

ject of fraudulent adulteration, which has been sketched in these articles, and to show, not only that it is a customary form of trade, but that it is so well known that people smile when the proofs are adduced.

The public are incredulous as to the real amount of family sickness traceable to bad food, bad water and bad air, and often attribute to the effects of climate, illness which is directly the result of their own incredulity.

If flour is so bad that it contains the weevil, the worm, or the acarus, it still finds purchasers—at a price. If meat is condemned as unfit to appear at table it is consumed in the form of sausage or soup.

Unrefined sugar, though it covers the grocer's hand with the itch, is eaten by the public because it can be bought at a lower shade in price than the refined.

Deteriorated food leads to deteriorated health, even where it does not produce gastric irritation or convulsions—and deteriorated health in growing children and in anxious females marks out the ready victims of typhoid fever, cholera, or small-pox.

I am well acquainted with the casuistical argument that the public are able to a great extent to protect themselves. That a government may not be called upon to protect at the public expense the drunkard from potions which no sensible man would drink, or the smoker from the adulteration of the drug which is at best but a questionable luxury; still less the snuffer from the excessive stimulants which he applies by a vicious habit to an organ designed by its Creator to higher ends. And even the most flagrant examples of popular adulteration, viz.: of pepper, mustard, and of condiments and species of all kinds—these, too, are but luxuries—and probably the skill of the good housewife is equal to that of the scientific analyst in selecting the best article when willing to pay a fair price for it.

Where, then, can the line be drawn?

What is public duty, as distinguished from that of private discretion? I reply:—First, protect the ignorant and the young, and grant them the first necessities of healthy existence—pure air, clean sewers, and filtered water. "Reverentia a nos montons." Let this great city commence by setting a good public example, and when in this early spring the floods prevail, and the turbid waters carry with them the myriad germs of intestinal and cestoid worms (sources of convulsions, disgrace and death)—let the poor man and the child have their "cup of cold water" pure as well as free. When this is done our Corporation can with clean hands scourge the dealer in ADULTERATED FOOD AND DRINK.

OUR ENGLISH LETTER.

(From an Occasional Correspondent.)

LONDON, March 10, 1871.

As anticipated in my last, France had no alternative but to come to terms with her powerful conqueror. Thiers, as Premier, endeavoured to read the Treaty before the Assembly, but was so completely overcome with the powerful nature of the task that he fairly broke down and had to leave the room, another deputy having to read for him the obnoxious document.

A committee was appointed to report on the preliminaries, and it unanimously recommended the ratification of the treaty. A stormy scene followed, during which Napoleon was declared to be solely responsible for the disasters which had befallen France, and the Empire was pronounced to be extinct. Victor Hugo and others of the Radical Republicans denounced the treaty, but finally it was ratified by 546 votes to 107. Victor Hugo has since resigned his seat in the Assembly.

On the following morning (Wednesday, March 1,) 30,000 German soldiers made a triumphal entry into Paris, and, contrary to anticipations, without any great disturbance or outbreak. The march down the Champs Elysees and back must ever remain one of the most curious episodes of the war.

No such misfortune has happened to the European Family as the present humiliation of France, accompanied as it is by the subordination of German liberalism to military force. One cannot realize what such changes mean and what further disasters to freedom and struggles for liberty they may portend.

No one can contemplate a France in decay and ruin without both sympathy and alarm, and a France repairing her injuries and regaining strength will be a nation making ready for another war. The financial situation of the country is enough to frighten the boldest administrator. Exclusive of the great indirect losses to industry, it is computed that the last Bonapartist Empire has added considerably more than the English national debt to the obligations of France. Gradually the European character of the misfortune will dawn upon those who have so constantly urged upon England a policy of selfish isolation. England has looked on and done nothing, while the mischief was impending and while the course of events went from bad to worse. Perhaps a fear of offending Prussia characterized England's policy; still at the present time I know both Tories and Radicals and the feeling among Englishmen is that England ought to have strongly condemned from the first the warlike attitude of the French Empire, however much provoked by Bismarck and his pious King, and subsequently when war began to have prevented both morally and physically the terrific slaughter and bloodshed.

The Cobden Club of Edinburgh adopted last week a resolution that, "while the policy of non-intervention is wise and proper, so far as regards the internal affairs of neighbouring nations, circumstances may arise when intervention may be expedient in the interests of civilization." How significant

is this of a sensible change in public opinion, when men who once revered the name of Cobden, are now not afraid to avow their belief in a principle which only a year ago many among them would probably have denounced as a political heresy of the greatest magnitude against Cobden.

Unnecessarily and terribly, hard as the peace terms undoubtedly are, all will rejoice, while reprobating German rapacity, that peace has been restored at least for a time—very brief, I fear, at the longest. The conditions the French will find too hard for them to respect any longer than they possibly can help. The humiliation of France is for the moment complete, but the teachings of adversity, it is said, are wholesome, and France, whose iniquities were manifold, having been purged in this severe ordeal, may be expected to rise again, purer, stronger and healthier than before. She will remain a richer country than her rival, and though the cost of repairing the waste of the conflict, and defraying her own war debts, will, with the Prussian indemnity, lay a heavy weight upon her, with economy and reform in her administration, she will, one day, rise to be a great country.

