

The Minister of Public Instruction has published a circular, addressed to the directors of colleges and schools in France, forbidding the use of tobacco and segars by the students. It is said that the physical as well as the intellectual development of many youths has been checked by the immoderate use of tobacco. As Paris alone contains 29,000 pupils, the edict applies to a large population. It would be well could the authorities of the English colleges and universities decree the same abstinence for all students, in residence or otherwise under control. There are two classes of men in England who at this moment are addicted to frightful excess in tobacco smoking, and suffer the evil consequences in depression, debility, hebetude and nervousness. These are students at college, and officers in barrack, garrison, and camp. The latter especially, smoke incessantly, beginning early in the day and continuing till night has fallen. The dullness of barrack life, which incites to the excess, is deepened by the habitual depression which tobacco in the end produces. The depressed and debilitated condition of numbers of these young men, who, from such depots as the camp at Aldershot, visit London, has long been the subject of observation among the surgeons who are called to treat their complaints, and have the opportunity of comparing their nervous force with the standard of civil life. Nowhere are the evils of tobacco smoking more rampant than in the camp and the college. Is it impossible that higher authority should intervene to ameliorate their condition?—*The Lancet*.

2. EFFECT OF SMOKING ON THE INTELLECT.

In the September number of the London *Pharmaceutic Journal* for 1860, it is stated that, on dividing the pupils of the Polytechnic School of Paris into smokers and non-smokers, it is shown that the smokers have proved themselves, in the various competitive examinations, far inferior to the others. Not only in the examinations on entering the schools are the smokers of a lower rank, but in the various ordeals they have to pass through in a year, the average rank of the smokers has constantly fallen, and not inconsiderably, when the men who did not smoke enjoyed a cerebral atmosphere of the clearest kind.

3. THE HON. J. Q. ADAMS ON TOBACCO.

John Quincy Adams asserted that the "abandonment of tobacco would add five years to the average of human life."

4. RESTRICTIVE LEGACY TO AN ACADEMY

At the recent examination of Exeter (N. H.) Academy, a letter was read from J. L. Sibley, of Cambridge, announcing a legacy of \$200 by his father, Jonathan Sibley, Esq., recently deceased. This money is to be distributed in aid of poor students, but to such only as abstain from the use of opium, tobacco, and strong drink.

5. ANTIDOTE TO ALCOHOL.

The acetate of ammonia has hitherto been the best known antidote to alcohol. But a physician of Dantzic, Dr. Beck, has discovered a still more effective counter-poison, the composition of which has not yet been made public. It is administered as a mineral paste, enclosed in an olive, and at once destroys not only the immediate effects, but the disastrous effects of inebriety. A drunken Pole, upon whom experiments were made, swallowed successively three of the prepared olives and three bottles of brandy, after which he did not exhibit the slightest trace of intoxication, and showed no signs of sickness.

6. NAMES OF VARIOUS KINDS OF TEAS.

"Hyson" means "before the rain," or "flourishing spring"—that is, early in the spring. Hence it is often called "Young Hyson." "Hyson Skin" is composed of the refuse of the other kinds, the native terms for which means "tea skins." Refuse of a still coarser description, containing many stems, is called "tea bones." "Bohea" is the name of the hill in the region where it is collected. "Pekoe," or "Pecco," means "white hairs"—the down on the tender leaves. "Powchong"—"folded plant." "Souchong"—"small plant." "Twankay" is the name of a small stream in the province where it is bought. "Congo" is from a term signifying "labor," from the care required in its preparation.

7. GOOD AND EVIL EFFECTS OF TEA.

Statistics go to prove that tea is used more or less by one-half of the human race—500,000,000 of people. Theine is the peculiar organic principle which gives tea its value. Taken in small quanti-

ties tea is healthful; but the extract of one ounce taken per day, by one person, produces a trembling in the limbs and wandering of the mind.

