

withdrawn," said my uncle,
"Can I not take his place?"

upon their feet.

"You would not have it said that I gave challenge and let another carry it out," hispered Boy Jim. "This is my one

my way."
The emith's broad and usually stelld face

was working with his conflicting emotions. At last he banged his fist down upon the

you 'ave to fight before you are through with it," cried Berks, lurching heavly through the crowd. "You'll need a friend to

"My name, young man."

and I'll give you a turn.

For heaven's sake don't stand in

CHAPTER XI. THE FIGHT IN THE COACH HOUSE. The curt announcement was followed by a moment of silent surprise, and then by a general shout of laughter. There might be argument as to who was the champion at chance. each weight, but there could be no question that all the champions of all the weights were seated round the tables. An audacious challenge, which embraced them one and all, table without regard to eize or age, could hardly be regarded otherwise than as a joke, but it was a joke that might be a dear one for the

"In this genuine?" asked my uncle. "Yes, Sir Charles," answered the Endlord.

"The man is waiting below." "It's a kid!" cried several of the fighting 'Some cave is a-gammonin' us.' "Don't you believe it," answered the land-rd. "He's a real, slap-up Corinthian by his dress, and he means what he says, or else I

ain't no judge of a man."

My uncle whispered for a few moments with the prince of Wales. "Well, gentlemen," said he at last, "the night is still young, and if any of you should wish to soling, and if any of you should wish to chow the company a little of your skill, you could not wish a better opportunity."

"What weight is he, Bill?" asked Jem Belcher,

"Surely you are not going to set me to "S

"He is close onto six foot, and I should fight a drunken man,' said he. "Where is put him well up toto the thirteen stone when Jem Beicher?" 'Heavy metal," cried Jackson. "Who

takes him on?" takes him on?"

They all wanted to, from the nine-stone Dutch Sam upward. The air was filled with their hearse shouts and their arguments why each should be the chosen one. To fight when they were flushed with wine and ripe for mischiel—above all, to fight before so se lect a company, with the prince himself by the ringside—was a chance which did not often come in their way. Only Jackson, Bel-cher, Mendoza and one or two others of the sober and more famous men remained slient thinking it beneath their dignity that they should condescend to do irregular a bye-

Well, you can't all fight him," remarked Jackson, when the babel had died away.
"It's for the chairman to choose."
"Perhaps your royal highness has a prefer-

ence," said my uncle.
"By —, I'd take him on mycelf if my po "By - I'd take him on mycelf if my sition was different to what it is," said prince, whose face was growing redder and his eyes more glazed. "You've seen me with the mufflers, Jackson! You know my form!" "I've seen your royal highness, and I've felt your royal highness," said the courtly Leckson!

Perhaps Jem Belcher would give us an exhibition,' said my uncle, Belcher emiled, and shock his handsome

"There's my brother Tom here, who has never been blooded in London, sir. might make a fairer match of it." He

"Give 'em over to me," roared Joe Berks.
"I've been waith' for a turn all evening. an' Uli fight any man that tries to take my place. 'E's my meat, my masters. Leave 'em to me if you want to see how a calf's head should be dressed. If you put tom Belcher helore me I'll fight Tom Belcher, and for that matter d'il fight Jem B Belcher before me I'll fight Tom Belcher, and for that matter f'll fight Jem Belcher, or Bill Belcher, or any other Belcher that tyer came out of Bristol."

It was clear that Berks had got to the stage when he must fight some one. His beavy face was corred and the value stage.

"Yes, let us all go to the Fives Court."

But this did not at all suit the vlews of the landlord, who saw in this lucky incident a change of reaping a fresh harvest from his

"I think you'll agree with me, gentlemen, that Joe Borks would be all the better for some fresh air and exercise," said my uncle. "With the concurrence of his royal highness and of the company, I shall select him as our champion on this occasion."
"You do me proud," cried the fellow, staggering to his feet and pulling at his coat.

"If I don't glut him within the five minutes may I never see Shropshire again." "Wait a bit, Berke," cried several of the nateurs. "Where's it going to be held?" "Where you like, masters, I'll fight "im

in a sawpit, or on the outside of a coach, if it please you. Put us toe to toe, and leave the rest with me." They can't fight here with all this litter, said my uncle. "Where shall it be?

"'Pon my soul, Tregell's," cried the prince, "I think our unknown friend might have a word to say upon that matter. He'll be vastly ill used if you don't let him have his own choice of conditions. You are right, sir. We must have him

"That's easy enough," said the landlord,



OR ANY OTHER BELCHER THAT EVER CAME OUT OF BRISTOL."

