret, who was equal to the occasion, said: "And John came, neither eating nor drinking, and yet ye say he hath no devil."

A Combat Between a Cow and a Gander.

A combat between a cow and a gander is described by a newspaper of Albany, Ga. The cow made a violent attack on the gander, when, with much deliberation and coolness, the bird, as the cow rushed on him, caught a strong hold with his beak on the hair and hide between the horns and flapped his wings furiously. The astonished cow was glad to shake her antagonist off. But after retreating a few feet and looking upon the proud neck and insignificant form of the haughty bird she concluded to try him another round, and again dashed at the gander, who was a little more deliberate, if possible, in taking his hold, and with swift and strong wings he showered his blows on the eyes of the foe. The cow had evidently miscalculated the prowess of her diminutive enemy, and after considerable effort shook the pugnacious bird off and beat a retreat.

About Fair.

In a Montana court a suit involving the title to six mining claims was several years ago decided by Judge W. in some mysterious way by which he gave four claims to one side and two to the other. After the decision was announced an attorney in the case met one of the litigants, an honest old Misourian, and asked him what he thought of it.

"Wall," he replied, "I think Judge W. did about the fair thing. Yer see, thar war four of us an' two of 'em. That would be a claim apiece. An' the judge he gav four claims to us an' two to them, so each man gets a claim. I don't see how he could ha' done much fairer than that."

But the judge never enjoyed being joked about the peculiar legal principle on which he had decided that case.

Mr. Arthur Shurtzoff, Parker, Dakota, writes that he suffered for two years with a lame knee, which was entirely cured by the use of St. Jacobs Oil. He considers it a most wonderful remedy. It conquers pain.

A Monster Bill of Fare.

Speaking of big dinners the bill of fare for the Christmas dinner at the National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers, at Dayton, O., affords some interesting figures. It is as follows: Oyster soup 700 gallons; roast turkey, 3,200 pounds; giblet dressing, 80 gallons; mashed potato, 54 bushels; cranberry sauce, 7 barrels; celery, 200 dozen; lima beans, 300 pounds; pickles, 30 gallons; bread, 1,500 pounds; crackers, 200 pounds; butter, 200 pounds; cheese, 300 pounds; mince pie, 1,200 pies; coffee, 100 gallons; oranges 450 dozen.

Mr. L. D. Vinson, Cashier D. & I. R. R. has tried and endorses Red Star Cough Cure.

Laughing to the Death.

Zexis was one of the most celebrated painters. His last great work was the picture of an old woman. The face of the antiquated dame displayed all of the deformities and defects which make age deplorable. The form was lean and shriveled. The eyes were bleared and the cheeks hung ghastly on the cheek bones. The gums, gloriously were toothless. The mouth was sunken and the chin was far protruding. These great deformities were presented in a style of such ludicrous combination that when Zexis, as is usual with artists who have completed a great work, drew back to contemplate the offspring of his fancy, he was excited to such an immoderate fit of laughter that his joy wasturned to pain and he died on the spot.

Tested and Approved—J. M. Little, Esq., Cashier Marine Nat. Bank, Baltimore, Md. says:—"I have tested Salvation Oil and find it an excellent remedy for neuralgia."

The first watches were made at Nuernberg in 1847.

No one knows better than those who have used Carter's Little Liver Pills what relief they have given when taken for dyspepsia, dizziness, pain in the side, constipation, disordered stomach, &c. Try them.

Postmaster-General Vicks takes his noon-day lunch at a dairy restaurant.

"Constipation Can Be Cured." Dr. J. S. Coates, Owensville, Ohio, says: "I have given Scott's Emulsion of Cod Liver Oil with Hypophosphites to four patients with better results than seemed possible with any remedy. All were hereditary cases of Lung diseases, and advanced to that stage when Coughs, pain in the chest, frequent breathing, frequent pulse, fever and Emaciation. All these cases have increased in weight from 16 to 23 lbs., and are not now needing any medicine."

The first newspaper advertisement appeared in 1652.

PATENTS obtained by Louis Peggry & Co., At Large, Washington, D. C. Est'd 1864. Advice free.

Kerosene was first used for lighting purposes in 1826.

The Acknowledged Cure for Sick Headache, CARTER'S LITTLE LIVER PILLS. Dose, one pill.

