

Capenne pepper subjected to analysis, twenty-four were adulterated; that out of the above number four only were genuine, that out of the twenty-four adulterated samples, twenty-two contained mineral colouring matter, that red lead, often in large and poisonous quantities, was present in thirteen samples; that Venetian red, red ochre, brick dust, or some other analogous feruginous earths, were contained in seven samples; that cinnabar, vermilion, or sulphuret of mercury, was detected in one sample; that six of the samples consisted of a mixture of ground rice, turmeric, and Cayenne, colored with either red lead or a red ferruginous earth; that six samples contained large quantities of salt, sometimes alone, but more frequently combined with rice and a red ferruginous earth, or with red lead; that one of the samples was adulterated with a large quantity of the husk of white mustard seed, that two contained rice only, coloured with red lead or a ferruginous earth. As is well known, red lead and vermilion, or sulphurate of mercury, are highly deleterious substances, both being characterized by the very peculiar circumstances that they are not, like the majority of other compounds, when received into the system, at once eliminated therefrom, but remain in the body for a considerable time, gradually accumulating, until at length they occasion the peculiar symptoms which distinguish their presence in large amount. Thus, however small the dose taken from day to day, the constitution is yet liable, by the repetition of the dose, to be at length brought under the influence of the poison, and to become seriously affected. But the quantity of red lead and mercury introduced into the system in adulterated Cayenne pepper is by no means inconsiderable, since it commonly forms a large portion of the article. Some idea of the amount of these substances frequently present may be formed from the fact that, in a pinch of cayenne moistened and diffused over a white plate, or a piece of glass they may be distinctly seen by the eye alone. What punishment, we would now inquire, ought to be inflicted on the parties guilty of the crime of mixing these deleterious substances with articles of diet? The case made out, we submit, is one which, for the sake of the public health, strongly demands the interposition of the Legislature. The man who steals one's purse commits a less crime than he who, by tricking our food, robs us of health. In a recent leading article we pointed out the fact that the law, in its present state, actually offers a remedy, which, if carried into effect, would to some extent meet the present case. Parties guilty of vending adulterated articles of food may be proceeded against for the recovery of the amount paid for them. We trust that some spirited individuals, having the welfare of the public at heart, will ere long proceed to enforce that remedy."

Now, this is frightful enough, and likely to make nervous gentlemen of us all; but when we remember that this is but one exposure out of many, coming from the same quarter, we all may well say, there is no knowing what to eat or to drink. They say, and say sometimes falsely, that knowledge is power. It would be well if it were a power to help ourselves. If such be its discoveries, either the world's common traders were once more honest, or 'ignorance' was really "bliss," and "tis folly to be wise." Being, however, made wise, do let us try to be a little wiser, and put a stop to universal and outrageous cheater.

It is impossible to avoid a general suspicion of everybody and everything. I do verily believe that Prince Homburg reigns—that there is no good thing advocated but for the value of the evil it brings with it, and for the selfish ends it promotes. Thus, the universal demand for education on the part of the public press—what is it for? but that, the more readers, the more buyers of newspapers. The cry is taken up for the facility of making dupes in every direction. Educate, educate, say the diurnal, the hebdomadal press, that every man, woman and child, may read (their Bible is the pretence—the meaning is) our newspapers. It is they who send knowledge-mongers a-

mountbanking about the country, and setting up their lecture-rooms, where the pupils are taught the fantastic tricks of tumbler; for the head is where the heels should be, and the heels uppermost, kicking at the heavens, in which position the heart is out of its place, too near the ground, and loses its upward aspiration. Useful knowledge, says the modern schoolmaster, is earth-knowledge. Instinct gave the heathen a better notion of this matter—

"O homo animas dedit, esclaque terti
Jussit, et erectos ad cœtera tollere vultus."

I have heard the now-wisdom folk say, that all books should be re-written—that children should be emancipated from the serfdom of King Solomon, for that he was a bigot and a fool that know nothing.

