

MILLIONS IN BUTTONS

CATCHES MADE OF COSTLY DIAMONDS IN THE DAYS OF LOUIS XIV.

An Inventory That Reads Like a Fairy Tale—The Ridiculous Mania For Gigantic Buttons In the Eighteenth Century. Collectors Pay High Prices.

Recently at the Hotel Drouot there was a sale of a curious and interesting collection of ancient buttons, the property of Baron Perignan of Paris. This collection, which was exhibited in 1889 at the exposition of decorative arts, might rival any one of those belonging to the most enthusiastic buttonists in the world.

The buttons of the eighteenth century bring high prices in the market at the present time. There are some of them that Fragonard, we are told, decorated with his marvelous pencil. In his time it was fashionable to make presents of buttons as big as a crown piece, on which allegories and various subjects were carved.

Bachaumont writes in his "Secret Memoirs," Nov. 18, 1786: "The mania for buttons is today extremely ridiculous. They are not only of enormous size, some of them as big as six pound crowns, but miniatures and pictures are made upon them, and this ornamentation is extremely costly. Some of them represent the medals of the 12 Caesars, others antique statues and still others the Metamorphoses of Ovid."

Isabey, in his biographical notes, says that when he came to Paris he worked for a living by making copies of Vanloos and Bouchers on the lids of snuffboxes, and that for these medallions he was paid from 6 to 8 francs each. "As it was still the fashion," he said, "to wear buttons as big as a 5 franc piece, upon which Cupids, flowers and landscapes were cut in cameo, I went into that business. I got 12 sous for each."

Two years after this period in the life of Bachaumont buttons abandoned erudition to take up edibleship. All the fine monuments of Paris were carved on them. Then came the patriotic buttons, representing the taking of the Bastille, the emblem of the three orders, the Phrygian cap, the portraits of Louis XVI, of Mirabeau.

Shortly afterward these ornaments were laid aside. The reign of the artistic button was over, and the mother of pearl button became general.

The oldest buttons at present in the museums and among the collections are the gold buttons discovered at Mycenae, at the time of the excavations undertaken by Dr. Schliemann, and also those found in the tomb of Childeric I. The latter were exhibited at the Louvre in the Musée des Souverains. They are made of gold and of colored glass, imitating garnet. Buttons detached from opes and religious garments of the middle ages and of the renaissance have also been discovered.

But the richest things of the kind, beyond a doubt, are those that were worn by Louis XIV. M. Maze-Sencier, in the "Register of Diamonds and Presents to the King," at present preserved in the ministry of foreign affairs, gives an official account of the buttons of that pompous sovereign. It is as follows:

Feb. 3, 1685.—Montary presented to the king 80 diamond buttons, valued at 180,030 livres.

May 7, 1685.—Made and delivered by Sieur Bosc, 6 diamond buttons, 30,000 livres.

July 26, 1685.—Handed over by Montary to the Marquis de Seignelay for the king 75 diamond buttons, 586,705 livres.

Aug. 1, 1685.—Two diamond buttons, 67,860 livres.

Aug. 13, 1685.—Three diamond buttons, 69,680 livres.

Dec. 20, 1685.—Four diamond buttons, 83,775 livres."

Another item in the same year: "July 26, 1685.—Furnished by Montary for the king's vest: Forty-eight gold buttons, each set with a diamond, and 96 clasps, 48 of which were composed of five diamonds each and 48 of one diamond each, 185,123 livres.

Also 384 clasps for the doublet of the king, 162 of which were formed of five diamonds each and 162 of one diamond each, 1,006,345 livres.

In addition there were seven ornamental clasps of three diamonds each, 201,270 livres.

Sundry presents, 33 ornamented clasps, 574,366 livres."

That foots up a total of about 3,000,000 livres for the buttons of the "Great King" for the single year of 1685. The preceding year Louis XIV received a lot of buttons that were valued at 1,071,000 livres. In these enumerations there is no mention of the diamonds for the shoes, the garters, the cuffs and the hats of the monarch.