The first glass factory was built in the United States in 1780.

Gold was discovered in California in 1848.

The first telescope was used in England in 1608.

The first horse railroad was built in 1826-7.

Some lawyers' minds are legal blanks.

In the cure of severe coughs, weak lungs, spitting of blood, and the early stages of Consumption, Dr. Pierce's "Golden Medical Discovery" has astonished the medical faculty. While it cures the severest cough, it strengthens the system and purifies the blood. By druggists.

The first printing press in the United States was printed in 1620.

For colds, fevers and inflammatory attacks, as well as for cholera morbus, diarrhoea, dysentery or bloody flux, colic or cramps in the stomach, use Dr. Pierce's Extract of Senna Weed, composed of best Grape Brandy, Smart Weed or Water Pepper, Jamaica Ginger and Camphor Water.

Glass windows were first introduced into England in the eighth century.

Our Progress. As stages are quickly abandoned with the completion of railroads, so the huge, drastic, cathartic pills, composed of crude and bulky medicines, are quickly abandoned with the introduction of Dr. Pierce's "Pleasant Purgative Pellets," which are sugar-coated and little larger than mustard seeds, but composed of highly concentrated vegetable extracts. By druggists.

Coaches were first used in England in 1569.

Wants the Facts Known. Mr. Editor: I and my neighbors have been led so many times into buying different things for the liver, kidneys and blood, that have done us more harm than good. I feel it due your readers to advise them when an honest and good medicine like Dr. Harter's Iron Tonic can be had.

Yours truly, An Old Subscriber.

War has been declared against grease. This cowardly pun has been stamped.

A Deep Mystery.

Wherever you are located you should write to Hallett & Co., Portland, Maine, and receive free, full information about work that you can do and live at home, making thereby from \$5 to \$25 and upwards daily. Some have made over \$50 in a day. All is new. Hallett & Co. will start you. Capital not needed. Either sex. All ages. No class of working people have ever made money so fast heretofore. Comfortable fortunes await every worker. All this seems a deep mystery to you, reader, but send along your address and it will be cleared up and proved. Better not delay; now is the time.

The Hand of Time spans rather severely sometimes.

FOR THIRTY DISEASES, COUGHS, COLIC, etc., effectual relief is found in the use of "Brown's Bronchial Troches." Price 25 cts.

Butter is now "protected," but the cows still kick.

During the war, Dr. Lloyd, of Ohio, from exposure contracted consumption. He says: "I have no hesitation in saying that it was by the use of Allen's Lung Balm that I am now alive and enjoying perfect health." Don't experiment with new and untried medicines. If you have a cough or cold, take at once Allen's Lung Balm.

The first use of a locomotive in this country was in 1825.

We would be pleased to know of a man or woman who has never had headache or been subject to constipation. As these ailments are so universal a little advice may be in order. Why should persons cram their stomachs with unseasoning purgative pills, etc., which sicken and debilitate when such a pleasant and sterling remedy as Prickly Ash Bitters will act mildly and effectively on the liver, kidney, stomach and bowels, and at the same time tone up and strengthen the whole system, causing headache, constipation and all such distressing evils to quickly disappear.

Perussion arms were used in the United States army in 1830.

Lyon's Patent Metallic Stiffeners prevent boots and shoes from running over.

The first copper cent was coined in New Haven in 1687.

When Baby was sick, we gave her Castoria.

When she was a Child, she cried for Castoria.

When she became a Woman, she clung to Castoria.

When she had Children, she gave them Castoria.

The Omaha Type foundry can furnish new newspaper outfits on short notice. Prices same as in Chicago and freight already paid to Omaha.

For Good Purposes.

Mrs. M. A. Dauphin, of Philadelphia, is well known to the ladies of that city from the great good she has done by means of Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound. She writes Mrs. Pinkham of a recent interesting case: "A young married lady came to me suffering with a severe case of Prolapsus and Uteration. She commenced taking the Compound and in two months was fully restored. In proof of this she soon found herself in an interesting condition. Influenced by foolish friends she attempted to evade the responsibilities of maternity. After ten or twelve days she came to me again and she was indeed in a most alarming state and suffered terribly. I gave her a tablespoonful of the compound every hour for eight hours until she fell asleep; she awoke much relieved and evidently better. She continued taking the Compound, and in due season she became the mother of a fine healthy boy. But for the timely use of the medicine she believes her life would have been lost."