Verily the "prince of this world" has agents everywhere—consequently the press teems with advertisements of "Genuine Articles." Did you, honest reader, ever read one advertisement that told you of any deterioration whatever? With whom, now-a-days, would you like to play odd and even in the dark? Would you take any man's brick out of his hand as a sample of his house, and take his title-deeds without a scrutiny? When next we taut our Transatlantic friends with their "smart men," they may fairly retort upon us, that we pay "smart-money" at home for every article we buy. Often as I have been tempted to take up this subject—our boast of superior honesty—I have abstained, hardly knowing where to begin, and doubting how it would be borne by the people of traders in all ways, or of willing dupes, who admit the maxim, and, for its advantages, bear the disadvantages—"Qui vult decipi, decipiatur;" but at length this stinging gout of Cayenne pepper has made up the intolerable burthen, and broken the back of my resolution. And though I would fain wait for a cooler moment for this peppery argument, I do not know when to expect it. For, writing now in the midst of elections, though the weather is hot, the political heats are hotter, and give very little promise of abatement—threatening greater heats. But as people do now, some time of the day, seek the shade, and love to be cool, I venture upon this sedative of our heats. The few truths in these observations may at least tend to keep down the thermometer of our own overweening pride. They who are in the habit of taking large quantities of Cayenne are likely, contrary to their expectation, to be quiet enough; for the accumulation of the poison may slowly, but surely, give them their quietus, however hot and ardent their human passions now, while they are heaping lead upon lead in their own stomachs, enough for every man to supply his own coffin withal. A little pepper-dust, duly administered, may settle all other heats and animosities.

"Hi motus animorum atque hinc certaminis laus
Pulveris exigui factu compressa quiescent."

Which, truly translated, may stand for the following advertisement:—

"Adulterate pepper warranted to settle
The proudest stomachs and most fiery temples."

I perceive that, in many large places, certain Milk Companies are set up, professing to sell the real genuine unadulterated milk. It might appear strange that one milk company in a town or city should issue such an advertisement, and that none of the old milk people venture either to take offence at the implied charge of adulteration, or venture upon counter-advertisements.—Not very long ago, there was a quarrel between two milk sellers, and one confessed at one of the police-offices what he said it was no use to deny, that they drew largely upon the "black cow"—in their trade language, the pump. Two gentlemen in their walk suddenly came upon a milk-

boy with his cans. As he looked young, they thought they might catch him. One of them, therefore, said hastily to him, "I know you put hot water in the milk, it is so different." The boy vindicated himself at once: "No, indeed, sir, we always put it cold." Let me recommend to milk-men, that they should go voluntarily before the magistrates of the township, and make affidavit that they have not, do not, and will not, in themselves, or persons employed by them, in any way dilute or adulterate the article; and there is very little doubt they will get the best custom, most profitable patronage, besides that which need to be reckoned money's worth—the preserving a milk-white conscience.

If a man forges a bill, he is tria sporto: is he that forges an article of consumption less guilty? If a poor rogue—I only pity him by comparison—obtains a little money under false pretences, he is sent to the treadmill for cheating an individual. What ought to be done to the general cheaters, the large, the wholesale impostors, who obtain the greatest sums under false pretences, by cheating everybody? There is a legal punishment for short weights: have the authorities yet considered what short weight really is? If a grocer sells a pound of coffee, as coffee, and it is only half a pound of coffee and the other half chicory, ought not the law against short weight to be extended to such a case? It is time the Legislature should look a little into this matter of dishonesty. It would be far better that every tradesman should be obliged to take out a license and make his affidavit that he will not adulterate any goods, than that people should so largely and so widely be defrauded; and there are none who suffer so severely by this free trade in cheater as the poor, buying, as they do, upon little credit, both false weight and deteriorated and adulterated goods. If it be said, this would be an infringement upon the liberty of the subject, I answer, so much the better; I would have every liberty to cheat suppressed, and, for the general protection, as well as for the sake of amelioration, in honesty, I would make the conviction of these frauds a misdemeanor. Perhaps, even by Acts, I may be thought outrageously out of the humanities of the present era; but I will out with it. I do think it a great pity that we have abolished the stocks, and other personal punishments; nor do I believe these abolitions to be at all good for the very persons who, in former days, would have been subject to them. I really am inclined to think that a fat grocer, who, as the farce says, sands the sugar, waters the tobacco, or sells chicory for coffee, and then bids his 'prentices, who do his work, come to prayers, would be very justly punished by a basinato on the soles of his feet. I do not see what right common cheaters have with liberty at all, till they know how to use it. The moment it is made to answer the purpose of knavery, it ought to be put down; and until put down, we live under the tyranny of the worst kind of protection. Is it not now-a-days often times rewarded? So tender is our law in its administration to culprits, it is ever upon the stretch of invention to find for them loopholes of escape. A man, the other day, was sued by the Excise for selling cigars upon which no duty had been paid. He escaped by his sheer dishonesty. He proved that, though he sold them as real Havannah, they had not an atom of tobacco in them!

Good Mr. Bull, that you are cheated in many ways, you too well know; but you do not know at all the extent of the frauds practised upon you. I will say nothing just now about how you have been gulled by your own peculiar servants, nor of the canisters (supposed to be meat) which