

## COFFEE—ITS NATURE, CONSUMPTION AND USES.

The coffee plant is a native of Yemen, in Arabia; at the time of its introduction into Europe is unknown; it is mentioned in a work published in 1653, by a German physician named L. Rauwolf. The Turks have Coffee Houses, in which they meet to sip their brown liquid, and chat together like Englishmen in their ale houses. Coffee houses are common in Germany, and were, at one time, more common in England than at the present moment. The first coffee house opened in London was by a merchant of Turkey, named Edwards; this was in 1652. Coffee was in public use before that time in France.

When coffee was first introduced into Britain it met with the most furious opposition from old and young, grave and gay, men and women fair. In 1674 the women of England petitioned Parliament against allowing the use of coffee, in which petition it was stated "that man, by that it uses, become like the desert of Arabia, and that if its use was persisted in, the offspring of mighty Anglo-Saxon ancestors would dwindle into a succession of apes and pugnaces; and on a domestic message, a husband would stop on the way to drink a couple of cups of coffee." Here we see the fair sex were jealous for the honor of good old English ale; and the question is, were they not right? Coffee, however, had and still has its advocates; it has been stated by them, that wherever it has been introduced, drunkenness has become less frequent, and the people more sober. We have no statistics to prove or disprove this statement, but it may justly be assumed to be true.

In the reign of Charles II, Coffee Houses were shut up in London by proclamation, in which it was stated, "the retailing of coffee-noughed sedition, spread lies, scandalized great men, and might be considered a common nuisance." This arbitrary act occasioned violent discontent, and punishment was given to open the Coffee Houses again, but the landlords were forced to keep notices papers on their premises. The Coffee Houses had become political club houses.

Four different kinds of coffee are used—Mocha, which is the best, comes down the Persian Gulf, from Arabia; its berries are of a middling size, clean and plump, and of a greenish light olive hue; it sells dearer than any other. The next best is Java, which is grown in the Island of that name, and it is cultivated by the Dutch. The other two kinds are Brazilian and West India coffee, which are very similar. A field of coffee in full bloom is a sight worth going to Jamaica to see.

The quality and effects of coffee differ according to the manner in which it is roasted. It must be roasted with great care, and not over-done. The Turks roast it in an iron spoon, and roast it just before they are going to use it.

President Fillmore, it is known in all circles here, wishes publicly to decline being a candidate for re-election. It is stated also in well informed circles, that he had prepared an elaborate paper, in which, while justifying and defending his domestic and foreign policy, in both of which his administration has been very distinguished, and very trying, he positively declined a re-election. This paper, it is also added, and believed, he has submitted to his Cabinet without asking their approval or disapproval. I presume, because, upon the conclusion arrived at, he wanted no advice, though no doubt, he would freely consult as to the language used, and truths set forth—but that a question of importance in etiquette has been made by his friends, and that is—whether shall this paper be submitted? "To the People," some say. Others reply, "He had better wait till the people ask him to stand, to run again, to be President at all." His friends argue, that he has no one to decline to, because nobody with any authority to ask, has asked him to run—that the Presidency is an office neither to be sought for, nor to be run away from—that his true position is to wait at least till a whig National Convention is called, or held under some official wing authority, when he can with dignity and propriety express his opinions and preferences for himself. With such and other like remonstrances, the friends of the President, north, south, east and west, ply him personally—but out of doors, the question of the Presidency assumes a much sharper and more dangerous aspect.

The peculiar principle of coffee is the extract, which was discovered by my master in 1752, it is a very active principle, it affects the urinary organs. Water saturated with coffee was first used by Grimaldi, in the Russian Hospital of Dugap, in the treatment of intermitting fevers; it was also given as a powder, raw. In eighty cases, not one resisted its effects. Homoeopathic practice also uses it with success.