We are obliged to admit, with our coats and overcoats garnished with miserable little cloth and bone affairs, we cut a poor figure in the fancy button business compared to the dudes of the days of Louis XIV.—Paris Figaro.

Sovereign Cocoa Wine is pleasant to take, is certain and gratifying in its effect in cases of loss of sleep, and enervation.

VICTORIAN ORDER FUND IN CANADA

The Queen's Jubilee celebration in Great Britain is similar to that proposed for Canada. In a circular issued by the Duke of Westminster, chairman of the appeal fund of Great Britain, much information is given on what the Queen's Nurses do for the poor.

What is a Queen's Nurse and what does she do?

A Queen's Nurse is a carefully chosen woman, who has received a minimum training of one year in a Hospital approved by the Institute, and six months' training in a district nursing under the supervision of the Queen's Jubilee Institute.

Their work is to nurse the sick poor in their homes, visiting each case once or more every day, according to the necessity of the case.

What Special Advantages do the poor obtain from a Queen's Nurse?

Experience shows that these visits of the nurses to the poor homes result in much more lasting good than in merely helping the patient back to health. Wives and daughters are shown what nursing really is, they learn a little elementary sick cooking, and sanitary precautions against the spread of disease are taught.

How is the work of a Queen's Nurse regulated?

By the Local Committee or County Association who engage her, and who are her employers. Her nursing work is of course under the immediate direction of the doctor attending the case.

What are the direct advantages to a locality of having a Queen's Nurse and being affiliated to the Queen's Institute.

The district will be served by a well trained nurse who is fit to cope with illness of every sort. She will know at once what she may and may not do in every case. She will not over-tempt the line between the doctor's and the nurse's work. Her "hospital training" will not only have given her a very varied and valuable experience, but will have taught her discipline and devotion, and what may perhaps be best described as the proper "tone" of nursing.

Another advantage is that many cases which are at a distance from hospitals can be treated under the care of a trained nurse in their own homes. And from the poor people's point of view, if a mother be ill and at home, and the father away at work all day, it is much easier to get a neighbour in to help with the children and house, than with the mother away at a hospital.

What additional advantages does affiliation bring?

Affiliation to the Queen's Institute gives the Local Association the right to apply for a trained Queen's Nurse as circumstances may require.

In some cases the Institute has been able to contribute to the funds of the locality till the advantage of having a Queen's Nurse have become wider known and appreciated.

What is the cost of a Queen's Nurse?

A Queen's Nurse, as supplied and trained by the Institute, costs about £60. To the Local Association which employs her, the cost of maintenance will be from £40 to £90, which includes all expenses, salary, board, lodging, &c.

It is found that one Queen's Nurse is about sufficient for every 10,000 of the inhabitants in a town.

What is the Queen's Jubilee Institute for nurses, and what is its work?

The Queen, when she devoted £70,000 from the Women's Jubilee Offering to nursing the poor by Queen's Nurses, connected the fund permanently with St. Katharine's Collegiate Hospital, a Royal Foundation, which, since the days of Queen Eleanor, has been under the direct patronage of the Queens of England.

Cripple

The iron grasp of scrofula has no mercy upon its victims. This demon of the blood is often not satisfied with causing dreadful sores, but racks the body with the pains of rheumatism until Hood's Sarsaparilla cures.

"Nearly four years ago I became afflicted with scrofula and rheumatism.

Made

Running sores broke out on my thighs. Pieces of bone came out and an operation was contemplated. I had rheumatism in my legs, drawn up out of shape. I lost appetite, could not sleep. I was a perfect wreck. I continued to grow worse and finally gave up the doctor's treatment to

Well

take Hood's Sarsaparilla. Soon appetite came back; the sores commenced to heal. My limbs straightened out and I threw away my crutches. I am now stout and hearty and am farming, whereas four years ago I was a cripple. I gladly recommend Hood's Sarsaparilla." URBAN HAMMOND, Table Grove, Illinois.

Hood's Sarsaparilla

Is the One True Blood Purifier. All druggists. \$1. Prepared only by C. I. Hood & Co., Lowell, Mass.

Hood's Pills cure liver ills, easy to take, easy to operate. 25c.

