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LOVE OF NATURE.

BY COWPER.

The love of nature's works

Is an ingredient in the compound man,
 Infused at the creation of the kind.
 And, though the Almighty Maker has throughout
 Discriminated each from each, by strokes
 And touches of his hand, with so much art
 Diversified, that two were never found
 Twins at all points—yet this obtains in all,
 That all discern a beauty in his works,
 And all can taste them: minds, that have been formed
 And tutored with a relish more exact,
 But none without some relish, none unmoved.
 It is a flame, that dies not even there,
 Where nothing feeds it: neither business, crowds,
 Nor habits of luxurious city-life,
 Whatever else they smother of true worth
 In human bosoms; quench it or abate.
 The villas, with which London stands begirt,
 Like a swarthy Indian with his belt of beads,
 Provo it. A breath of unadulterate air,
 The glimpse of a green pasture, how they cheer
 The citizen, and brace his languid frame!
 Ev'n in the stifling bosom of the town
 A garden, in which nothing thrives, has charms,
 That soothe the rich possessor; much consoled,
 That here and there some sprigs of mournful mint,
 Of nightshade or valerian, grace the patch
 He cultivates. These serve him with a hint
 That nature lives; that slight-refreshing green
 Is still the livery she delights to wear,
 Though sickly samples of the exuberant whole.
 What are the casements lined with creeping herbs,
 The prouder sashes fronted with a range
 Of orange, myrtle, or the fragrant weed,
 The Frenchman's darling? are they not all proofs
 That man, immured in cities, still retains
 His inborn incinguishable thirst
 Of rural scenes, compensating his loss
 By supplemental shifts, the best he may?
 The most unfurnished with the means of life,
 And they, that never pass their brick-wall bounds
 To range the fields and treat their lungs with air,
 Yet feel the burning instinct, over-head,
 Suspend their crazy boxes, planted thick,
 And watered duly. There the pitcher stands
 A fragment, and the spoutless tea-pot there,
 Sad witnesses how close-pent man regrets
 The country, with what ardour he contrives
 A peep at nature, when he can no more.

SUGAR.

Abridged from "Vegetable Substances used for the Food of Man"

Sugar may be properly reckoned a necessary of life. It is of almost universal use throughout the world. The scattered tribes of North American Indians spend the months of spring in their rude encampments, manufacturing sugar out of the juice of the maple,—the five-and-twenty million inhabitants of the United Kingdom employ, throughout the year, two hundred thousand tons of shipping to export five hundred million pounds of sugar from their colonies. This enormous supply affords, upon an average 20lbs. of sugar to each individual of our twenty-five millions of population. Through the natural ope-

ration of our commercial power this important article of comfort is placed within the reach of the humblest in the land, although the revenue received by the state from the consumer amounts to £5,000,000 annually.



The Sugar-cane must be considered as a native of China, since it has been pretty accurately shown that its cultivation was prosecuted in that empire for two thousand years before sugar was even known in Europe, and for a very long period before other eastern nations became acquainted with its use. For some time after this substance, in its crystalline form, had found its way to the westward, through India and Arabia, a singular degree of ignorance prevailed in regard to its nature, and the mode of its production; and there is reason for believing that the Chinese, who have always evinced an unconquerable repugnance to foreign intercourse, purposely threw a veil of mystery over the subject. Persons have not been wanting, even in modern times, who have approved of this anti-social spirit, as being the perfection of political wisdom;—but is it not a complete answer to their opinion, that every nation which has cultivated commercial relations has been steadily advancing in civilization, and adding most importantly to the sum of its comforts and conveniences? while the inhabitants of China, although possessed of the greatest natural advantages, arising from variety of soil and climate, by which advantages they had so long ago placed themselves in advance of other people, have remained altogether stationary?

A knowledge of the origin of cane sugar was correctly revealed in the middle of the thirteenth century, by the celebrated traveller Marco Polo; though it was partially known much earlier. The plant was soon conveyed to Arabia, Nubia, Egypt, and Ethiopia, where it became extensively cultivated. Early in the fifteenth century the sugar-cane first appeared in Europe. Sicily took the lead in its cultivation; thence it passed to Spain, Madeira, and the Canary Islands; and shortly after the discovery of the New World by Columbus, this plant was conveyed to Hayti and Brazil, from which latter country it gradually spread through the islands of the West Indies.

The sugar-cane varies exceedingly in its growth, depending upon the nature of the soil. In new and moist land it some-