

vessels leaving that country and coming round the Horn, will reach New York always at least five days sooner than vessels of equal speed can double the Cape of Good Hope and make the port of Liverpool

#### ADULTERATION OF FOOD.

I have perused with mingled feelings many of the investigations of the *London Lancet* in reference to the adulteration of food, so much practised in the present day, and I cannot resist the conclusion that the disclosures there made, present humanity in a most degraded aspect. One portion of the body politic is presented to our view as seeming to take supreme delight in preying upon the life's blood of the rest of the commonwealth. The strenuous her votaries by her enchantments, and by the promise of an endless store of pleasure; the highwayman lays wait for his victim for the sake of his cash; and the prowling miscreant watches his opportunity to rifle the till of his fellow-being, to help on a miserable existence against all these, however, we may so far be on our guard. The love and the pursuit of virtue, will lead us in safely beyond the enchanted ground of the charmer, and the wise and effective laws of society may shield us from the assaults of a common foe. But this class of deceivers to which I more especially refer, first disarm us of suspicion by fair promise and false appearance, and then, like the vampire which soothes its victim while it is intent on his destruction,—they take advantage of the position they have secured, and make their gains accordingly. What an appalling amount of commercial dissimulation and degrading deception has been revealed by these investigations of the *Lancet*. So glaring indeed is the deception, and so gross and outrageous are the shiftings, solely with a view to make money that one can scarcely believe that human beings possessing ordinary reasoning faculties could be so far demoralized as to engage in it, or, after it was discovered, that society would be so long suffering as still to permit them to occupy a position among the haunts of men. I have often thought that these investigations must be conducted upon some sort of Oxy-Hydrogen Microscopic principle, for as that instrument will discover animalcules of a thousand varied shapes, roaming at large in a drop of water, so must all these ingredients that are discovered in our coffee, our sugar and our other articles of commerce, be so magnified, and receive an existence as it were which in reality without this instrument they did not possess. But it is not so.—I must believe, however humbling the belief, that men can be found, so utterly destitute of the slightest claim to the feelings of nature or humanity, as to employ their time in mixing up the food of their fellow-beings with deleterious and poisonous substances, and seemingly too without the slightest compunction.

As regards the article Tea, I have often satisfied myself of the absurdity of giving the name, Tea, to the mixture you purchase, unless it be as a general term, for it would be impossible in many cases to say whether the leaves of the hawthorn, sloethorn, privet, currant or tea plant, predominate most in an infusion. But if they kept only at that mild deception, the injury would not be great, for I believe that an infusion of the leaves of the red currant would be drunk by lovers of tea, with as great a relish as would the fairest infusion of that far-famed plant. Not content, however, with the first mixture, the old used up rubbish is purchased again from the hotel-keepers and other large consumers, and it is retouched, and mixed with verdigris and all sorts of abominations to make it once more fresh and pungent; then it is ready for market as genuine green tea. Then as to coffee, to expect it free from burnt peas, burnt corn or chichory would be almost hopeless. So far have they carried the deception in this way, that in Paris they actually manufacture the coffee beans out of a kind of paste, composed of all sorts of material, and sell the beans thus manufactured to those knowing families that like to grind their coffee themselves in order to

have it free from mixture. It is no use attempting it, we live in mixed society and must of necessity exist upon mixed food, and mixed drink, and every sort of mixture, however distant may be their family relationships. I believe, however, that the adulterating process was bounded by certain well defined limits, and beyond that, we might expect something genuine. I had fancied, for example, that mustard and red pepper, two articles I am very fond of, were beyond the pale of adulteration, but alas for my credulity. In mustard, so far has the deception gone, that while in nearly all articles, some pure specimens may be found, not one pure sample of this commodity could be discovered. Even the finest Durham mustard was discovered to be a vile adulteration, so thickly mixed up with turmeric and other poisonous dye stuffs, that if you use it, you do so at your peril. Then comes my favourite spice—red pepper, which for a climate such as this, is invaluable for every day use. It is now, however, so changed, that it would be impossible to recognize it. As this is among the last disclosures I will allow the *Lancet* to speak for itself.

"In none of the investigations of the *Lancet* Commissioners have the disclosures made been more startling than those now brought before the public respecting cayenne pepper. Of twenty-eight samples examined, it was found that twenty-four were adulterated, twenty-two contained mineral or coloring matter, and only four were found to be genuine. In thirteen of the samples red lead was found in large and poisonous quantities. In seven of the samples were found venetian red, red ochre, brick-dust or some other analogous ferruginous earth. In six of the samples were found a large quantity of salt, combined with red lead and a red ferruginous earth; the purpose of the salt is supposed to be to bring out the color and the acid taste of the genuine portion of the cayenne. The other ingredients were vermilion or sulphuret of mercury, a highly deleterious substance, cinnabar, turmeric, ground rice, and husks of white mustard seed. It is remarked as a peculiarity of red lead and vermilion, or sulphuret of mercury, that not only are they highly poisonous, but when taken into the human system are not eliminated as in the case with some poisons, but remain in the body, the doses gradually accumulating, until they seriously affect the health of those who use them. The diabolical miscreants who are guilty of manufacturing these poisonous frauds, deserve hanging much more than the starving and desperate wretches who commit burglary, or rob on the highway."

