

is, moreover, as calculated to aggravate cases of partial insanity, as it has been found to produce examples of a more general kind.

The above remarks contain an exposition of the legal notions and practices concerning insanity in criminal cases in Canada. We have been induced to offer them in consequence of a late decision at Quebec. F. X. Julien tried for wilful murder of his father-in-law before Court of Queen's Bench, was found guilty, and sentenced to be hanged on 17th March next. The plea of insanity was urged in defence, but without the slightest argument in its favor, the testimony of some medical witnesses to the contrary notwithstanding. Mr. Solicitor General, C.E., insisted that unless the jury could distinctly prove the prisoner not competent to distinguish right from wrong, they would not be justified in acquitting him on the ground of insanity. The Hon. Mr. Justice Panet, in summing up, directed the jury that if they acquitted the prisoner, they could only do so on the ground of insanity, and incapacity of knowing whether he did right or wrong.

COFFEE *versus* TEA.

The berries of the shrub *coffea arabica*, and the leaves of the two varieties of tea plant, *thea viridis*, and *thea bohea*, contain a crystalline, nitrogenous, salifiable base, called respectively, according to the source from which it is obtained, *caffeine* and *theine*. This substance has a composition represented by the formula $C^8 H^5 N^2 O^2$. It has no perceptible effect on the system when administered in the uncombined state. As, however, it has been found existing in plants used by untutored tribes in different parts of the world, for dietetic purposes, writers on organic chemistry have endeavored to explain the manner in which it affords nutrition to the body. Thus Leibig supposes that it may assist in the formation of *taurine*, a nitrogenized body found in bile; for, one equivalent of caffeine or theine, plus nine equivalents of water and nine of oxygen, contain the elements of two atoms of taurine. "2 8-10 grains can give to an ounce of bile the nitrogen it contains in the form of taurine. If an infusion of tea contain no more than the 1-10th of a grain of theine, still, if it contribute in point of fact to the formation of bile, the action of even such a quantity cannot be looked upon as a nullity. Neither can it be denied that, in the case of an excess of non-azotized food, and a deficiency of motion, which is required to cause the change of matter in the tissues, and thus to yield the nitrogenized product which enters into the composition of bile, that in such a condition the health may be benefited by the use of compounds which are capable of supplying the place of the nitrogenized product, produced in the healthy state of the body, and essential to the production of an important element of respiration. In a chemical sense, caffeine or theine, are, in virtue of their composi-