

OPIUM, ITS CULTIVATION, &c.

This baneful drug is chiefly cultivated in Bengal, and other English East India possessions. The seed is sown in November and produce collected in March. India is said to produce 69,000 chests, weighing from 125 to 140 pounds each, annually.

In 1837 it amounted to between 39,000 and 40,000 chests, valued at \$25,000,000. From 1838 to 1842 the trade was almost entirely interrupted by the war which grew out of the attempts on the part of the Chinese government to suppress it.

The principle use made of opium by the Chinese is in the form of smoking. The wealthier orders do their smoking in their own dwellings, but for the poorer classes there are thousands of shops fitted with accommodations expressly for smoking.

"It exhausts the animal spirits, impedes the regular performance of business, wastes the flesh and blood, dissipates every kind of property, renders the person ill-favored, promotes abscurity, discloses secrets, violates the laws, attacks the vitals, and destroys life."

The Chinese government have made strong efforts to cut off and restrict the traffic in this drug. Public attention was directed to its injurious effects in 1799, and in 1809 an edict was issued requiring all ships discharging their cargoes at Whampoa to give bonds, that they had no opium on board.

In 1820. In 1834 an edict was issued, declaring that the injury done by the influx of opium, and by the increase of those who inhaled it, was nearly equal to a general conflagration, and denouncing upon the seller and smoker of the poison, the bastinado, the wooden collar, imprisonment, banishment, confiscation of property, and even death by public decapitation or strangulation.

But notwithstanding all this, the trade kept increasing, until at length, an Imperial Commissioner was appointed, clothed with the highest authority, to proceed to Canton and endeavor to effect an utter annihilation of the trade. In carrying out this determination, he seized and destroyed some 20,180 chests of opium, and compelled the merchants to sign a bond that they would forever cease trading in the article.

This bold and decided measure on the part of the Commissioner led to the war with England, which is commonly known as the opium war, the result of which is well known. When urged to legalize the trade the Emperor replied in these memorable words: "It is true," said he, "I cannot prevent the introduction of the flowing poison; gain seeking and corrupt men will, for profit and sensuality, defeat my wishes; but nothing will induce me to derive a revenue from the rice and misery of my people!"

One result of the war was the ceding of the island of Hong Kong to the English. In this island, after passing into the hands of the victors, the trade in opium was legalized, and twenty shops for its sale immediately licensed, within gun shot of the Chinese Empire, where such an offence is punishable with death.

It is stated upon the highest authority that the British government in India could not be sustained without the immense revenue derived from this trade. This revenue for the last six years, it is said, has amounted to nearly \$80,000,000. It is also estimated that the immense sum of \$400,000,000 of specie has been drained from China to pay for this single article alone within the last half century.—N. Y. Mirror.

CAPERS OF THE BEAR.

The San Francisco Herald gives us the following amusing item of natural history.

The bear has even a greater fondness for acorns than the deer; he also is seen in numerous parties during the season. An expedition that took the field against them a short while ago, saw in the neighborhood of Clear Lake, no less than fifty at one time. Of the social habits of the bear, no great deal is known, as the temper of the gentleman does not invite much familiarity from outsiders, men can only treat with him from the top of a tree. The Indians, however, say that after his own bearish fashion, he has some idea of sport. The female cuffs her little ones about much in the spirit of two legged mothers, and the cubs on their part, cut all sorts of queer little antics, very often apparently for the sole purpose of distressing their anxious parents.

Dr Bow estimates the revenue of Japan at \$100,000,000 annually; the standing army at 120,000 men, and the population at 50,000,000.

Humorous.

A little nonsense now and then, is warranted by the wisest men.

The following passionate lines are in the Knickerbocker:

Was I court-plaster, I would be
A patch upon her lip;
To spend a life of vestary,
And sip, and sip, and sip!

Why are country girls' cheeks like french calico? Because they are warranted to wash and retain their color.

THE USE OF BAD DEBTS.—An editor off in Arkansas was lately shot in an affray. Luckily the ball came against a bundle of unpaid accounts in his pocket. Even gunpowder could not go through unpaid newspaper bills, and the editor saved his life by the delinquency of his subscribers. Surely it is an ill-wind that blows nobody any good.