"for here he comes through the doorway. I glanced around, and had a side view of a tail and well dressed young man, in a long brown traveling coat and a black felt hat. The next instant he had turned, and I had clutched with both hands onto Champ-

ion Harrison's arm.
"Harrison" I gasped; "it's Boy Jim!"
And yet somehow the possibility, and even
the probability of it, had occurred to me
from the beginning, and I believe that it
had to Champion Harrison also, for I had noticed that his face grew grave and troub-bled from the very moment that there was talk of the stranger below. Now, the instant that the buzz and surprise and admiration which was caused by Jim's face and figure had died away. Harrison was on his feet gesticulating in his excitement. "It's my nephew. Jim. gentlemen." he eried. "He's not 20 yel, and it's no doing of mine that he should be here."

Let him alone Harrison," cried Jackson.

"He's big enough to take care of himself."
"This matter has gone rather far," said
my uncle. "I think, Hardison, that you are
too good a sportsman to prevent your sportsman to prevent your showing whether he takes nephew from showing whether he takes after his uncle."
"It's very different from me," cried Harri-

son. In great distress. "But PB tell you what I'll do, gentlemen. I never thought to stand up in a ring again, but I'll take on Joe Berks with pleasure, just to give a bit o' sport to this company."

Boy Jim stepped across and laid his hand upon the prize fighter's shoulder.

upon the prize fighter's shoulder

and he came hack again and again as swite atraining on a leash.

The hubbub of the betting had risen until it had drowned all other sounds, men shouting their opinions from one side of the coach house to the other, and waving their hands to attract attention, or as a sign that they had accepted a wager. Sir John Lade, standing just in front of me, was roaring taken. hands to attract attention, or as a sign that they had accepted a wager. Sir John Lade, standing just in front of me, was roaring out the odds against Jim, and laying them out the odds against Jim, and laying them freely with those who fancied the appearance of the unknown.

"I've seen Berks fight," said he to the Hon Berksley Craven. "No country haw-"I've seen Berks fight," said he to the Hon. Berkeley Craven. "No country haw-buck is going to knock out a man with

such a record. "He may be a country hawbuck," the other answered, "but I have been reckoned a judge of anything, either on two legs or four, and I tell you, Sir John, that I never saw a man who looked better bred in my life. Are you still laying against him?"
"Three to one." before, and I know that it ends in your "I trust, Harrison, that your opposition is

"Three to one." "Have you once in hundreds."

"Very good, Craven! There they go! rks! Berks! Bravo, Berks! Bravo! I lnk, Craven, that I shall trouble you for that hundred." At last he banged his fist down upon the table.

The two men had stood up to each other, and the Jews, seeing that the affair was to be and is. Jim, boy, for the Lord's sake, temember your distances and stick to outfighting with a man that could give you a stone."

The two men had stood up to each other, and the Jews, seeing that the affair was over, let their man's head fall back with a crack on the floor, and there he lay, his fighting with a man that could give you a stone."

Herks held both erms half extended and his right thrown across the lower part of his chest, while the stone. Berks held both erms half extended and his feet almost level, so that he might lead to continuous and fighting men crowded past off with either side. For an instant they his left well out and his right thrown across the lower part of his chest, while Berks held both erms half extended and his feet almost level, so that he might lead off with either side. For an instant they looked each other over, and then Berks, ducking his head, and rushing in with a hand over hand style of hitting, bore Jim down into his corner. It was a backward slip rather than a knockdown, but a thin trickle of blood was seen at the corner of Jim's mouth. In an instant the seconds had selved their men and carried them back "I was sure that Harrison would not stand in the way of sport," eald my uncle. "We are glad that you have stepped up that we might consult you as to the arrangement for giving effect to your very sporting chal-"Whom am I to fight?" asked Jim, looking of Jim's mouth. around at the company, who were now all had seized their men and carried them back Young man, you'll know enough of who

into their corners. "Do you mind doubling our bet?" said Berkeley Craven, who was craning his neck to get a glimpse of Jim.

"Four to one on Berks! Four to one on Berks!" cried the ringsiders.

"The odds have gone up, you see, you have four to one in hundreds?"
"Very good, Sir John." "You seem to fancy him more for having

"You seem to kincy aim more for naving been knocked down."
"He was pushed down, but he stopped every blow, and I liked the look on his face as he got up again." "I should be glad to try you, if I may,"
"You must work up to me, my lad. You don't take a ladder at one jump, but do it face as he got up again.

"Well, it's the old-stager for me. ... Here
they come again! He's got a pretty etyle,
and he covers his points well, but it isn't the rung by rung. Show yourself to be a match



HIS SECONDS WERE ON HIM INSTANTLY.

"And I like the look of you and I wish you | best looking that wins." well," said Belcher, holding out his hand. They were not unlike each other, either in face or figure, though the Bristol man was a few years the older, and a murmur of critical admiration was heard as the two tall, lithe

door began to slip through, in the hope of securing the best places. My stout neighbor, Bill Warr, pulled Harrison to one side.