RIDE A STEARNS AND BE CONTENT.

HENRY IRVING AS A JOKER.

He and Toole Made a Topsy Waiter Repeat Temporarily.

Sir Henry Irving tells an amusing story of a joke that he, with Mr. Toole and a third party, played some years ago at a Glasgow hotel. After their work they were supping at the hotel, where, says Sir Henry, "there was in the room a high screen. The instant the waiter was gone we commenced operations. We stripped the silverware, of which there was a tolerable supply, from the table and placed it behind the screen. We then opened the window and turned out the gas, and finally all get under the table. We had only to remain in our cramped position a few minutes before we heard the unsteady feet of our friend, the waiter, along the passage.

"The darkened room amazed him and the cold air from the window seemed to strike him with affright.

"'Goodness!' exclaimed he, 'it's thieves they are. A thocht as much frae the luiks o' them, and frae their gay talk and their laughter. Eh, but I'm a ruined man. A wish a' had nae taen the hale o' that last bottle. Hear! Hear! Thieves! Thieves! Murder! Thieves! Thieves!' and shouting at the top of his voice he ran out of the room and along the passage.

"The minute he had gone we shut the door, lit the gas, restored the silver to the table and sat round as before, enjoying a quiet cigar. Presently there was a confused murmur along the passage. It grew louder and louder, and in poured a truly motley throng, mostly half dressed, consisting of the manager, two men in bare legs and slippers, and a lady with a blanket, in the alarm of fear caught up, followed by our agonized friend, the waiter. One man was armed with a poker and the other carried a bronze statuette ready to hurl at the thief. As they entered we all sat back and looked at them in well feigned amazement, and Toole said to the astonished and bewildered manager, 'Do you always come in this way with your friends when a gentleman asks for his bill?'"—London Telegraph.

THE MAKING OF POISON.

A Factory Where the Most Deadly Drugs Are Prepared.

In London is a strange establishment, behind a wilderness of warehouses and tumbledown tenements, in a remote suburb. Its massive gates are locked and jealously guarded. A visitor must not only be careful where he steps and refrain from touching, he must also breathe with great caution. One of the terrible poisons manufactured here is pure anhydrous acid, a drug seldom seen outside a chemical laboratory. This is the deadliest of all known poisons. The discoverer was stricken dead from inhaling its fumes. From 3 to 5 per cent of this chemical added to 95 or 97 parts of water makes prussic acid. This diluted poison causes instant death, even when taken in minute quantities.

Next to anhydrous acid, the worst poison they make is cyanide of potassium. Last year they turned out over 1,000 tons of it. Five grains being a fatal dose, the annual output would be sufficient to kill 2,500,000 people. In the workroom, where men are gathered around a witch's caldron containing over a hundred weight of molten cyanide, a strange picture is presented. The seething mass of white hot liquid poison, with the lambent play of the furnace fires, the phantom faces of the workmen, enveloped in an uncanny looking glass mask, peering into the heart of the dreadful mixture through the thick atmosphere, are a terrible sight. In another room, where are tons of the finished product, looking like crystallized sugar, "good enough to eat," one man is never allowed alone. For some inexplicable reason it exercises a strange fascination for the men who inhale its fumes. They are haunted by a desire to eat it. But, knowing that satisfying the craving means instant death, most, but not all, are able to resist it. Aside from this fascination its manufacture is not considered unhealthy. The same cannot be said of corrosive sublimate. Its fumes are deadly.—Chicago Inter Ocean.

His Bonus.

They were just closing up the real estate deal, and the man who always wanted something thrown in to make a good bargain appeared to hesitate.

"What'll you throw in?"

"What'll I what?"

"What'll you throw in as a sort of bonus?"

"Oh, yes, yes, of course!" said the real estate man. "How stupid of me! Why, the fact is, in our line of business we are not exactly in the habit of giving prizes, but, in this case, just to make it binding, I don't mind throwing in the back taxes."

"Now you're talking business!" exclaimed the would be purchaser. "It always pays for a man to stick out for his rights."

It was only after the transfer was made that he discovered, the back taxes were payable by and not to the owner.—Chicago Post.