Blacksmiths, it is said, forge and steel every day, but we think people speak iron-ically of them.

An Irishman in Iowa has just taught ducks to swim in hot water, and with such success that they lay boiled eggs. Who says this is not an age of improvement.—American Paper.

A Bangor paper states that an ordinance has been introduced into the councils of that city, for daguerreotyping and hanging up all past, present, and future Mayers in the Aldermen's room.

Some time ago there were an Englishman, an Irishman, and a Scotchman in conversation about their respective countries, each trying to supercede the others in his relation of wonders; and the subject of echos came on the carpet. The Englishman said there was one in a certain valley in England that rebounded half a mile, the Scotchman said there was one in Scotland that could be heard a mile distant. "Arrah," says Pat, "there's one in ould Ireland that if ye call out 'how are ye,' it answers 'very well, I thank you, Sir.'" The others gave it up.

Three Irishmen were to have four loaves of bread given to them if they could divide them equally without cutting them. This was a puzzler; but after severe mental exercise, one of them exclaimed "fais, an I have it." "Well Pat, how is it?" "well, sure, an there's two for you two and two for me too."

A man getting out of an Omnibus a few days ago, made use of two rows of knees as banisters to steady himself, at which the ladies took offence, and one of them cried aloud. "A perfect savage!" "True," said a wag, "belongs to the Paw-Knee tribe."

AN OBLIGING DENTIST.—A traveling dentist called at a farm house in Dedham, Mass., the other day, and asked if any one of the family "wanted teeth drawn?" "No, sir," said the farmer, "there is not one among us who has a single decayed tooth." The dentist hesitated a moment, and then added, "I am willing to take potatoes in pay, sir." "Lord bless you! my dear man, cried the farmer, "so you suppose we are going to sit down and have sound teeth drawn out of our heads for the sake of disposing of a few bushels of potatoes?"

PETTER AS GOOT.—My German friend, how long have you been married? "Vel dis is a ting I seldom can't like to talk about, but ven I does, it seems to be so long as it never vas."

An afflicted old lady says: "I have buried several children—I've buried my husband—yet in all these troubles, I've found consolation in that passage of Scripture where it says, 'Fret not thy Gizzard.'"

According to law, the survivors of railroad accidents can recover. Their recovery may be safe enough as a matter of law we wish it were equally so as a matter of fact.

TIT FOR TAT.—The Advertiser calls the Union "a certain paper," whereupon the Union says the Advertiser is a "very uncertain paper."

A merchant not over conversant with geography on hearing that one of his vessels was in jeopardy, exclaimed, "Jeopardy, where's that?"

If you don't wish to get angry, never argue with a block-head. Remember, the further the razor the more you cut yourself and sweat.

TAKING PAY IN KIND.—Selling whips to a girl and squaring accounts with a kiss.

When is a ship in love? When it is attached to the buoy.

A Dutchman related a misfortune which befel his son, in the following manner: "Poor Hans! he bit himself with a rail-spike, and wash sich into his ped for six weeks in te month of August—and all his cries was Vater! Vater! Vater! and he could not eat nothin' till he complained of being a little poorer so as he could stand upon his elbow and eat a little tea."

EFFECT OF LAQUOR ON A HARD HEAD.—"Sambo was you ever drunk?" "No Josh, I was nebbet drunk, but I was intoxicated once on ardent spirits, and dat's enough for dis nigger.—Golly, if my head didn't feel as if all de niggers in the world were spium' wood on 'em."

A GOOD OYE.—A young lady at the Odd Fellow's Festival last evening, who was decorated with several artificial flowers about her person, was approached by a young man whose breath gave evidence of his having inhaled a little too freely. He addressed her with—"Miss—have not these flowers lost their fragrance?" "If they have not," she replied, "they certainly will if they come in contact with your breath!"—Troy Times.

SHORT AND SWEET

I hate long stories and short ears of corn,
A costly frame house and a shabby barn;
More curs than pigs, no books, but many guns,
Tight boots, sore toes, old debts, and paper duns.

The new Empress of France had fifty-eight splendid wedding dresses made a few days previous to her marriage. Her pocket handkerchiefs, it is said cost 2000 francs.



Ladies' Department.