V. Papers on Colonial Subjects.

1. DESCRIPTION OF THE CANADIAN SHORE ON LAKE SUPERIOR.

From Mr. W. H. Palmer's letters to the Editor of the *Toronto Leader*, we select the following information in regard to the North or copper mining shore of Lake Superior:—"Our land is generally hilly, and much of it rocky and unfit for cultivation. But then, as in most mountain lands, we have the most beautiful valleys, rich alluvial plateaus, and sloping hill sides. We have also some very fine prairie land. Only a few days ago, when out on one of my exploring trips, I found a prairie of not less than 20 square miles, or 12,800 acres, the most beautifully situated of anything I have ever seen, (although well acquainted with the prairies of the West.) The land is perfectly dry and level, naturally drained by little rivulets running through it, and emptying into a fine river, navigable for large boats, sweeping along in graceful curves through its centre. The whole of this noble expanse is encircled by rocky hills rich in minerals. On one single bluff, during one short forenoon's operation, I found silver and lead. In wending my way through the waving sward of wild grass (chiefly blue joint) varied here and there by clumps of trees, giving it the appearance of an immense English park, I thought what a place this would be to run the steam plow over! A farmer, with sufficient capital to start that great engine of modern improvement, might in one year get a farm of 1,000 acres under crop; and a mining company with a moderate capital, going to work amongst the metaliferous rocks in the neighborhood, would open at once a market for the farmer's produce. And this is just the epitome of our country here. The miner will support the farmer, and the farmer will support the miner; and thus by a friendly interchange of mutual support we shall make a great country of it. Frequent enquiries, too, are made about the degree of cold particularly here in winter. A notion seems to obtain down the country, that a man cannot show his nose out of doors here without getting frostbitten. That, however, is a great mistake. I know all Canada from the Gulf of the St. Lawrence to the head of Lake Superior, and the States from Maine to Missouri; I have wintered in almost every part of these countries, and I must in candor say that our winter here is no worse than in other places. Indeed, I have seen more people frozen to death, and more hands and feet and noses frost-bitten on the prairies of Wisconsin and Illinois in one winter than I have ever heard of here in 15 years. The ground here never freezes. The snow begins to fall in November, and covering the earth like a great white blanket, to a considerable depth, completely excludes the frost; until about the beginning of April, when the genial warmth of returning spring thaws off the wintry covering, and nature once more shows her smiling face. Whenever we clear off the snows here, in winter, we find the ground soft, the grass green, and everything in a most healthy condition. But whether winter wheat might not mildew under such conditions is a question for old farmers to answer. But, for the various crops of spring wheat, barley, rye, oats, and all sorts of root crops, I can say (from 15 years residence on the River St. Mary) that I know of no better country. Our grasses, too, are of the best and sweetest quality, and the beef and mutton fed upon them are correspondingly tender and nutritious. Diseases amongst cattle are unknown here. I have never seen an unsound liver amongst cattle or sheep raised in this place; although I have sometimes had over one hundred head of them on my farm, on Sugar Island. The only set-off against all this is, that we have to feed them on winter fodder about a month longer than they do in the more southern districts of Canada and Michigan. Our winters are hard, dry, and steady; very much like those at Montreal. We know that winter is coming; we prepare for it, and find it on the whole the pleasantest part of the year; and, when it breaks up, on the approach of spring, we are generally wishing for a little more sleighing. Of copper mining I may say that in 1859, the shipments were 7,000 tons; and this present summer of 1860, will, in a few weeks more, see 150,000 tons of iron passed through the locks of the canal, and 7,000 tons of the finest copper in the world, rich in silver. The total value of these exports may be roughly estimated at \$12,000,000. A wonderful contrast to the export trade of the same region fourteen years ago, which might be set down at:—furs and peltries, \$2,000; lake fish, \$2,000, both which items amount to as much now as then; whilst the trade in metals alone gives us in one year twelve millions. And yet, I reiterate boldly what I have so often said before, that the *North Shore is the richer of the two*; the metalliferous ranges on the Michigan side of the lake being, geologically speaking, only a spur thrown out from the immense mountain masses on the Canada side.