As an article of diet, and as a beverage, coffee has become quite a favorite, if we may judge from the quantity consumed—No less than 134,000,000 pounds were imported into the United States in 1850; the value of this was \$41,215,000. No country in the world consumes so much coffee, in proportion to its inhabitants, as ours. Thus, last year, the average amount of coffee consumed by each man, woman, and child, was over seven pounds. The consumption of coffee has greatly increased in England, and it does not appear that the fears of the old English matrons about their sons becoming monkeys by its use, are yet realized.

Coffee is now very generally used by all Europeans, as well as the old Turks, and in almost all American families, for a breakfast beverage. Its effects upon the human system, may be peculiar, but general use has not yet developed anything extraordinary produced by it, except it may be the healthy appearance and rugged strength of some French miners, who use it in large quantities; this fact was brought before the Academy of Sciences in Paris last year.—In some armies and navies, coffee has been wisely substituted for grog; it would be well if this were the case in every single instance. In cold weather coffee is an agreeable and safe stimulant. It was noticed that those French soldiers who had saved some coffee and sugar during the terrible retreat from Moscow, stood the cold much better than those who had none. Coffee affects the nerves of some people in a most singular manner, by making them tremble and feverish. No person so affected should use it. As a general thing, for almost every person, we believe it is a healthy and pleasant beverage. In England all the coffee is adulterated with yellow dock root, ground up along with the beans; the law allows of this adulteration, and yet, for all this, the coffee there sells for about double the price it does in the United States.

Every family should buy their own beans and roast and grind them, for much of our ground coffee is also adulterated with masted corn and peas. These adulterations are not the least unhealthy, but there is no earthly use of anything paying for corn instead of coffee, and it only wishes to adulterate their own coffee, why they can do it to suit themselves.

When we reflect upon the great quantity of coffee now consumed by us every year, how that the consumption has increased from a little over four million of pounds, in 1790, to over one hundred and fifty-four millions of pounds, in 1850, we cannot shut our eyes to the seeming necessity of growing coffee for ourselves.

Our Southern States can surely raise good coffee; they beat the world for cotton and rice, both of which were introduced from foreign countries, and coffee, we think, can be as successfully cultivated as these have been.—[Scientific American.]

### AUSTRIAN SLIGHT.

At Vienna the American Charge and the Turkish Ambassador were not invited to the grand ball. These are the first Ministers who have been denied this privilege.

### THE NEXT PRESIDENCY.

The New York Express states that the following letter is not from its regular correspondent in Washington, but from a gentleman in position to be well acquainted with the matters of which he writes:

WASHINGTON, Jan. 22.

The next Presidency question is much agitated here just now—more in the democratic ranks than in the whig ranks, however. The democrats have so many men on hand fit and ripe for the august dignity, they are embarrassed by their very profusion. Our friends are anxious and naturally are the largest. Douglas are the most busy, and the most intriguing, having long ago formed the most combinations. The famous Maj. Gen. Pillow is the Lieutenant in Tennessee, and is to take that State into Convention. R. M. T. Hunter—the Senator whom Wise has been threatening to run hard in Virginia, is to be the Lieutenant to carry that State. Douglas friends hold up the Vice Presidency as a life for great men to nibble at in different parts of the Union.—The Kentuckians, Missourians, and the Northern Van Buren Free-soil Democrats are, however, making large combinations for Butler, whom nobody knows anything of, save that he surprised Maj. General Scott in his full career of victory, after he had marched the U. S. army, with banners flying and drums beating, into the city of Mexico. Scott went into arrest, under the iron hands of a Court Martial, ordered by Mr. Polk and Mr. Marcy; and Gen. Butler became Major General of Scott's victorious army.

The whigs are not without their difficulties as well as the democrats, and time alone can solve the escape from them. Meanwhile the democrats have called their National Convention, and we shall soon see what they do. No steps are yet taken by the whigs for a National Convention, and there is no indication that any steps will be taken very soon. The longer the National Convention is put off, if one is to be held, the stronger the whigs will be. Time eases many others hopeless cases. The whigs have numbers enough to carry the day, if they can only concentrate their strength.