"I'd stop it if I were you," he whispered.

"I would if I could. It's no wish of mine that he should fight. But there's no territor.

that he should fight. But there's no turning him when once his mind is made up." All his own fights put together had never reduced the puglist to such a state of agita-

"Wait on 'im yourself, then, and chuck up the sponge when things begin to go wrong. You know Joe Berks' record?"

"He's since my time. Well, he's a terror, that's all. It's only Belcher that can master 'im. You see the man for yourself, six foot, fourteen stone, and full of the devil. Belcher's beat 'im twice, but the second time 'e 'ad all 'is work

'Well, well, we've got to go through with it. You've not seen Boy Jim put his mawleys up or maybe you'd think better of his chances. When he was short of 16 he licked the cock of the South Downs, and he's come n a long way since then."

The company was swarming through the door and clattering down the stair as we fol-lowed in the stream. A fine rain was falling, and the yellow lights from the windows glistened upon the wet cobblestones in the yard. How welcome that sweet breath of damp air was after the foetid atmosphere of the supper room. At the other end of the yard was an open door, sharply outlined by the gleam of lanterns within, and through this they poured, amateurs and fighting men jostling each other in their eagerness to get to the front. For my own part, being a smallish man, I should have seen nothing had I not found an upturned bucket in a corner, upon which I perched myself with the wail at my

It was a large room, with a wooden floor and an open square in the ceiling, which was fringed with the heads of the hostlers and stable boys who were looking down from the harness room above. A carriage lamp was slung in each corner and a very large stable lantern hung from a rafter in the center. A coil of rope had been brought in, and, under the direction of Jackson, four men had been "What space do you give them?" asked

my uncle.
"Twenty-four, as they are both big ones "Very good, and half minutes

"Very good, and half minutes between rounds, I suppose. I'll umpire if Sir Loth'an Hume will do the same, and you can hold the watch and referee, Jackson."

With great speed and exactness every preparation was rapidly made by these experienced men. Mendoza and Dutch Sam were commissioned to attend to Berks while Champion Harrison did the same for Boy Jim. Sponges, towels, and some brandy

Champion Harrison did the same for Boy Jim. Sponges, towels, and some brandy in a bladder were passed over the heads of the crowd for the use of the seconds. "Here's our man." cried Belcher. "Come along. Berks, or we'll go to fetch you." Jim had appeared in the ring stripped to the waist, with a colored handkerchief tied round his middle. A shout of admiration came from the speciators as they looked round his middle. A shout of admiration came from the speciators as they looked upon the fine lines of his figure, and I found myself roaring with the rest. His shoulders were sloping rather than bulky, and his chest was deep rather than broad, but the muscle was all in the right place, rippling down in long, low curves from neck to shoulder, and from shoulder to elbow. His work at the anyth had developed his arms

work at the anvil had developed his arms to the utmost, and his healthy country living gave a sleek gloss to his ivory skin, which shone in the lamp light. His expres-sion was full of spirit and confidence, and he wore a grim sort of half-smile which I had seen many a time in our boyhood, and which meant, I knew, that his pride had

which meant, I knew, that his pride had set fron hard, and that his senses would fall him long before his courage.

Joe Berks, in the meanwhile, had swaggered in, and stood with folded arms between his seconds in the opposits corner. His face had none of the eager alertness of his opponent, and his skin, of a dead of his opponent, and his skin, of a dead white, with heavy folds about the chest and inch. I never thought ng again, but I'll take not a man who should fight hapany."

In ever thought ng again, but I'll take not I'll take not a man who should fight hapany."

In the was not a man who should fight without training. A life of toping and ease naturations and laid his hand left him flabby and greas. On the other arm, and though the lad sprang lightly perial Extra Dry Champagne. It is the house of Austria, at Vietna, are some rehand, he was famous for his mettle and for arm, and though the lad sprang lightly perial Extra Dry Champagne. It is the house of Austria, at Vietna, are some rehand, he was famous for his mettle and for arm, and though the lad sprang lightly perial Extra Dry Champagne. It is the house of Austria, at Vietna, are some rehand, he was famous for his mettle and for arm, and though the lad sprang lightly round him, looking for an opening, he was

They were at it again, and I was jumping about upon my bucket in my excitement. It was evident that Berks meant to finish the battle off-hand, while Jim, with two of the most experienced men in England to advise him, was quite aware that his correct tactics were to allow the ruffian expend his strength and wind in vain. There was something horrible in the ferocious energy of Berks' h'tting, every blow fetching a grunt from him as he smashed it in, and after each I gazed at Jim, as I have gazed at a stranded vessel upon the Sussex beach, when wave after wave has roared over it, fearing each time that I should find the landlord, who saw in this lucky incident a chance of reaping a fresh harvest from his out on his low forchead, while his fierce gray eyes looked victously from man to man in quest of a quarrel. His great red hands were bunched into huge gnarled fists, and he shook one of them memeringly as his dranken gaze swept round the tables.

