



CURIOS AND ANCIENT SPECIMENS OF GLASS.

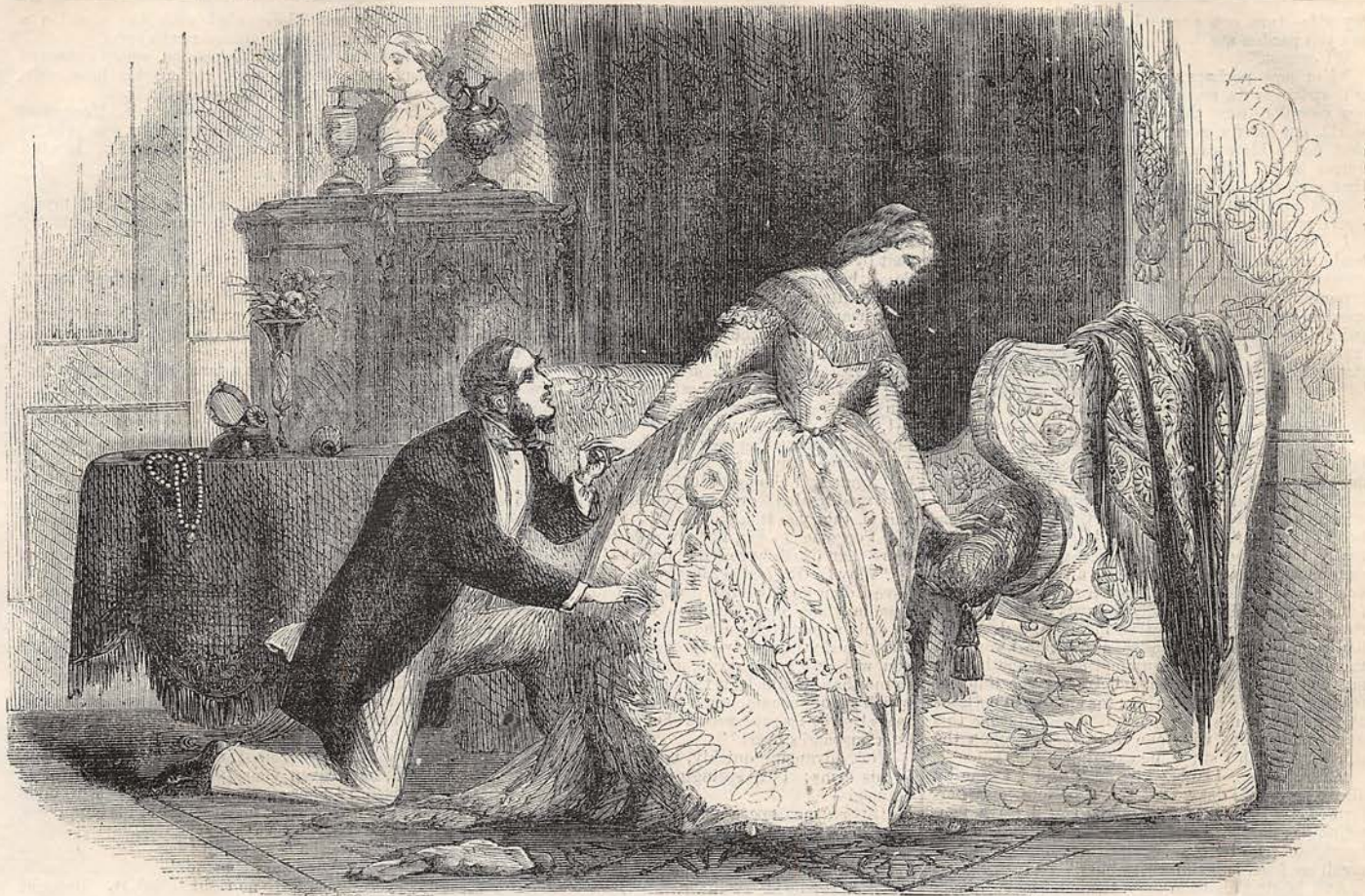
CHOICE SPECIMENS OF GLASS.

IN connection with our recent series of articles on Glass-making,* we have pleasure in presenting our readers with the accompanying curious specimens of that manufacture, taken from an interesting collection in the Louvre, Paris. Ever since glass was invented, or discovered, it has been employed in the ornamental and useful arts. Thebes,

* Vol. v., 412; vol. vi., 11, 20.

Memphis, Tyre and Sidon, Sicily and Etruria, have contributed graceful and beautiful works wrought from this elegant material; but, in ancient times, glass was a luxury, in which only the great and wealthy could indulge. In our days it is cheap and common; it not only sparkles on every board, but we build glass palaces—fairly-like structures—more exquisitely beautiful than Nero's golden house. Was it not Nero who gave 6,000 sesterces for two cups of glass?

The specimens represented in our engraving are arranged in three compartments. Proceeding from left to right, we have—1. A low octagon glass, fluted, the stem enriched with ornaments of blue and white. 2. A medical glass, blue in colour, and in shape resembling a Neapolitan mandolin. Both of these are of Venetian manufacture. 3. A vase-like cup, on a long stem. 4. A curious white glass, with flat, square sides, and light, elegantly designed blue handles. Both of these are from Germany.



FOR THE FIRST TIME ISABELLA PITIES HER PERSECUTOR.