THE YELLOW VIOLET

When beechen buds begin to swell,
And woods the blue-bird's warble know,
The yellow violet's modest bell
Peeps from the last year's leaves below.
Set slight thy form, and low thy seat,
And eastward bent thy gentle eye,
Unapt the prying view to meet,
When lovelier flowers are flaunting high.
Oh, in the sunless April day,
Thy early smile has stayed my walk,
But midst the gorgeous blooms of May,
I passed thee on thy humble stalk.
So they, who climb to wealth forget
The friends in darker fortunes tried;
I copied them—but I regret
That I should ape the ways of pride.
And when again the genial hour
Awakes the painted tribes of light,
I'll not overlook the modest flower
That made the woods of April bright.
BRYANT.

PRIMITIVE RUSSIAN ASSEMBLIES.

When Catherine Alexowna was made empress, of Russia, the women were in an actual state of bondage; but she undertook to introduce mixed assemblies, as in other parts of Europe; she altered the women's dress, by substituting the fashions of England; instead of furs, she brought in the use of tulle and damask, and coronets and comodes, instead of caps of sable; the women found themselves no longer shut up in separate apartments, but saw company and visited each other, and were present at every entertainment. But as the laws in this effect were directed to a savage people, it is amusing enough to see the manner in which the ordinances ran. Assemblies were quite unknown among them; the Czarina was satisfied with introducing them, for she found it impossible to render them polite; an ordinance was therefore published according to their notions of breeding. It is as follows:

- 1st. The person at whose house the assembly is kept; shall signify the name by hanging out a bill, or by giving some other public notice, by way of advertisement, to persons of both sexes.
- 2nd. The assembly shall not be open sooner than 4 or 5 o'clock in the afternoon, nor continue longer than 10 at night.
- 3rd. The master of the house shall not be obliged to meet his guests, or conduct them out, or keep their company; but yet he is to find them chairs, candles, and all other necessaries that company may ask for; and is likewise to provide them with cards, dice, and every necessary for gaming.
- 4th. There shall be no fixed hour for coming or going away; it is enough for a person to appear in the assembly.
- 5th. Every one shall be free to sit, walk or game as he pleases; nor shall any one go about to hinder him, or take exceptions at what he does, upon pain of emptying the great eagle (a pint bowl full of brandy;) it shall likewise be sufficient, at entering or retiring, to salute the company.
- 6th. Persons of distinction, noblemen, superior officers, merchants, and tradesmen of note, head workmen, especially carpenters, and persons employed in chancery, are to have liberty to enter the assemblies, as likewise their wives and children.
- 7th. A particular place shall be assigned the footmen, except those of the house, that there may be room enough in the apartments assigned for the assembly.
- 8th. No ladies are to get drunk, upon any pretence whatsoever, nor shall gentlemen be drunk before nine.
- 9th. Ladies who play at fortunes, questions, and commands, &c., shall not be refused; no gentleman shall attempt to force a kiss; no gentleman shall strike a woman in the assembly, under pain of future exclusion.

Such were the statutes upon this occasion, which, in their very appearance, carry an air of ridicule and satire, but politeness must enter every country by degrees, and these rules resemble the breeding of a clown—awkward but sincere.

Miss Fanny Fern, in the Olive Branch, says the only way for a female community to obtain their rights is to pursue the "Crash Heep" policy—look humble, and be almighty cunning. But with submission and then throw a noose over the wail. Appear not to have any choice, and as true as gospel you'll get it. Ask their advice and they'll be sure to follow yours. Look one way and put another. Make our reins of silk, keep them out of sight, and drive were you like.

WOMAN'S LAUGH.—A woman has no natural grace more bewitching than a sweet laugh. It is like the sound of fates on water. It leaps from her heart in a clear sparkling rill, and the heart that hears it feels as if bathed in the exhilarating spring. Have you ever pursued an unseen fugitive through the trees, led on by her fairy laugh—now here, now there, now lost, now found? We have. And we are pursuing the wandering voice this very day. Sometimes it comes to us in the midst of care, or sorrow, or irksome business; and then we turn away and listen, and hear it ringing through the room like a silver bell, with power to scare away the ill-spirits of the mind.

THE ROMANS AND THEIR WIVES.—The affection of Aurelius Marcus, a Roman soldier, for his wife is evinced by a stone in the