"If think you'll agree with me, geutlemen, that Joe Berks would be all the batter for the face has a discover of the same of

Gradually he worked Jim back into an angle of the ropes from which there was no escape, and then, when he had him fairly inned, sprang upon him like a tiger. What happened was so quick that I cannot set its sequence down in words, but I saw Jim make a quick stoop under the swinging arms, and at the same instant I heard a ringing smack, and there was Jim dancing about in the middle of the ring, and Berks lying upon his ide on the floor with his hand to his How they roared! Prize fighters, Corin-thians, prince, stable boy and landlord were all shouting at the top of their lungs. Old Buckhorse was skipping about on a box be-side me, shricking out criticisms and advice in strange, obsolete ring jargon, which no one could understand. His dull eyes were chining, his parchment face was quivering with excitement and his strange musical call rang out above the hubbub. The two men were hurried to their corners, one second sponging them down while the other flapped a towel in front of their faces, while they, with arms hanging down and legs extended, ried to draw all the air they could into their ungs in the brief space allowed them. "Where's your country hawbuck now?" cried Craven, triumphantly. "Did ever you

vitness anything more masterly?" "He's no Johnny Raw, certainly," said Sir John, shaking his head. "What odds are "What odds are giving on Berks, Lord Sele?"

"I take you twice in hundreds. "Here's Sir John Lade hedging!" cried uncle, smiling back at us over his shoulder. "Time!" said Jackson, and the two men Time? Said Jackson, and the sprang forward to the mark again.

This round was a good deal chorter than that which had preceded it. Berks' orders evidently were to close at any cost, and so make use of his extra weight and strength before the superior condition of his antagonist could have time to tell. On the other onist could have time to tell. On the other hand, Jim, after his experience in the last round, was less disposed to make any great exertion to keep him at arm's length. He led at Berks' head, as he came rushing in, and missed him, receiving a severe body blew in return, which left the imprint of four blew in return, which left the imprint of tour angry knuckles above his ribs. As they closed Jim caught his opponent's builet head under his arm for an inetant and put a couple of half-arm blows in, but the prize-fighter pulled him over by his weight, and the two fell panting side by side upon the ground. Jim sprang up, however, and walked over to his corner, while Berks, distressed by his evening's dissipation, leaned one arm upon Mendoza and the other upon Dutch Sam, as he made for his seat. "Bellows to mend!" cried Jem Belcher.

Where's the four to one now?" "Give us time to get the lid off our pepper box," said Mendoza. "We mean to make night of it." 'Looks like it," cried Jack Harrison. "He'

shut one of his eyes already. Even money that my boy wins it!"
"How much?" asked several voices. "Two pounds four and three pence," cried Harrison, counting out all his worldly wealth.

'Time!" said Jackson once more, They were both at the mark in an instant im as full of sprightly confidence as ever and Berks with a dogged grin upon his buil-dog face, and a most victous gleam in the only eye which was of use to him. His half-minute had not enabled him to recover his reath, and his huge, hairy chest was rising and falling with a quick, loud panting, like a spent hound. "Go in, boy! Bustle him!" roared Harrison and Belcher. "Get your wind, Joe, get your wind!" cried the Jews. So now we had a reversal of tactics, for it was Jim who went in to hit with all the was Jim who went in to hit with all the vigor of his young strength and unimpaired energy, while it was the savage Berks who was paying his debt to nature for the many injuries which he had done her. He gasped, he gurgled, his face grew purple in his attempts to get his breath, while, with his long left arm extended and his right thrown across, he tried to screen himself from the strength of his voung actasonist. Throw when attack of his young antagonist. "Drop when he hits!" cried Mendoza. "drop and have a

Fut there was no shyness or shiftiness

of the advantages of youth and condition the betting was three to one in his favor. His heavy-jowled, clean-shaven face expressed ferocity, as well as courage, and he stood with his small, bloodshot eyes fixed victously upon Jim, and his lumpy shoulders atooped a little forward, like a fierce hound

eibow, but it aerved its purpose of bringing forward his head. Spank! went the right with the clear, crisp sound of two billiard balls clapping together, and Berks reeled, flung up his arms, spun round, and fell in a huge, fleshy heap upon the floor. His sec-onds were on him instantly, and propped him up in a sitting position, his head roll-ing helplessly from one shoulder to the other, and finally toppling backward with his chin pointing to the ceiling. Dutch Sam thrust the brandy bladder between his teeth while Mendoza shook him savagely, and howied insults in his ear, but ne ther spirits nor the sense of injury could break into that serene tranquility. Time was duly called.

