

at least of the causes in the teapot.—There is no such a thing as pure green tea to be met with in England. It is adulterated in China: and we have lately learnt to adulterate it at home almost as well as the cunning Asiatic. The pure green tea made from the most delicate green leaves grown upon manured soil, such as the Chinese use themselves, is, it is true, wholly untainted; and we are informed that its beautiful bluish bloom, like that upon a grape, is given by the third process of roasting which it undergoes. The enormous demand for a moderately priced green tea, which has arisen both in England and China since the opening of the trade, has led the Hong merchants to imitate this peculiar color; and this they do so successfully as to deceive the ordinary judges of the article. Black tea is openly colored in the neighborhood of Canton in the most wholesale manner.

Mr. Robert Fortune, in his very interesting work, "The Tea Districts of China and India," gives us a good description of the manner in which this coloring process is performed, as witnessed by himself—

"Having procured a portion of Prussian-blue, he threw it into a porcelain bowl, not unlike a chemist's mortar, and crushed it into a very fine powder. At the same time a quantity of gypsum was produced and burned in the charcoal fires which were then roasting the teas. The object of this was to soften it, in order that it might be readily pounded into a very fine powder, in the same manner as the Prussian-blue had been. The gypsum, having been taken out of the fire after a certain time had elapsed, readily crumbled down, and was reduced to powder in the mortar. These two substances, having been thus prepared, were then mixed together in the proportion of four parts of gypsum to three parts of Prussian blue, and formed a light blue powder, which was then ready for use.

"This coloring matter was applied to the teas during the process of roasting. About five minutes before the tea was removed from the pans—the time being

regulated by the burning of a joss-stick—the superintendent took a small porcelain spoon, and with it he scattered a portion of the coloring matter over the leaves in each pan. The workmen then turned the leaves round rapidly with both hands, in order that the color might be equally diffused. During this part of the operation the hands of the workmen were quite blue. I could not help thinking if any green-tea drinkers had been present during the operation their taste would have been corrected and I believe improved.

"One day an English gentleman in Shanghai, being in conversation with some Chinese from the green-tea country, asked them what reason they had for dyeing the tea, and whether it would not be better without undergoing this process. They acknowledged that tea was much better when prepared without having any such ingredients mixed with it and that *they never drank dyed teas* themselves, but justly remarked, that, as foreigners seemed to *prefer to having a mixture of Prussian blue and gypsum with their tea* to make it look uniform and pretty, and as these ingredients were cheap enough, the Chinese had no objection to supply them, especially as such teas always fetched a higher price.

"I took some trouble to ascertain precisely the quantity of coloring matter used in the process of dyeing green teas, not certainly with the view of assisting others, either at home or abroad, in the art of coloring, but simply to show green tea drinkers in England, and more particularly in the United States of America, what *quantity* of Prussian-blue and gypsum they imbibe in the course of one year. To 14½ lbs. were applied 8 mace 2½ candereens of coloring matter, or rather more than an ounce. To every hundred pounds of colored green tea consumed in England or America, the consumer actually drinks more than half a pound of Prussian-blue and gypsum. And yet, tell the drinkers of this colored tea that the Chinese eat cats and dogs, and they will hold up their hands in amazement, and pity the poor Celestials."

If the better class of black and all