Farewell I red-pepper, farewell—dearly do I regret to say so:—but ere we part,—again Farewell. P.

**THEFT.**—We regret to state that on Wednesday morning last some miscreant entered the parlour of Mr. Cooper, our justly celebrated entomologist, and stole from the mantel-piece, the very handsome microscope which he obtained as a prize from the Mechanic's Institute at their last public exhibition for his extensive and admirably arranged case of insects. We fondly hope that as Mr. Cooper's name is engraved on it, any person seeing it in any way will at once give information of the fact to the police that Mr. C.'s dearly loved treasure may be again restored.

**PANORAMA OF THE CRYSTAL PALACE.**—Barnum's Panorama of this ever memorable Exhibition is at present open in St Lawrence Hall. The magnificent subject is in many of the views exceedingly well treated, although in others its very extensiveness prevents the possibility of that definiteness which one so much desires in a subject so universally absorbing. The demonstrator seems thoroughly acquainted with his text, and speaks with great animation and precision. It is impossible however in one visit to get any correct idea of the extent of the work. By the aid of the exquisite illustrations which are given in the *Art Journal*, those who did not see the original will be enabled to appreciate more easily the majestic palace in which they were displayed.

#### The Late Dr. Russell.

ONTARIO DIVISION SONS OF TEMPERANCE, NO. 26.  
Whereas this Division has heard, with deep regret, of the sudden death, in California, on the 2nd of June last, of Dr. Gavin Russell, a brother in the Order of the Sons of Temperance, late of this city; be it therefore resolved, by the Ontario Division, No. 26:—That this Division tender to the bereaved friends of our deceased brother and friend their deep and heartfelt sympathy. And whilst they do this, they cannot refrain from expressing their united opinions in favour of the uniform kindness—the generous philanthropy, and noble temperance example shown in his conduct in the community, by our departed brother. His mental energies were freely given in favour of those movements which tend to the moral and ennobling man,—religiously, morally, and physically.

#### Literary Notices.

MEYER'S UNIVERSUM, Part 3d., New York. Hermann J. Meyer.

In the third part of the *Universum* we have four very excellent engravings:—The first is *The Walhalla, in Bayaria*, the monument of the hero of independent Germany in the days of imperial Rome. The corner stone of this magnificent temple was laid in 1830. The building represents a Doric temple of white marble similar to the parthenon on the hill of the Acropolis at Athens. It is 70 feet in height, 200 feet in breadth and 300 in depth, the roof is supported on each side by a row of colossal pillars, eight of which stand at the two ends and seventeen at each side. The interior is a vast hall of marble, whose richly checkered ceiling is supported by two rows of Ionic columns.—The walls are studded with busts of the heroes of the German nation, and their biographies written on parchment by king Louis, are placed in a subterranean hall. White marble steps lead to the terrace of the temple, from which the view across the valley of the Danube is very grand. The cost of the building was three millions of florins. The engraving is finely executed. The second Engraving is a most delightful scene in Richmond Park, the enchanting retreat of Thomson. The park is a demesne of the British Crown, about eight miles from London, in the valley of the Thames. It exceeds in extent and beauty all the other parks in England. Its area contains 3000 acres and embraces every variety of scenery that nature and art can combine in such a space. The third is an expressive view of a portion of the imposing and gigantic temple of the Sun, at Balbec. The building of this temple is ascribed to Solomon. The entrance is through a portico of 12 columns of granite, to a hexagonal vestibule 180 feet in diameter, further on is the propylaeon or forecourt, an oblong square 574 feet long and 368 feet broad. An extensive range of colonnades adjoins this portion of the ruin. It is the cells, or inner temple which was 350 feet long, 160 broad and 90 feet high, and its roof was supported by 56 of these columns. "Anything more imposing and grand than this edifice previous to its destruction cannot be conceived by human imagination. The last picture is scenery in Constantinople. This like the others is beautifully engraved, and accompanied with interesting descriptive letter press. The richness of the Engravings will make this *Universum* a general favorite, as the scenes are not confined to one particular locality, and although from the tone of some of the remarks, it is evident that it is got up for the United States market, yet on this side the line we can equally enjoy the excellence of the production, while we leave the glorification scraps, as unscathed as we would the rind of an orange.