For my part, I tried also to pass through the throng, but it was no easy tazk for one of the smallest and weakest men in the room. On all sides of me I heard a brisk room. On all sides of me I heard a brisk discussion from amateurs and professionals of Jim's performance and of his prospects.

"He's the best bit of new stuff that I've seen since Jim Belcher fought his first fight with Paddington Jones at Wormwood Scrubs four years ago last April." said Berkeley Craven. "You'll see him with the belt round his waist before he's five and twenty.

or I am no iddge of a man.' "That handsome face of his has cost me a cool 500," grumbled Sir John Lade. "Who'd have thought he was such a punish-

ing hitter.' "For all that," said another, "I am confldent that if Joe Berks had been sober he would have beaten him. Besides, the lad was in training, and the other would have burst like an overdone potato if he were hit. I never saw a man so saft, or with his wind in such a condition. Put the men in training, and it's a horse to a hen on the

Some agreed with the last speaker, and some were against him, so that a brisk argu-ment was being carried on around me. In the midst of it the prince took his departure, which was the signal for the greater part of the company to make for the door. In this way I was able at last to reach the corner where Jim had just finished his dressing, while Champion Harrison, with tears of joy still shining upon his cheeks, was help-

joy still shining upon his cheeke, was helping him on with his overcoat.

"In four rounds!" he kept repeating, in a
sort of an ecstasy. "Joe Berks in four
rounds! And it took Jem Belcher fourteen."

"Well, Roddy," cried Jim, holding out his
hand. "I told you that I would come to
London and make my name known."

"It was spleidid, Jim!"

"Deer old Faldy! I saw your white face

"Dear old Reddy! I saw your white face staring at me from the corner. You are not changed for all your grand clothes and your London friends.
"It is you who are changed, Jim," said L. 'I hardly knew you when you came into the

"Nor I," cried the smith. "Where got you all these fine feathers, Jim? Sure I am that it was not your aunt that helped you to the first step toward the prize ring." "Miss Hinton has been my friend-the best

friend I ever had."
"Humph I thought as much," grumbled the smith. "Well, 'tis no doing of mine, Jim, and you must bear witness to that when we go home again. I don't know what-bu there, it is done, and it can't be helped. After all she's—now the devil take my

I could not tell whether it was the wine he had taken at supper or the excitement of Boy Jim's victory which was affecting Champion Harrison, but his usually placid face manner seemed to betray an alternation of exultation and embarrassment. Jim looked curiously at him, wondering evidently what it was that lay behind these abrupt sentences and sudden silences. The coach house had in the meantime been cleared. Berks with wore a most distarbed expression, and his manner seemed to betray an alternation of many curses had staggered at last to his feet and had gone off in the company of two ther bruisers, while Jem Belcher alone remained chatting very earnestly with my

'Very good, Belcher," I heard my uncle "It would be a real pleasure for me to do it, sir," said the famous prize fighter, as the

wo walked toward us. two walked toward us.
"I wished to ask you, Jim Harrison,
whether you would undertake to be my
champion in the fight against Crab Wilson
of Gloucester?" said my uncle.

"That is what I want, Sir Charles—to have chance to fight my way upward." "There are heavy stakes upon the event-very heavy stakes," said my uncle. "Yo vill receive £200 if you win. Does that sat-"I shall fight for the honor, and because

Belcher laughed good-humoredly

"You're going the right way about it, lad,"
id he. "But you had a soft thing on tonight, with a drunken man who was out of

"I did not wish to fight him," said Jim, flushing. "Oh, I know you have spirit enough to fight anything on two legs. I knew that the instant I chapped eyes on you. But I want you to remember that when you fight Crab Wilson you will fight the most promising man from the west, and that the best man of the west is likely to the work in the west.

of the west is likely to be the best man in England. He's as quick and as long in the reach as you are, and he'll train himself to the last half ounce of tallow. I tell you this now, d'ye see, because if I'm to have the "Charge of me!" "Yes," said my uncle. sented to train you for the coming battle if you are willing to enter."

"I am sure I am very much obliged to you," cried Jim heartily. "Unless my uncle should wish to train me, there's no one I would rather have." "Nay, Jim. I'll stay with you a few days

but Belcher knows a deal more about training than I do. Where will the quarters be?"
"I thought it would be handy for you if we fixed it at the George at Crawley. Then we fixed it at the George at Crawley. Then
if we have the choice of place we might
choose Crawley Down, for, except Mosel
Hurst, and maybe Smitham Bottom, there
isn't a spor in the country that would compare with it for a mill. Do you agree to
that?"

"With all my heart," said Jim.
"Then you are my man from this hour on.
d'ye see?" said Belcher. "Your food is mine
and your drink is mine, and your sleep is and your drink is mine, and your sleep is mine, and all you've to do is just what you are told. We haven't an hour to lose, for. Wilson has feen in half training this month back. You saw his empty glass tonight?"

