



TIGHT LACING.

In China's fashion requires women's feet to be compressed into half their natural size, and we ridicule the custom, and pity its victims. Among the civilized nations of the West, fashion requires, or, at all events, recently required, the female waist to be compressed into half its natural dimensions, and in that reason, science, or religion itself, could say against the practice was in vain. Which custom is farthest removed from common sense?—that of the idolaters of China, or that of the Christians of Britain and America? The one materially diminishes the power and injures the action of the muscles of the feet it is true, but the other performs the same destructive offices for the lungs, heart, liver, stomach, and other vital organs. Which, we repeat the question, is most injurious?

To compress the lungs so much that they can only half supply the blood with vital air, must not only materially weaken the mothers of the human race, but the race itself. To this cause, together with intemperance and other vices (for we look upon every thing that injures and shortens human life for the sake of fashion, vanity, or appetite, as a vice), we doubt not, to be attributed the fact, that with all the improvements of modern times in cleanliness, ventilation, wholesome food, &c. &c., so little approximation has been made to the longevity which might be expected from the corporeal constitution given to man at first, and which is believed by many to be foretold in the prophecies as yet to come to pass.

The above wood-cuts, exhibit more clearly than any description the extent of the evil done. The first is the exact outline of the statue called the Venus de Medici, which, from the time that it was executed by the most celebrated of ancient Grecian sculptors to the present, has been considered the very perfection of female beauty, and is the natural shape of a well-formed woman. The second is the pattern after which fashion imperatively required the modern first lady to model herself, which was effected by artificial compression, beginning, as in the case of the Chinese feet, at an early age. The duplicate cuts shew the internal effects of the compression.

This process destroyed the vigour of the muscles that support the spine, at the age when they required much exercise to develop and strengthen them; and then, with all this superinduced weakness, the poor young girl who was intended for a lady had to sit bolt upright for long dreary hours at school on a high bench, and without any support for the back; enduring torture from

which an Indian fakcer would perchance have shrunk. What wonder that there are distorted spines! What wonder that the family circle is often an hospital!

The cuts in question, though never before published in Canada, so far as we know, have been published over and over again in various popular works in Britain; and partly to their influence, and partly, we trust, to the influence of religion and good sense, the compression of the waist has been greatly mitigated—the same relative proportions being obtained in a quite different and much less objectionable way. That it still exists, however, to an absurd and pernicious extent cannot be doubted, and therefore we are only performing a duty to the public in re-publishing them here.

SCRAPS FROM ELIHU PURRITT, THE LEARNED BLACKSMITH.

Let every man, who loves humanity, read this! In 1835, a year of great commercial prosperity, the value of all the British and Irish Produce and manufactures exported from the United Kingdom, was \$208,237,980. The appropriations for the payment of the interest of the British war-debt, and for the support of the Army, Ordnance, and Navy, during the current year, amount to \$225,403,500!!! Think of that! The war expenses, in the time of peace, exceeding by nearly \$20,000,000 per annum, all that the human and iron machinery of that great kingdom can produce beyond its home consumption!!! And now there is to be a famine there, and the guilty policy that taxes the very air breathed by the poor to pay these war expenses, has locked up British ports against the Egyptian granaries of the world, leaving those hungry millions to covet swine's food in sight of interdicted abundance.

THE CHURCH MILITANT.—A Lieutenant of the Royal Navy recently stated in a speech in London, that since the time of Henry IV. the subject of war had never been mooted in the House of Lords without every bishop voting in its favor, with the exception of one on each occasion.

LET NO HEATHEN READ THIS.—During the year 1844, the nations distinguished by the name of *Christian*, expended more in preparing to cut each other's throats than has been appropriated to the preaching of the gospel to the pagan world since Jesus Christ expired on the cross! How well have they obeyed the last injunction of the Saviour, "*Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature!*"

The mercantile shipping of the civilized world amounts to about 8,000,000 tons, which is worth, new and old, \$30 per ton, and nets, clear of interest, insurance, &c., ten per cent, or \$24,000,000 per annum. The appropriation to the British Navy for the current year, is \$33,620,200!! Is not this a sober fact? that the annual expense of the nation's navy exceeds the net profit of all the mercantile shipping owned by the civilized world!

From March 4th, 1789, to June 30th, 1844 our government expended on the war department \$663,458,851. The interest of this sum, at 6 per cent, would build Whitney's great railroad from the Lakes to the Pacific, of 2500 miles in length, at \$15,000 per mile; and thus erect a highway for the commerce and communion of the family of nations, which should be reckoned in all coming time one of the greatest enterprises that ever blessed the race.

NIGHT.

BY THE REV. J. B. WHITE.

Mysterious night! when our first Parent knew
Thée, from report divine, and heard thy name,
Did he not tremble for this lovely frame,
This glorious canopy of Light and Blue?
Yet 'neath a curtain of translucent dew
Bathed in the rays of the great setting flame,
Hesperus with the host of heaven came,
And lo! Creation widened in man's view.
Who would have thought such darkness lay conceal'd
Within thy beams, O Sun? or who could find,
Whilst fly, and leaf, and insect stood reveal'd,
That to such countless Orbs thou mad'st us blind?
Why do we, then, shun death with anxious strife?
If light can thus deceive, wherefore not life?