The Nemesis which decrees that the gains of aggression are seldom permanent, may visit the offence of which Germany has been guilty.

I mentioned in my last that I was then on my way to Liverpool, the greatest shipping port in the world. From the records of the history of the town—"Saint Patrick, in the year 432, is said to have sailed from the banks of the Mersey on his celebrated mission to Ireland, and suffered shipwreck on the Isle of Man." It is to be regretted that no mention is made of the kind of craft in which the Saint embarked. Ten centuries later we are told there were only 12 ships in port—the largest of which was 40 tons burden. By the returns of last year, to show the growth of the shipping, the number trading to that port was 19,429 vessels, whose tonnage amounted to over 5 millions and a half.

The immense length of docks and the fleet of vessels all bear witness to the immense carrying trade from that port. The London and North-Western Railway Company have just opened a monster hotel at the front of the Lime Street Terminus. The front is 298 feet in length, and the height to the top of the main cornice is 81 feet 3 inches, there being five stories from the ground-floor to the cornice. The building contains 298 bedrooms, and each story can be reached by lifts or elevators, one worked by steam for luggage, and one by hydraulic machinery.

For travellers it is most convenient, as it is reached from the station under cover, and refreshment-rooms opening on the station are to be attached.

I found this most convenient in travelling also in the north of England, say at Newcastle-upon-Tyne and at Hull, at both of which places there are well-managed hotels.

Montreal certainly should make a stir to build a suitable railway terminus and hotel accommodation. When I see the splendid stations and conveniences in this country, I feel terribly ashamed of our dirty, wretched, jumping-off places.

A singular increase in the number of visitors is noticeable in London. The sitting of the Houses of Parliament, the Levees, Drawing-rooms, with the curiosity regarding the coming royal marriage, all conduce to attract a large crowd to the Metropolis.

The unpleasant condition also of the Continent tends to increase the number of visitors. There is no doubt that the International Exhibition will do much to enliven the year. The "Albert Hall," which will form the prominent feature of the coming Exhibition, was tried some days ago by a concert, given to the work-people who have been engaged in the construction of the building, and their friends. Its immense size astonishes every one on entering.

Everyone here is talking of the last "presentation at Court," Master McGrath, the famous Irish greyhound. The Queen, through Sir Thomas Biddulph, expressed a wish to see this extraordinary dog, and accordingly his owner, Lord Lurgan, immediately despatched him to Windsor, where he was duly presented and subsequently held private levees.

The papers say that this was a graceful compliment on the part of Her Majesty to the coursing community at large, and especially gratifying to all classes in Ireland, the country of the famous greyhound's nationality. It may be.

The Rothschilds are out with a Russian loan for £12,000,000 stg., but it does not find much favour, as it is looked very suspiciously upon, particularly in regard to the part she has secretly played in the present war, and as it is likely she may turn these funds into munitions for a war with this country—who knows?

W. M. F.

CORRESPONDENCE.

"THE TARTAN."

To the Editor of the "CANADIAN ILLUSTRATED NEWS."

SIR.—I observe by the last number of your paper that you copy an extract from the *Court Journal*, which states that there is an Act on the Statutes of Great Britain prohibiting the use of the "Highland garb" in Scotland. Allow me to inform you that the Arbitrary Act passed in the year 1747 prohibiting the wearing of the "Highland garb" was repealed in the year 1782.

Yours, &c.,

HIGHLANDER.

COD LIVER OIL CREAM.—This preparation, from the laboratory of Messrs. Kerry Bros. & Crathern, of this city, is compounded of Cod-liver oil and the hypophosphites of lime and soda. It is mainly intended to be used in the cure of diseases of the chest, but is of much value in nearly all complaints wherein general debility is to be warded off. The oil being of the purest quality, and rendered thoroughly palatable even to delicate tastes, the emulsion, or "cream," may be safely taken even by persons of a very weak stomach, and of the merits of the hypophosphites it contains it is scarcely necessary to speak. Those who cannot take Cod-liver oil in its simple state, as well as those who can, will find "Cod-liver Oil Cream" much more pleasant to take, as well as a more powerful remedy for those diseases for the cure of which the use of Cod-liver oil is usually recommended.

THE HUMAN MIND AND THE HUMAN HAND.

The human foot is far superior as a mechanical instrument, for general purposes, to the paws or feet of any animal, except those of apes and monkeys. The human hand has, however, peculiarities of construction which render it one of the most wonderful pieces of mechanism in existence, and capable of being applied to a greater variety of uses than any other machine, whether natural or artificial. It is, however, not of the anatomy of the hand that we would speak. The celebrated surgeon, Bell, found it easy to write a large volume upon the human hand. Surely we would be rash to attempt an elaborate discussion of such a fertile subject in a single article. Our intention is merely to notice the mutual dependence of the human mind and the human hand upon each other, and to point out the fact, overlooked by most people, that without his perfect hand, man could never have taken the rank he now enjoys as the mental superior of all other animals.