"Jim's fit to fight for his life at the present moment," Said Harrison. "But we'll both come down with you to Crawley tomorrow. So good night. Sir Charles."

both come down with you to Crawley tomorrow. So good night, Sir Charles."
"Good night, Reddy," said Jim. "You'll
come down to Crawley and see me at my
training quarters, will you not?" And I
heartly promised that I would.
"You must be more careful, nephew," said
my uncle as we rattled home in his model
vis a-vis. "In premiere jeunesse one is a
little inclined to be rule! by one's heart
rather than one's reason. Jim Harrison
recesses to be a most respectable young fellow.

rather than one's reason. Jim Harrison seems to be a most respectable young fellow, but, after all, he is a blackemith's apprentice, and a candidate for the prize ring. ather seems to be a mess.

but, after all, he is a blacker, but, after all, he is a blacker, and a candidate for the prize tice, and a candidate for the prize tice, and a candidate for the position and There is a vast gap between his position and that of my own blood relation, and you must let him feel that you are his superior."

"He is the oldest and dearest friend that I have in the world, sir," I answered "We have hever had a secret from each other. As to showing him secret from each other. As to showing him that I am his superior, I don't know how I that I am his superior, I don't know how I that I am his superior, I don't know how I magnificence with the regalia in the Kremman of Green Vauits. A model of the world-renowned Kohinoor, a bracelet, is placed on renowned Kohinoor, a bracelet, is placed

ROYALTY'S PRECIOUS STONES

The Crown Jewels of European and Asiatic Monarchs.

FABULOUS TREASURES OF THE ORIENT

Jewels of the Late Shah Worth Millions-Wonderful Peacock Throne the Mogul Emperors. Famous Collections.

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Large gems have always had a great harm to the Oriental and they have always pald more for them than the Europeans. The Orient hides within her jealously-guarded palaces many fine collections of jewels. The Nizam of Hyderabad owns the Victoria diamond, for which he paid \$2,000,000. The maharajah of Tagore is likewise possessed of a rich store of gems, many of them rare and curious. The maharajah of Baroda paid \$100,000 for the 125 carat Star of the South, and also bought the 225 carat pale yellow De Beers diamond exhibited at the 1889 exposition.

According to the testimony of United States Minister S. G. W. Benjamin, the late shah of Persia had a very remarkable collection of gems, estimated to be worth between \$10,000,000 and \$15,000,000, but it is almost impossible to get reliable information about them, so closely are they guarded. The same may be said of the sultan of Turkey's collection valued at over \$10,000,000.

When the English took possession of the palace of King Theebaw at Mandalay, Burmah, they searched eagerly for the fabulous treasures, which it was supposed this Oriental monarch possessed. They were doomed to deappointment. Nothing of any special value was found, the far-famed jewels consisting of a miscelianeous lot of poor emer-alds and rubles. Many of them were of large size, but so inferior in quality that the English regalia could not be enriched by adding any of them. So little are they valued that they are now exhibited in simple glass cases in the Indian museum in London.

Many of these Oriental collections, according to Sir Edwin Arnold and other Oriental travelers, are kept in isolated rooms. Sometimes the gems are wrapped in rags or con-cealed in ginger jars, old boxes and out-ofthe-way places, so that even an intimate visitor may be a guest for weeks and only occasionally see a jewel, and only when he has the entire confidence of his host are the treasures gradually shown one at a time. PEACOCK THRONE OF THE MOGULS. Of all the costly wonders that the palace

of the mogul emperors at Delhi contained, the most wonderful and the most costly was the peacock throne. This was constructed during the reign of Shah Jehan and was the work of a Frenchman, Austin, of Bordeaux, who had sought refuge at the mogul's court. It was estimated that the value of the throne was £6,000,000 sterling. It stood in the center of the beautiful "Hall of Private Audience," so called from its having the figures of two peacocks standing behind it, their tails being expanded, and the whole so inlaid with saphires, rubies, emeralds, pearls and other precious stones of appropriate colors as to represent life. The throne itself was six feet long by four feet wide; it stood on six massive feet, during the reign of Shah Jehan and was the feet wide; it stood on six massive feet, which, with the body, were of solid gold inwhich, with the body, were of solid gold in-laid with rubles, emeralds and diamonds. It was surmounted by a canopy of gold sup-ported by twelve pillars, all richly em-blazoned with costly gems, and a fringe of pearls ornamented the border of the canopy. pearls ornamented the border of the canopy. Between the two peacocks stood a figure of a parrot of ordinary size, said to have been carved out of a single emerald. On each side of the throne stood an umbrella, one of the Oriental emblems of royalty. They were formed of crimson velvet thickly embroidered and fringed with pearls, the handles, eight feet high, being of gold studded with diamonds. It has been held that the famous Kohingor was one of the jewels that orna-Kohinoor was one of the jewels that ornaried away, with \$750,000,000 of loot. A block of white marble now marks the spot where

