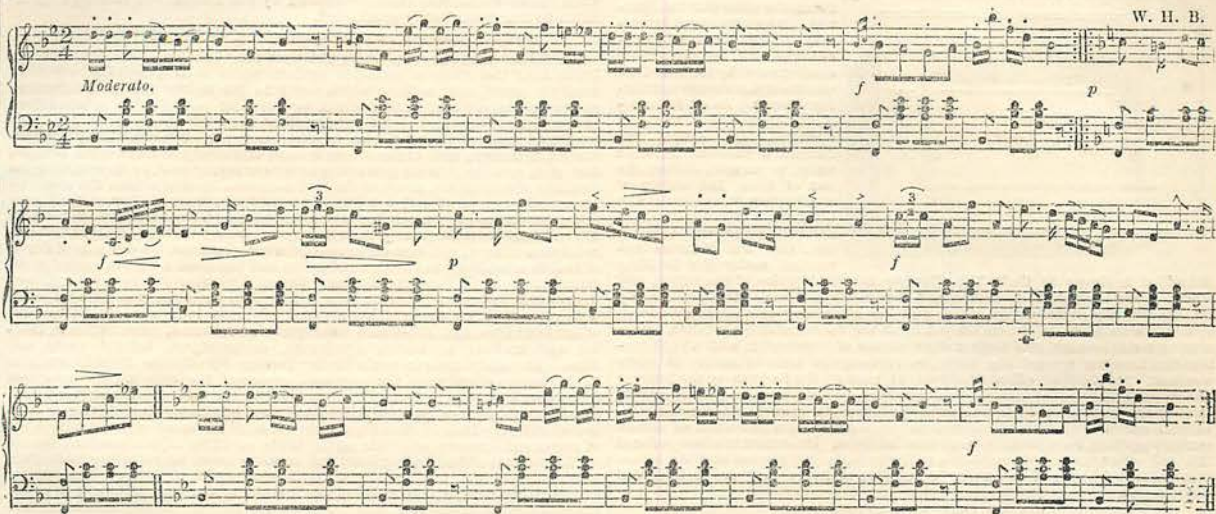


THE CHRISTMAS POLKA.



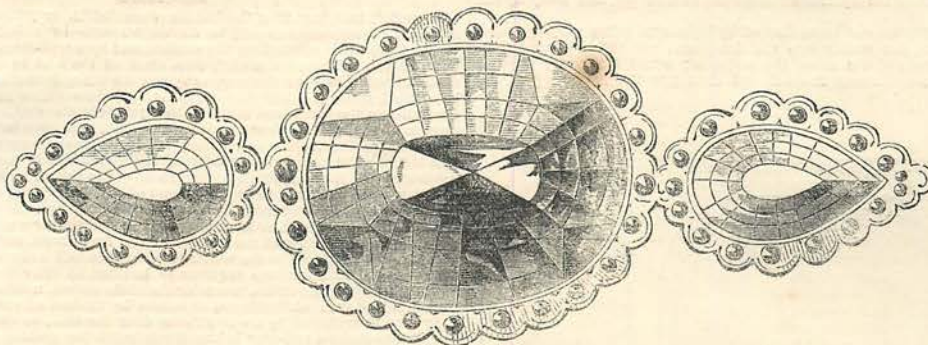
THE CELEBRATED DIAMOND, KOH-I-NOOR, OR MOUNTAIN OF LIGHT.

This famous diamond, which was formerly in the treasury of the Maharajah Dhuleep Singh, in the Punjab, has been forfeited by his treachery to the British; and will, it is said, be brought to England in attestation of the success of our arms in India; which has been suggested that the mischievous superstition attached to the possession of this unique gem might be utterly crushed by this retributive consignment.

We have taken some pains to obtain a Sketch of the *Kooh-i-noor*, or "Mountain

of Light," and of Runjeet's ruby; both from drawings copied from originals, by Juan Ram, to whom Runjeet Singh sent them for the purpose, at the request of Lord William Bentinck.

It is generally believed that this diamond belonged to the Pandus; but Tavernier says, that it was dug out of the mine of Kolor, which is about four days' journey north-west from Masulipatam, in the Nizam's territories, on the banks of the Godavree; and that it was presented to Shah Jehan by Meer Jumla, who was at first the Commander-in-Chief of the King of Golkonda's army, and afterwards of that of Anruggzeb. The mine of Kolor was discovered not more than a hundred years before the time of Shah Jehan; when a Zumeendar found a



RUNJEET SINGH'S DIAMOND—"THE MOUNTAIN OF LIGHT."

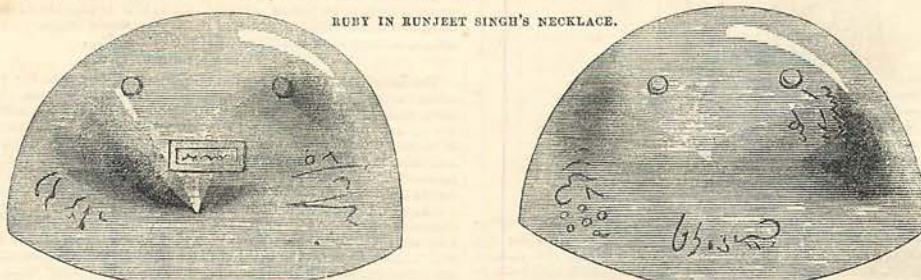
diamond as he was preparing the ground for sowing melons, and this led to the discovery. The Koh-i-Noor is 319 rutees in weight, and its value was estimated, in the time of Shah Jehan, at 78,15,525 rupees. Shah Jehan applied it to adorn the famous Peacock Throne, which was taken by Nadir Shah to Persia, whence the diamond was brought back to Afghanistan by Ahmedshah Douranee. It remained in the possession of his successors until Maharajah Runjeet Singh obliged Shah Shoojah to deliver it to him.

It is said that this diamond was taken from India by Nadir, the King of Persia, on the same date (29th of March) as that on which, during the past year

(1849), it was retaken from the Sikhs by the rulers of India. The fact is, that it belonged originally to the rulers of India; and now it may be said to have come back again, after such a long time, to the hands of its rightful owners.

Runjeet Singh was accustomed to wear this diamond on his right arm, set, as we have engraved it, in gold, surrounded with small rubies. It has been valued at 25 crore of rupees, or 25 million pounds sterling. Tavernier, who saw it in the possession of the Great Mogul, states its weight to be 279 9-10th carats; before cutting, it weighed 900 carats. Its twin jewel is numbered among the crown jewels of Russia.

RUBY IN RUNJEET SINGH'S NECKLACE.



The Ruby, in the accompanying Illustration, has been sketched under similar circumstances. In the Illustration both sides are shown; the gem is worn in Runjeet's necklace. It belonged to Pandoor Rajah, was taken from him by Timour, and subsequently from Timour's descendants by Ahmeed Shah. The

names of the six Kings of Delhi are engraved on this Ruby:—Alumzeer II., Shah Karam II., Jehangire, Ackbar, Feroze Shah, and Ahmed Shah. Runjeet valued it at 12½ crore of rupees, or twelve millions five hundred thousand pounds sterling.