It is an admitted fact that the human intellect has increased in power, as it has increased in knowledge, by civilization. To-day there may be found savage races of men whose intelligence is not very far above that of our domestic dog, or of the wild apes. But now, were it possible to take any one of these races, and transform their hands and feet into such imperfect paws as those possessed by the dog, and then isolate this species from all other races, in some situation where coarse food could be obtained sufficient to sustain life, who can believe that such a race of beings would ever make a single advance towards civilization?

The chief of all the elements of human progress is written language. By its aid we are enabled to accumulate knowledge, and to concentrate, so to speak, in the present, wisdom acquired in the past. It is absolutely impossible to accomplish this through the medium of spoken language. Let any one who wishes to gain an adequate idea of the relative power of written and spoken language, visit some great library, and, wandering through its alcoves, judge what manner of man he would be who could carry in his mind the facts recorded in the books of a single department, not to speak of the entire collection. And could we suppose such a prodigy possible, how limited would his power be in oral instruction compared to that which books possess, reaching as they do, generation after generation of readers!

But written language and books and libraries would never have existed without the human hand. We are apt to consider spoken language as the principal and most important avenue through which ideas are communicated. It is the principal avenue, but, considered with reference to human progress, it is not the most important. The highest conceptions in art, science, and philosophy, find expression in written language through the hand. This language is not necessarily that by which ordinary ideas are conveyed. It may be a language of colour or form, or both, on the painter's canvas, the sculptor's model, the architect's drawing paper, or the machinist's handiwork. It may be a language of sound in the score of the musician. Whatever the hand does, it speaks a language which is a clear index to the thought which guides it, whether its work be rude or refined.

But the hand is not only an avenue of expression; it is one of the doors through which we obtain a very large proportion of our objective knowledge. In fact, it is the vehicle, so to speak, which brings objects within the reach of the other organs of sense, while it is capable of determining much unaided by any other organ. More than this, the hand has been able to supplement the powers of other organs by the construction of instruments which greatly enlarge the scope of natural sensation.

The eye has discovered much, but these discoveries have been made possible, by the microscope, the telescope, and the spectroscope, which only the human hand could construct. The human ear has explored the mysteries of sound, but only through the help of the monochord, the siren, and other instruments which the hand provided.

We see, then, that the hand is the chief executive of the mind. When the mind wants to call anything to the aid of any of the senses, the order is issued through the hand, which forthwith summons and coerces the brute forces of nature into obedience. Through its energy crude materials are subjected to battering, to grinding, to fiery heat, and finally are compelled to assume the required forms, and take their place in the army of implements and instruments by which the mind forces its way deeper and deeper into nature's labyrinth of wonders. When the mind wants to express its conceptions, the hand is its ready servant, to write, to print, to paint, to carve.

There is another point connected with this view of the intimate mutual dependence of mind and hand, namely, that the mind of one may direct the hands of others, and vice versa; so that skilled minds may always find skilled hands, and skilled hands may not lack for skilled minds, though both may not be possessed by the same person. The greatest works are accomplished through such associations of mental with manual skill. Surely, then, the skilled hand is entitled to a place of honour with the skilled mind. Neither can do without the other, and human progress cannot dispense with either.—*Scientific American.*

A correspondent of an English newspaper has discovered the following "arithmetical curiosity." He says: "Starting with the hands of a clock at 0h. 0m. 0s., the minute hand during one hour passes over the several numbers 1, 2, 3, . . . 12; these being added together, make the sum of 78, which, being multiplied by 24, the number of hours in the sidereal day, make the number 1872, or the date of next year. Of course this has never happened before in the Christian era, and never can happen again." Of course not; but something equally "curious" may be discovered any year if an equally ingenious application of figures be resorted to.

TEMPERATURE in the shade, and Barometer indications for the week ending Saturday, March 25, 1871, observed by JONN UNDERHILL, Optician to the Medical Faculty of McGill University, 230 Notre Dame Street.

	9 A.M.	1 P.M.	6 P.M.	MAX.	MIN.	MEAN.	9 A.M.	1 P.M.	6 P.M.
Sat., March 19.	34°	36°	38°	39°	28°	33.5	30.40	31.50	30.60
Sun., "	20.	24.	32.5	31°	33°	18°	35.5	30.56	31.50
Tu., "	21.	36.	36°	35°	40°	26°	34.5	29.88	29.78
W., "	22.	32.	35°	33°	37°	32°	29.72	29.70	29.80
Th., "	23.	32.	34°	31°	36°	25°	36.5	29.40	29.85
Fri., "	24.	26°	33°	33°	35°	19°	27°	30.10	30.15
Sat., "	25.	24°	37°	37°	39°	19°	29°	30.12	30.15