it once stood. RUSSIAN GEMS Catherine II and Peter the Great of Russia were lovers of precious stones, and collected fine samples of the jeweler's art, which are preserved, together with other precious relics in the Kremlin in the Ouregena Palata, at Moscow. Here are thrones studded with Moscow. Here are thrones studded with diamonds, rubles, turquoises, pearls, emer-alds and supphires; an orb containing a ruby weighing forty-nine carats, and swords and weighing forty-nine carats, and swords and scimitars thickly studded with gems. The jewels proper, which are enclosed in cases, include workmanship of renaissance, Byzan-tine and Persian handiwork, all by master tine and retained hands. The wealth of gems used is amazing. Stones cut and uncut, some of the largest size, shine in these regalia. Most wonderful of all is the coronation crown of Catherine wish to be thought worthy of being matched I, made especially for her by order of Peter against Jem Belcher."

the Great. There are 2,358 diamonds in this rown, and over the brow is a magnificent ruby. In a separate case are placed all the lewels worn by the empress and grand duchesses on state occasions; and among diamonds and gems galore is a very large pink diamond, which belonged to Peter the In state silver and gold-ware this collection is unsurpassed, and her monarche have been purchasing continuously for three centuries, and never selling their posses-

slons. FRENCH CROWN JEWELS In France Louis XIV and Lou's XV tool particular interest in this subject. It was it the suggestion of the former that Taver nier, the great traveler, made his search geme in so many countries of the world, and unearthed the "blue diamond" as a part of

his tireless exploration. In 1885 the French crown jewels were sold at public auction by order of the govern-ment, realizing some 7.500,000 france. These

jewels included all but two of the Mazarin dlamonds and many gems worn by the un ortunate Marie Antoinette. About one-third of the entire amount auctioned off were pur chased by one American. The great Regent diamond was not sold; this and two Mazarin diamonds are now on exhibition in a case in the Galerie d' Apollon in the Louvre Probably the more luxurious and resplenden mirror is now in the Louvre originally pes sessed by Queen Marie de Medici. It is o rock crystal, and the frame was of polagate set in network of enameled gold. This was but the inner frame. The outer one was composed entirely of precious stones. consisting of sardonyx, jasper, rubies, em-eralds and diamonds. When the inventory of the crown diamonds was taken in 1791 by order of the National Assembly, this superb work of art was valued at 150,000 francs, and is now in the Louvre.

THE ENGLISH ROYAL COLLECTION. The English royal collection has been a gradual growth. The present repository of the English regalia is the Tower of London. After the execution of Charles I some of the older objects were broken up and dispersed and at the restoration it was necessary to reconstruct many of them for the king's coronation. Nearly all the historical pleces no further back than the time Charles II.

The ancient regal a comprises two crowns an orb, a scepter with a cross, a scepter with a dove, a long scepter of gold, a ring with a dove, a long scepter of gold, a ring with a ruby, and several miner articles.

The most conspicuous and valuable object in the collection is the crown of Queen Victoria, made for her coronation in 1828, many of the lewels employed being of great antiquity. In one of the crossess in front of the crosses in the property which belonged

ewers, flagons and tankards, ornamented and engraved with elaborate scenes and land-scapes and set with enamel, gold and prectous stones. These pieces were used at the coronation of the Austrian kings, or for their domestic service. A vase in the same collection is formed of a single Peruvian their domestic service. A vase in the same collection is formed of a single Peruvian emerald weighing 2,680 carets, which is said to have been part of the treasure of Bur gundy. Here, also, is the imperial crows of Austria, made during the reign of Rudolph II. It is of pure gold, richly adorned with diamonds, pearle and rubies. The circle

diamonds, pearle and rubies. The circlet is of gold, encircled with large flat diamonds and pearls, two ranges of deeply set pearls decorating the border. The upper border of the circlet is adorned with four large and four small fleur-delys ornaments bearing large rubies, diamonds and marks. The skelder of the second monds and pearls. The skeleton of the is composed of broad stripes of enamel companied by a range of pearls on either side of the hoop which divides the cap into two halves. Each half is formed by two triangular plates of gold, on which the prin-cipal scenes of the coronation are wrought bas-relief. The hoop is surmounted by a little cross adorned by a sapphire of match less beauty. This is one of the most remark able specimens of German goldsmith's work extant, and in point of value and general workmanship is unique of its kind. The Imperial orb is very similar in style.

