

DIAMOND CUT DIAMOND.

A very singular affair came off in New York a short time ago. At an hotel in Broadway, famous for the excellence of its liquors, a little boy came in with a very fish looking ring, and wanted to dispose of it. Every one present examined the trinket, and a few thought much of it. It however struck the eye of a gentleman, who was known by the somewhat singular appellation of Squeaking Johnny.

"How much do you ask for that ring?" asked that individual.

"Five dollars."

"I'll give you two dollars for it."

"It's very hard," said the boy, "but I suppose I must take it."

The two dollars were paid, the ring taken, and the boy departed.

The purchaser of the ring went home. His brother saw the bauble, admired it, and asked how much he would sell it for.

"Well, Charley," said he, "I gave five dollars for it; it's worth a good deal more; you shall have it for seven."

The bargain was struck, and the ring once more changed masters.

The next day Charles went to Harlem. There he met with a Mr. A., who also became exceedingly tickled with the ring, which, by the way, was a taking affair, showy, the setting most capital, and much taste displayed in the formation.

"What will you take for that ring?"

"Well, I don't particularly care about it; you shall have it dog cheap."

"How cheap?"

"Twenty-five dollars."

The matter was settled and the ring passed into the hands of Mr. A.

The next day the last proprietor drove to town, and going into the store of a fashionable jeweller, he asked the value.

"It's worth one dollar and a half," said the merchant.

Mr. A. was thunderstruck. Recovering himself, he said: "Can you take out the stones, which of course are—"

"Paste, sir."

"And insert the diamonds in their place?"

"Yes."

"How long will it take you, and how much will it cost?"

"I can do it in two or three hours, and it will cost forty dollars."

"Do it as fast as you can."

Within the given time the diamonds were substituted and Mr. A. returned to Harlem.

On his arrival, he found the two brothers, and several New York bloods assembled. He was greeted with a low whistle, and divers gyrations of the fingers were performed by resting the thumb on the nose, which gave the fingers full latitude to perform all sorts of circles in the air.

"How about that ring?" asked John.

"A very pretty ring," said Mr. A., and a great bargain."

"A great bargain!"

"Yes, the stones are diamonds."

"I'll bet you a hundred dollars of it."

"Why, you know, perhaps."

"No, but I don't believe it, and I'll bet a hundred dollars they are not."

"Done."

"Done."

The bet was taken by Mr. A. on one part, and the two brothers on the other.

"In what way shall we decide?" asked the brothers.

"We'll leave it to any jeweler," said Mr. A.

The party immediately set off for the city. On arriving at a jeweler's, the stones were pronounced diamonds. The brothers were not satisfied. They wished to go to another jeweler.

"Are those diamonds?" asked John at the next store.

"I think they are, but I can't tell without filing them."

"O, you must ask that gentleman, he is the proprietor."

Mr. A. gave consent.

"Smash it to pieces," said John.

The ring was filed.

"First rate diamonds," said the jeweler.

The mortification of the brothers was great. Not so much at the loss of the wager, but the fact of their parting with a diamond ring upon such easy terms.

WHAT TO STAMP.

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MYSTERIES OF THE MICROSCOPE.—Not that there is any especial hidden mystery in the innocent-looking, modest little instrument that presents objects to us as they really are, making huge monsters out of mere mites, and as often presenting most magnificent animals in what, to the unaided eye, appears an uncouth atom. The mystery is of the microscope. The power, to our intelligence, as at present educated, is unintelligible, and would be magical, but that we know the microscope to be innocent of the black art, and the maker only a man like ourselves—a trifle more clever, perhaps, but not a mite of a magician. So much of thought is involved by the advent of a red mite upon the edge of a white sheet now under the point of my pen, and the ruby dot—a mere point to the naked eye—hurry over the white field, a perfect crimson streak. If a man were to run at that rate, according to bulk, he would get over the ground about a thousand miles an hour, and race, naturally, round the world in a day and night, three hours left for refreshment.

Arresting the atomic red runaway, and sleeping him under my temperate Craig microscope, in an instant I had under my eye a wonder—a bright crimson bird, wingless, like the Fen-

guin, but perfect in proportions and of most exquisite beauty; its downy plumage brilliantly bright; its six perfect bird legs, three set on either side. I saw there the secret of the rapid race. Fancy a turkey gobbler with six legs, each one putting in its quota of speed! Wouldn't the old fellow outrun a hurricane?

Then there are the five white delicate toes, more like a fair lady's fingers, to each foot; black, lustrous eyes, and beak like that of the great "war eagle"—all harmonious; but strange, very wonderful, mysterious, the manner in which that single bit of clear glass metamorphoses the tiny red mite into a great magnificent bird!

There, go out with you, and go your way; diminished to a red atom, almost infinitesimal again! Scud—scatter, crimson speck, and leave me to my say of my magnificent miracle!

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