

## A LOST DAY—ITS VALUE.

A day has perished from our brief calendar of days, and that we could endure; but this day is no more than the reiteration of many other days, days counted by thousands, that have perished to the same extent, and by the same unhappy means, viz. the evil usages of the world made effectual and ratified by our own neglect. Bitter is the upbraiding which we seem to hear from a secret monitor—"My friend you make very free with your days: pray, how many do you expect to have? What is your rental as regards the total harvest of days which this life is likely to yield?" Let us consider. Threescore years and ten produce a total sum of 25,550 days; to say nothing of some seventeen or eighteen more that will be payable to you as a *bonus* on account of leap years. Now, out of this total, one-third must be deducted at a blow for a single item, viz., sleep. Next on account of illness, of recreation, and the serious occupations spread over the surface of life, it will be little enough to deduct another third. Recollect, also that twenty years will have gone at the earlier end of your life (viz., above seven thousand days) before you can have attained any skill or system, or definite purpose in the distribution of your time. Lastly, for the single item which, amongst the Roman armies, was indicated by the technical phrase "*corpus curare*," attendance on the animal necessities, viz., eating, drinking, washing, bathing, and exercise, deduct the smallest allowance consistent with propriety, and summing up all these appropriations, you will not find so much as four thousand days left disposable for direct and intellectual culture. Four thousand, or forty hundreds, will be a hundred forties; that is, according to the lax Hebrew method of indicating six weeks, by the phrase of forty days, you will have a hundred bills or drafts on Father time, value six weeks each as the whole period available for intellectual labor. A solid block of about eleven and a half continuous years is all that a long life will furnish for the development of what is most august in man's nature.\* After that, the night cometh when no man can work; brain and arm will be alike unserviceable; or, if the life should be unusually, extended, the vital powers will be drooping as regards all motions in advance.—*De Quincy*.

\* Sir Wm. Hamilton has, in letters of gold, over his chair in the University of Edinburgh, the saying of an unknown philosopher:

*On earth there is nothing great but man:  
In man there is nothing great but mind.*

## GREENING OF TEA.

"As many persons in Europe and in America have a peculiar taste for coloured green teas, I will now give a 'full and particular account' of the colouring process as practised in the Hwuy-chow green-tea country upon those teas which are destined for the foreign market. Having noted down the process carefully at the time, I will extract verbatim from my note-book:—

"The superintendent of the workmen managed the coloring part of the process himself. Having procured a portion of Prussian blue, he threw it into a porcelain bowl, not unlike a chemist's mortar, and crushed into a very fine powder. At the same time a quantity of gypsum was produced and burned in the charcoal fires which were then roasting the teas. The object of this was to soften it in order that it might be readily pounded into a very fine powder, in the same manner as the Prussian blue had been. The gypsum, having been taken out of the fire after a certain time had elapsed, readily crumbled down and was reduced to powder in the mortar. These two substances, having been thus prepared, were then mixed together in the proportion of four parts of gypsum to three parts of Prussian blue, and formed a light blue powder, which was then ready for use.

"This colouring matter was applied to the teas during the last process of roasting. About five minutes before the tea was removed from the pans—the time being regulated by the burning of a joss-stick—the superintendent took a small porcelain spoon, and with it he scattered a portion of the coloring matter over the leaves in each pan. The workmen then turned the leaves rapidly round with both hands, in order that the color might be equally diffused.