Your Druggist has the Compound. \$1 per bottle.

A healthy case. No signs of Prolapsus, Uteration, or any other disease. Price, \$1.00. Sold by Dr. J. C. Ayer & Co., Lowell, Mass.

Morphine Habit Cured in 10 to 20 Days. No pay till cured. Dr. J. C. Ayer & Co., Lowell, Mass.

F. A. LEHMANN, Solicitor of Patents, Washington, D. C. Head for Circular.

TELEGRAPHY Learn here and earn good money. Write Valentine Brown, Jacksonville, Fla.

W. N. U. Omaha - 343-1.

CASTORIA for Infants and Children.

"Castoria is so well adapted to children that I recommend it as superior to any prescription known to me." H. A. ARCES, M. D., 111 So. Oxford St., Brooklyn, N. Y.

Castoria cures Colic, Constipation, Sour Stomach, Harshness, Eructation, Wind, Worms, gives sleep, and promotes digestion. Without injurious medication.

A conference of Labor Editors will occur in January.

Christianity was introduced into Japan in 1549.

"My time is up" said the Doctor to the patient, whom he found using Dr. Bull's Cough Syrup, and he was correct, for that cough was soon a thing of the past. Price 25 cents.

Ombles were first introduced in New York in 1830.

Sallow Skin and Pimples on the Face Cured by CARTER'S LITTLE LIVER PILLS. 25 cts.

The first almanac was printed by George von Furbach in 1460.

Excursions to the Winter Resorts of the South. The Wabash, St. Louis & Pacific Ry. are now selling round-trip tickets, good until June 1st, 1887, at greatly reduced rates.

The Omaha Type foundry can furnish new newspaper outfits on short notice. Prices same as in Chicago and freight already paid to Omaha.

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Will purify the BLOOD, regulate the LIVER and KIDNEYS, and cure the HEADACHE, BRUISES, BURNS, SORES, and all other ailments of the BLOOD, LIVER, STOMACH, KIDNEYS, BOWELS, &c. It Purifies the Blood, Invigorates and Cleanses the System.

It is purely a Medicine as its cathartic properties forbid its use as a beverage. It is pleasant to the taste, and as easily taken by children as adults.

DYSPEPSIA, CONSTIPATION, JAUNDICE, SICK HEADACHE, BILIOUS COMPLAINTS, &c. disappear at once under its beneficial influence.

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GOOD ENOUGH FAMILY OIL CAN.

The most practical, large sized Oil Can in the market. Lamps are filled direct by the pump without lifting can. No drip, no oil on floor or table. No faucet to leak and waste contents or cause explosions. Closes perfectly at night. No Leakage No Evaporation—Absolutely safe. Don't be humbugged by worthless imitations. Buy the "Good Enough." Mfg'd by WINFIELD MANF'G CO., Warron, Ohio.

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WEAK, NERVOUS PEOPLE And others suffering from nervous debility, exhausting nervousness, premature decline of youth, or any other nervous disease, cured by Dr. Horner's famous Electric Magnetic Belt. Thousands in every State in the Union have been cured and sold to years. Whole family can wear same belt. Electric suspensories free with same belt. Avoid worthless imitations and bogus companies. Electric Trusses for Hernia, Prolapsus, etc. Send for Circulars.

Dr. W. J. HORNER, INVENTOR, 191 WABASH AV., CHICAGO.

The oldest medicine in the world is probably Dr. J. C. Ayer's Sarsaparilla. This article is a carefully prepared Physician's prescription, and has been in constant use nearly a century, and maintaining the same superior reputation that have been introduced into the market. The sale of this article is constantly increasing. If the directions are followed it will never fail. Avoid worthless imitations. Write for Circulars. JOHN L. THOMPSON, SONS & CO., TRUY, N. Y.

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WE WANT YOU! A profitable employment to represent us in every State. Salary \$100 per month and expenses, or a large commission on sales if preferred. Good salary, every one knows. Good and profitable business. STANDARD SILVERWARE CO., BOSTON, MASS.

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