

MISSING SINCE 1791.

MYSTERY OF THE DISAPPEARANCE OF SOME FAMOUS JEWELS.

That of a Casket of Valuable Gems From the House of Mme. Du Barry in Paris. Arrest of Five Men With the Property in London.

Where are Mme. Du Barry's jewels? This question is puzzling many persons at present. Though she has been dead for many years, this famous Frenchwoman has suddenly become an object of great interest throughout Europe, and all that concerns her romantic life is regarded as of historic importance.

Mme. Du Barry was very wealthy, and up to the present hardly any one seems to have made the slightest effort to lay hands upon the fortune which she unquestionably left behind her.

Divers go to the bottom of the sea in quest of bullion, others spend years in hunting after legendary wealth, but until now no one seems to have given a thought to Mme. Du Barry's lost cashbox, with its wonderful collection of diamonds and other gems.

History seems to give a clear clue as to the present location of these gems. On the evening of Jan. 10, 1791, Mme. Du Barry visited the Duc de Brissac, her intimate being to return on the following day. During her absence burglars entered her bedroom and carried off her jewelry.

Mme. Du Barry's faithful servant, M. de la Roche, who was on duty in front of the castle was found intoxicated in a neighboring wine-shop.

The list of the stolen jewels is still to be found in the French archives and reads like a chapter of "The Arabian Nights," so bewildering is the long catalogue of diamonds, rubies, emeralds, pearls and other precious stones.

When the theft was made known, the French public smiled in incredulity. Mme. Du Barry was not popular, and the revolutionary journals were unanimous in declaring that the former favorite of Louis XVI had invented the whole story.

According to the London Public Advertiser, published at the time, the men who had stolen the jewels came straight to London with their booty.

There were five of them, and on their arrival they went to a first class hotel and ordered a first class dinner. Their lack of language and seamy clothing did not tend to inspire confidence in the hotel keeper.

They succeeded in convincing him that they had plenty of cash and only needed to get it changed into English money. On the following day they went to Mr. Simon, one of the richest jewelers in London, and offered to sell him some precious stones at a price which was scarcely one-sixth of their real value.

The jeweler bought all of them, then asked them if they had any more of the same quality.

They said that they had, whereupon the jeweler, finding some pretext for leaving his shop, hastened to tell his story to the police. The latter had little difficulty in effecting the arrest of the five men, who, finding themselves discovered, attempted to throw the diamonds in the fire. They failed to accomplish this purpose, however, and the police took possession of the treasure.

One of the thieves was an Englishman who had before been frequently arrested on various charges.

Being informed of the arrests, Mme. Du Barry came to London, accompanied by her jeweler. The latter identified the precious stones, and his testimony was so convincing that nothing seemed to remain but to punish the malefactors and hand back the property to its rightful owner.

In those days a crime of the kind was punished with hanging. Mme. Du Barry, however, was not to recover her property so easily. The thieves positively refused to plead guilty.

The beautiful Frenchwoman went to Sergeant Pison, where they were confined, thinking that she could fascinate their leader into a confession of his crime, but in this instance those charms which had worked wonders with so many men proved utterly fruitless.

The callous thief remained stubborn as a mule and refused to go to the scaffold at her behest. The result was that the lord chief justice decided in their favor. The charges against them, he said, had not been proved, and furthermore no English tribunal was competent to inflict a penalty for a crime committed in a foreign country. The five thieves then were discharged. As to the jewels, the court was rather in a quandary.

The thieves had evidently stolen them, but if they were not Mme. Du Barry's property, whose were they? The matter was ingeniously compromised. The jewels were placed in a cashbox, on which was stamped the seal of the city of London, and were then placed for safe keeping with Messrs. Ransom, Morland & Co., who did a large banking business in Pall Mall, near Marlborough House. The understanding was that the jewels would remain with them until the court had rendered a definite decision as to their ownership.

One hundred and five years have elapsed since they were handed over to the bankers, and no definite decision has yet been rendered.

But on the morning after the theft Mme. Du Barry promised a big reward to any one who would find her jewels, and the jeweler who had denounced the thieves demanded this, and the lord chief justice, without any hesitation, decided in his favor.

So far as Mme. Du Barry was concerned, the case ended here. She never saw her jewels again. In due time she was condemned to death by the revolutionary tribunal on the ground that "she had conspired against the republic and had furnished the success of those hostile to France by procuring their immense sums of money during the frequent journeys which she made to England."

Later a nephew of Mme. Du Barry and an officer of the Imperial guard endeavored, but in vain, to establish his claim to the jewels, and since then no new claim has been put forward, and it is difficult to say what has become of the treasure, which was valued at \$25,000 in 1791. There are many who believe that it is still hidden away in some cellar or vault in Pall Mall.—London Mail.

The Suit's Advantages. "Why do you wear that suit? You don't like a bicycle, do you?" "No. But the bicyclists naturally think I play golf."

War to the Knife. "Shall you marry Jack if I rob him?" "Yes, and if you accept him!"—Pitt Me Up.

CHINCH BUGS NO CINCH.

Badger Bill Writes the Government and Gives Up His Claim.

After having lived on a government claim for a year and finding that he had only succeeded in propagating a new species of chinch bug, Badger Bill abandoned his claim and addressed the following letter to the government:

REGVILLE, Kan., July 28, 1897. The Government of the United States, Washington, D. C.

DEER SIR—I don't want yer claim no more. I am tired of bein an axual settler, and I wait for rain an' tard of raisin chinch bugs. I am also tired of conductin a sperimental station at my own expense, raisin chinch bugs, I claim I understand that you was gonn to dig an irrigatin ditch so we could water our crops, so I think you was gonn to do "the fare" thing I subscribe for yer paper. Every time it has come I looked for somethin about the ditch, an' each time I say that you was borrowin more money to do it. I asked you to borrow more money to do it. I asked you to borrow more money to do it. I asked you to borrow more money to do it.

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"Don't you see? It'll cost him more to buy the extras than I paid for the wheel."—Chicago Tribune.

The Cricket and His Song. Within the stone wall gray That winds the road along I hear him all the day Upkick his legs in song. Or, to be less correct, He plays upon his life, In which I'er detect The spirit of the knife.

He sizzles with a sizz, Without a blooming break. He whizzles with a whizz That makes my muscles ache. With vigor sharp and fierce He spills his strident note, Which is enough to pierce The ean within the goat.

When from the wall he vanishes, He perpetrates his squeak. When turning somersaults, He's rasping like a streak. When on the grass blade slim I see him stately poised, He dedicates his vim Unto the cause of noise.

His hinder members whit, Whereat an awful din Ensues, and then he is A Chinese victim. Upon whose melodies Would hang and fondly hang, Afloat on fairy seas, The victory, Li Hung Chang.

Oh, while he rudely scrapes With wild, uncanny art, This prayer devoutly shapes Itself within my heart, "Oh, hit him on the hop, And when he sprawls headlong Peak all his legs and stop Peak all his legs and stop His scissors grinding song!" Tunkittrik in New York Journal.

War to the Knife. "Shall you marry Jack if I rob him?" "Yes, and if you accept him!"—Pitt Me Up.

The Suit's Advantages. "Why do you wear that suit? You don't like a bicycle, do you?" "No. But the bicyclists naturally think I play golf."

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