5. A large open dish, very richly ornamented, the stem decorated with lions' heads. 6. A vessel, of white glass, the handle and spout enriched with ornaments of blue. 7. A long-stemmed glass, of octagon form, and fluted stand. 8. A glass bottle, ornamented with devices of the lion of St. Mark, and the Imperial eagle, in opal and enamel. The four last named are all of Venetian manufacture. A German specimen of a blue glass bottle, with a double spout, ends the first compartment.

The second includes—1. A curious shell-like bottle, of blue glass, having two white handles; the upper part is octagonal, and of rich, clear blue. 2. A long-necked bottle, of white glass, used in pharmacy, the extremity of the neck being bright green. 3. A large cup, the stem enriched with a flower, in blue and white, of six petals, having five large yellow leaves. All of these are from Germany. 4. A richly-ornamented vessel, of Oriental design and Venetian manufacture. The colours—blue, white, red, and yellow. 5. A curious Venetian chalice, with pinions of blue glass. 6. A shell-shaped bottle, of white and blue, from Germany. 7. A jug, of white glass, elaborately decorated, of Venetian make.

The third compartment begins with—1. A large glass vase, supported on a long stem, formed of the bodies of two dragons, interlaced, of red, yellow, and white enamel; the dragons' heads are crowned with crests of blue glass. 2. A warrior, fully armed, and bearing up a beautifully decorated cup. Both of these are of German manufacture. 3. A Venetian glass, elegantly enamelled, with blue and white. 4. A large glass, the foot formed of a gondola, the rigging surmounted by a dragon, in blue glass. 5. A small vase, of blue glass, having two neat handles. 6. A singularly-formed white glass, of five godrons, of unequal size; the foot formed of two dragons, in white enamel. 7. A large white glass, supported on a spiral stem, the upright portion of the foot being ornamented with two dragons, of blue glass.

The singularity of form presented by these curious specimens of ancient art, is one of their chief attractions; their rich colours and beautiful transparency are also worthy of observation. Most of them belong to the fourteenth, fifteenth, or sixteenth centuries.

THE AUTOBIOGRAPHY OF AN HEIRESS;

OR,

The Old Feud.

BY THE AUTHOR OF "FRENCH HAY," ETC.

CHAPTER XL.

Oh! what a tangled web we weave,
When first we practice to deceive!—MARMION.

PROFITING by the unwelcome sleep, which, notwithstanding my efforts to overcome it, stole over my senses towards morning, the woman removed the obnoxious dress I had continued to wear, and replaced every article of my toilette with the new and elegant garments provided for the occasion.

Extremely offended by the liberty which had been taken, I rang the bell indignantly, demanding the instant return of my clothes; but in vain. I was told respectfully, but decidedly, that the attire before me was that in which it was Mr. Meredith's wish I should equip myself, and that consequently all other had been removed.

"And quite time, too," said the housekeeper; "for besides that the dress had got too shabby to wear, it wouldn't, in its best days, have been fit for a bride; and though I don't say for a moment as you wasn't right to scruple taking presents from Mr. Meredith before, yet now, as you're going to take him, and all he has, for ever, surely there can't be nothing blamable in taking decent, proper things to be married in!"

Remonstrances were idle, as I soon found; and therefore, for my own pride's sake, I forbore to make any.

Everything—even my shoes—were gone; and as I did not choose to provoke a war, in which I knew I must be defeated, I was obliged to rise and don the soft-hued silks and laces, the graceful chip bonnet, and other bridal finery, which were thus forced upon me.

Against the acceptance of every article of jewellery, however, I was resolute.

Before me, glittering in their tempting beds of velvet, were the loveliest bracelets, rings, brooches, and trinkets that art could fashion or taste devise; but although I had been compelled to wear the dress, nothing could induce me to accept an ornament, to take or reject which was certainly optional, and which, remembering what I was about to do, would have seemed to me like robbery.

"Well, Isabel, I must yield now," said Mr. Meredith, almost reproachfully, replacing in its case a beautiful circlet of emeralds which he had sought to fasten upon my wrist; "I am under your orders now; you are the commander; but hereafter, when all I have is yours, it will be my pride to deck that form and head with gems which might become a duchess, and then"—and his eyes flashed—"the haughty Aylmers shall see themselves eclipsed in their own shire by the last of their rival's line, whose hot blood, mingling with their own, shall compel attention to her rights."

"My rights! Oh, what a bodiless phantom you are following, seeking them! No friendless beggar, craving daily bread from charity in the streets, but has greater rights, and finds them more sacredly respected than I do."

"Have done, Isabel! Hitherto you have been alone, battling for yourself with a villain, whose very means of existence depended upon successful dishonesty; who traded upon your rights, and was only suffered to proceed in his infamous career under the belief that your consumptive life was failing fast, and that that ended, his child would take your place, succeed to the rights which the sole heir of such a race as yours, inherits with her blood. But that is over now. Isabel Neville, moneyless and helpless, might be wronged and robbed at every scoundrel's will; but Isabel Meredith, with her husband's courage and power to support her, will find not only her position recognised, her claims acknowledged, but her enemies signally defeated and disgraced."

"I have no enemies, or, if I have, I have no wish to trample on them. All the wrongs ever committed against me in my life, I forgive with my whole heart, save one, and that—"

"You pardon also? Nay, Isabel, my best beloved,