

and dependencies of Great Britain, we only receive eight per cent of our consumption, or 80,000,000 lbs. We are therefore glad to find that the new settlement at Port Kessaird, founded by Mr. Consul Pritchard, in the Fiji Islands, is prospering, and the bush is being vigorously cleared to make way for cotton plantations, and that Colonel Smythe is to examine and report to Her Majesty's Government as to the expediency of the annexation of these Islands to the British Crown; for we are persuaded that the cultivation of cotton by the free labor of the natives of Eastern and Central Africa, and of the aborigines of the islands of the South Pacific Ocean, will do more to suppress slavery than all the attempts hitherto made; as from them instead of from a slave-holding country, we should draw our future supplies.—*English Paper.*

DIFFICULTY OF DISTINGUISHING A PLANT FROM AN ANIMAL.—The more naturalists know of the plants and animals of the globe, the more difficult has they found it to distinguish one from the other. Among the little organisms which are invisible to the naked eye, there are large numbers about the character of which there has long been a fierce dispute, they being claimed by the botanists as plants and by the zoologists as animals. Many of the plants in certain stages of their growth, swim about in the water and look and act so nearly like animals, that they would probably have always been classed as such, had they not been observed to branch out and grow up into perfect plants. There is no single character by which the animal or vegetable nature of an organism can be tested; but the safest guide in the doubtful cases is furnished by the mode in which the nourishment is taken. Animals are nourished by organic matter, which they take in some way into the interior of their bodies; while vegetables have the power of absorbing their food from inorganic elements on the exterior.

TO CORRESPONDENTS:—

MR. DAVID SMITH, of Smithtown, K. C., will please accept our thanks. Money is received, and eleven copies of the *Instructor* will be sent as directed. Letters of A. R.; G. M.; and S. T., are at hand; contents will be attended to—thanks.

We are much obliged to FRIEND C. for the interest he has taken in the circulation of the *Instructor*; nine copies of which will be sent as requested.

“Friend C.’s habits of industry are very commendable; you pursue, you say, “ten different departments of labor in one day;” we very much fear that you slight some, if not all of them; as you say, “after having courted a girl, she would not stay courted; just as” you “arrived at pop the question point, she backed out.” We are very sorry, for you but can’t cry; the only remedy we can see in your case, is, take time, court one girl, and court her right, and don’t be courting “half a dozen at once.”