The scepter probably made for the corona tion of the Emperor Mathias in 1612, is somewhat similar in workmanship, but prob ably the most striking of all the jewels here displayed is the diamond crown press, whose value exceeds 1,500,000 of flor ins. The finest gems in this crown, remark able in size, brilliancy and polish, were part of the private jewels of the Empress Maria

In the Order of the Golden Fleece a decoration composed of 150 diamonds of great beauty, is the "Frankfort solitaire," a gem of the finest water, weighing forty-two carats, which was purchased by the Emperor Francis I at Frankfort. Several other decor-ations of the Golden Fleece are also worthy of notice, one among them in particular, containing several brilliants weighing in the aggregate over eighty-nine carats, while still others have large topazes, hyacinths. garnets or chrysolites clustered round with diamonds. A grand cross of the military order of Maria Theresa centains a rose col-ored brilliant of twenty-six and one-eighth carats, a complete parure of rubies, consistcarats, a complete parure of fubles, collisions of a tiara, a girdle, necklace, a pair of earrings and a watch is interesting because of the fine quality of the gems, and also because it formerly belonged to the ill-fated Marie Antionette, queen of France.

Here is preserved the rose necklace of Maria Theresa comprising thirteen rose brilliants.

Theresa comprising thirteen rose brilliants, large sized brilliants filling the centers, and eleven pendeloques set with large solitaire brilliants of wonderful beauty. The famous Florentine diamond, one of the largest diamonds known, actually fills the trivial role of a hat-button in the midst of this bewildering display. It weighs 133% carats, is sherry colored and is so cut as to form a star with nine rays. The stone was a star with nine rays. The stone was once the property of Charles the Bold of Burgundy, who used to carry it into battle with him as a tallsman. He lost it at the battle of Morat in 1476, and after many changes of ownership, and a lapse of over 300 years, it came into the Austrian treas-nry through the marriage of the duke of Tuscany with Maria Theresa. Buttons for coats, waistcoats and hats are formed, each coats, waistcoats and hats are formed, each one or more, of magnificent topazes set round with brilliants. A large hyacinth weighing 416 carats is fashioned into the body of an eagle, and a set of pearl necklaces and bracelets contains over 480 pearls of varying size, some very large and fine. This faultless collection reflects the taste and judgment of Maria Theresa. JEWELS OF THE ROYAL SAXON FAM-ILY.

The famous Green vaults of Dresden con tain the jewels of the royal Saxon family from earliest times, and are one of the most wonderful treasure houses in the world The name "Green vaults" has baffled ex-planation, but in the absence of positive proof of any kind it seems that the name was given because of the original color of one of the vaulted chambers. This cele brated collection was begun in 1539, but it was not until the reign of the Elector Augustus in the second half of that century that any great addition was made to the treasures. The work which the Elector commenced was completed by Augustus the Strong, whose taste for the fine arts was cultivated by travel and study. Here are to be seen wonderfully artistic vases, groups, figures and objects by the renowned jeweler Dinglinger, and other skilled artisans of the latter part of the seventeenth century and the early part of the eight-eenth. Many of these are made of curious, odd-shaped pearls set and ornamented as only Dingliuger and other great jewelers were capable of ornamenting them.

The crown jewels in the jewel room, con-ist of six or eight different sets, of the first class, and are not to be surpassed in all Europe. Most of the gems, including the famous green diamond, were purchased during the reign of Augustus II and III. This unique green brilliant weighs forty and one-half carats, and is in close proximity in the case to yellow and pink brilliants scarcely less remarkable in size and splendor. A garniture of rese diamonds, forming part of these crown jewels, consists of thirty waistcoat buttons, thirty coat buttons four shoe and knee buckles, a clasp carrying a rose of twenty-six and seven-eighth grains an epault with a diamond of sixteen and five eighths grains, and a sword, the hilt of which sparkles with 780 roses. The largest Bohemian garnet in Europe, forty-six and three-fourths carsts, in weight, adorns one of the orders of the Golden Fleece here exhibited. Quite noticeable, even among the glitter of the brilliants, is the soft and glossy

heen of eight strings of pearls near

four of which came from the pearl fisher, of the Elster, a Saxon river, which has been

fostered by the Saxon crown since 1640, and four from oriental waters. Two rings, said

to belong to Martin Luther, the great re-former, though plain, are fully as interest-ing as the more costly mementoes of royalty. A FAMOUS JEWELER. One whole division of the jewel room is coupled by the handiwork of John Melchoir Dingliuger, the favorite jeweler of Augustus the Strong, sometimes called the German Benvenuto Celliui. Rock crystals and ivory carving, enameling, goldsmithing, combin with the lapidary art to produce variety of objects, allegories and historical scenes, wrought out in wonderful detail and with the most striking effects. In these works of art nearly every known precious stone is introduced to work out appropriately

the artist's lavish ideals. GEORGE F. KING.

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