The Obliging Bankrupt.

Good comradeship may count for much. No man ever typified this better than the Wall street broker who said to his friend the reporter: "I didn't fail until after the evening papers went to press, so that you could have it all to yourself in the morning. Come around in an hour or so, and I'll give you the figures."—Writer.

TO BEAUTY.

Because of this sweet lady of my dream, Whose servant I am and must be evermore, My soul to all of shame shall bar the door, When me this body of mine would disesteem. And though I may not meet her face to face, Where flowers fade and die the birds that sing, A sable thread is woven in everything, To guide me through the mazes of her grace.

Sister of love and truth and purity, Oe here with life, one with the ultimate star, As constant as the recurring tides of sea, Exclusive as all winds and waters are, Accept, sweet lady, all that is best of me— The least of those who follow thee afar!

KEPPEL STRANGE, June "Canadian Magazine."

Time to Change.

It was at a table d'hote dinner at a bill station in India that a very young officer just up from the plains found himself seated next to a lady whom he took for one of the grass widows common in those parts. He made himself agreeable, but his neighbor seemed a good deal out of spirits, so he said sympathetically:

"I suppose you can't help thinking of your poor husband grilling down below?"

But the lady was a real widow, and when he learned that he changed his seat.—London Vanity Fair.

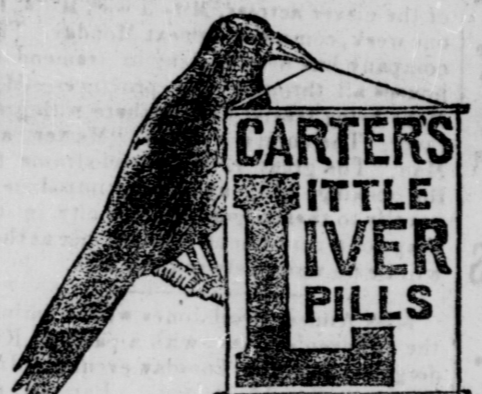
But He Realizes It Now.

Mrs. Benham—Many a true word is spoken in jest.

Mr. Benham—That's so. I little dreamed when I said, 'With all my worldly goods I thee endow,' that you would take every cent I had.—Twinkles.

It is not too much to say that in Britain a million of money might be saved annually on funeral and marriage ceremonies with no disrespect to the dead and an increase of comfort to the living.

The home of Timothy Tarn, in the parish of Dufton, near Appleby, Westmoreland, England, is the most isolated dwelling place in the three kingdoms. No human being lives nearer than 11 miles.



SICK HEADACHE

Positively cured by these Little Pills.

They also relieve Distress from Dyspepsia, Indigestion and Too Hearty Eating. A perfect remedy for Dizziness, Nausea, Drunkenness, Bad Taste in the Mouth, Coated Tongue, Pain in the Side, TORPID LIVER. They Regulate the Bowels. Purely Vegetable.

Small Pill. Small Dose. Small Price.

Substitution

the fraud of the day.

See you get Carter's,

Ask for Carter's,

Insist and demand

Carter's Little Liver Pills.

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IS THE "OLD RELIABLE" LAUNDRY STARCH. HOUSEKEEPERS WHO HAVE TRIED IT AND THEN OTHER MAKES ALWAYS RETURN TO "SILVER GLOSS." THOSE WHO HAVE NOT TRIED IT SHOULD DO SO AT ONCE.

ASK YOUR GROCER FOR IT.

Starches made by the Edwardsburg Starch Co., L't'd., are always reliable.

THEIR LEADING BRANDS ARE

Benson's Canada Prepared Corn } FOR COOKING.

Silver Gloss Starch, } FOR LAUNDRY. Enamel Starch,

PLEASANT TO TAKE Every Mother should have in the house. DROPPED ON SUGAR. JOHNSON'S ANODYNE LINIMENT CURES COLDS, COUGHS, COLIC, CRAMPS. Includes illustration of a woman holding a bottle.

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Men's Straw Hats. WE SHOW A NICE STOCK. T. J. HARRIS. LONDON HOUSE

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