

Miscellaneous.

A TOBACCO CALCULATION.

The people are in many places demanding the prohibition, *by law*, of the common use of alcoholic liquors. If such a law should be found to work well, we may next see its "strong arm" directed against the "weed" called tobacco, which though it may not cause so much human suffering as alcohol, is nearly a match for it in the item of cost. Let us glance at the statistics:—

The present annual production of tobacco is estimated to be 4,000,000,000 pounds—four billions of pounds! this is all smoked, chewed, or snuffed. Suppose it all made into cigars, one hundred to the pound, it would produce 400,000,000,000. Four hundred billions of cigars! These cigars at the usual length, four inches, if joined together, would form one continuous cigar 25,252,520 miles long, which would encircle the earth more than one thousand times. Put up into equal pieces, 240,000 miles in length, there would be over one thousand cigars which would extend from the centre of the earth to the centre of the moon. Put these cigars into boxes, 10 inches long, 4 inches wide, and 3 inches high, 100 to the box, it would require 4,000,000,000 boxes. Pile up these boxes in a solid mass, and they would occupy a space of 294,444,444—two hundred and ninety four million cubic feet! If piled up 20 feet high, they would cover a farm of 338 acres; and if laid side by side, the boxes would cover very nearly 20,000 acres. Let some boy who reads the *Agriculturist* estimate how large a village or city would be required to furnish store houses for all these boxes. If a person smoke a cigar every twenty minutes, and continue this night and day, it would require an army of 2,500 such smokers 6,000 years to consume the above; and if each person smoked only 4 cigars a day, a pretty fair allowance we should say, it would take 45,000 smokers 6,000 years, a larger term than the human race has existed, to smoke up all the tobacco now produced in a single year. Allowing this tobacco unmanufactured to cost on an average ten cents a pound, and we have 400,000,000 of dollars expended every year in producing a noxious deleterious weed. At least one and a half times as much more is required to manufacture it into marketable form, and dispose of it to the consumer. At the very lowest estimate, then, the human family expend every year one thousand million of dollars in the gratification of an acquired

habit, or one dollar for every man, woman, and child upon the earth! This sum would build two railroads around the earth at a cost of twenty thousand dollars per mile; or sixteen railroads from the Atlantic to the Pacific. It would build one hundred thousand churches costing 10,000 dollars each; or half a million of school-houses costing 2,000 dollars each; or one million of dwellings costing 1,000 dollars each. It would employ one million of preachers, and one million of teachers, giving each a salary of 500 dollars. It would support three and one-third millions of young men at college, giving each 300 dollars per annum for expenses. We leave others to fill out the picture. Is this annual outlay to increase or decrease in future? Reader, how much do you contribute to this fund?

COOKING BY GAS.

A complimentary dinner was given at Worcester yesterday, all the viands being cooked by gas, upon an improved method, invented by J. P. Blake Esq., the agent of the gas company in that city. Quite a number of gentlemen had assembled to judge of its merits, and upon all sides we heard commendation expressed. The arrangements for cooking were the most complete that we ever saw, and at the same time simple in their construction and efficacious in the results.

The oven, in particular, attracted our attention, its peculiarities consisting in the application of the gas outside, the ample supply of oxygen for combustion, and the arrangements made for the exit of its products. No heat can possibly escape, the article cooking receiving all applied. The advantages claimed by this patent are rapidity, neatness, convenience, economy and improvement in quality of food. There were 60 plates laid, the cost of cooking for which (and the bill of fare was quite excellent) amounted to only \$1. 40, 400 feet of gas being consumed at a rate of 3½ mills per foot. The price of gas in this city is 2½ mills.

We present below the specified cost which would be incurred by those using this apparatus: One gallon water at 52 deg. Fahrenheit, boiled in 7 min. 20 sec., consuming 3 65-100 cubic feet of gas, 1c 3 mills; 1 quart potatoes, boiled in 40 min. 25 sec. consumed 9 25-100 cubic feet of gas, cost 3c. 2 mills; 3 lbs. bread baked in 37 minutes, consumed 9 25-100 cubic feet of gas, cost 3c 2 mills; 4 pies, baked in 21 minutes, consumed 11 60-100 cubic feet of gas, cost 4c. 6 mills; 4 lbs. beef, baked in one hour, consumed 22 20-100 cubic feet of gas, cost 4c. 2 mills; buckwheat cakes, 15 minutes consumed 6 20-1000 cubic feet of gas cost 2c. 3 mill; 1 lb. beef-steak, broiled in 4 minutes, consumed 2 75-100 cubic feet of gas, cost 9½ mills; 3 lbs. beef-steak, broiled in 10 minutes, consumed 5 38-100 cubic feet of gas, cost 1c. 8 mills —*Boston Post*.

TRIFLES.—Never be cast down by trifles. If a spider breaks his thread twenty times, twenty times he will mend it again. Make up your mind to do a thing and you will do it. Fear not, if trouble comes upon you, keep your spirits though the day be a dark one.