### IN TROUBLE AGAIN.

We clip the following from the Charleston Correspondence of the Cheraw Gazette. At South Carolina gets to loggerheads with Great Britain, it will become the government of that it will be look out for itself; for it takes all the time of the United States to keep her in order, when she is in the wrong. In this case, she seems to be in order, and will probably give John Bull as much as he can attend to:

"We think that England has discovered a settled intention, to make war upon our institutions, and that the late communication of the British Consul, is but the initiative in carrying it out. We are now distinctly informed that Great Britain is determined to insist upon sending her free negroes into the limits of our State, and to this end requires of us to repeal the law which subjects them to confinement. How can we do this? Already we have a law, subjecting free negroes coming into this State, from other States of the Union, to being sold into slavery, if they do not leave upon notice. Our slaves, even now, are not compliant of this law, and consequently their free negroes keep from us. But England, that good friend of the South, into whose arms we were counseled to throw ourselves for protection, in a state of seige succeeded, is now outstripping the most rabid abolitionists, in a direct onslaught upon our institutions! Verily, we have escaped the scorpion by a miracle."

"But we invite the intention of the reader to the project that is looming up in the future. If England in its upon the repeat of laws passed for our protection, against the insults of abolitionists, and to give dignity and consequence to her free negroes, there is no alternative left us but to refuse. An issue then is made, in which we must risk our all, and if necessary lose it. Pick your flint, good secession friends, for there may be work for you yet!"

### HOMESTEAD LAW.

We notice that the late Legislature of South Carolina enacted a law securing a homestead to every family; and we venture to say that the father of that law readily secured to himself a seat in the Legislature for life, besides affecting a great good to the State at large. According to this act, in addition to property before exempted by law, the dwelling house and houses appurtenant thereto, together with fifty acres of land, and also one horse, and twenty-five dollars worth of provisions, belonging to each family, are by this act exempted from every tax; but to his amazement, he received a demand for the transmission of his seals of office to the first minister of the Crown.

### DURATION OF THE EARTH.

The following views by a correspondent of the Puritan Recorder, upon the "Duration of the Earth," as indicated by astronomy, will be read, we think, with interest:

The evidence which geology affords of the great antiquity of the earth, turns out to be the evidence which astronomy furnishes of its future continuance.—From the many striking coincidences between the bodies that compose the solar system, we infer for them a common origin, and a common destiny. The earth, then, will probably live while the system lives, and no longer. What its particular destiny may be, and by what means brought about, we stop not here to inquire. Our only purpose now, is to consider indications furnished us by the system itself, that it is fashioned for a long duration. This is indicated by the immense length of some of the periods involved in this system.

According to the commonly received chronology, the planet Neptune has but one thirty-six of its years since the creation of our race. If the analogy between the earth and that planet holds good, then the first generation of its inhabitants is hardly yet passed away.—Some comets have not yet had one year since the date of Adam's creation.

But there are periods of greater length still. The earth's perihelion is slowly creeping around the orbit from west to east, at a rate which will require 114,000 years to complete the circuit. The period of Mercury is moving in a similar manner at a rate which requires 200,000 years to complete it. If other planets in the system were arranged in a line on the same side of the sun; and all in their perihelia, in all points of their orbits, and set revolving according to their present laws of motion, millions of years would elapse ere all of them would once again under the same circumstances, to hold their family festival preparatory to another revolution of the same length.

The earth's orbit is now an ellipse, but slowly becoming circular, and of its present rate of change will become a perfect circle, in about half a million of years from this time. Then it will begin to resume its elliptical form, becoming more and more elliptical for some million of years, when having obtained the maximum of ellipticity, it will begin again to shape itself into a circle. Corresponding with this change, and caused by it, is a change of the moon's revolution.

Its period is now slowly shortening; its motion in revolution, of course, increasing; and this rate of increase is such as will make gain a little more than its diameter in a thousand years. This shortening of her period and increase of velocity will continue until the earth's orbit becomes a perfect circle, and then she will slowly reverse her movements and gradually return to her former completion.

LOUISVILLE, Jan. 30.—A despatch from Jackson, Mississippi, says that the Legislature will elect, for the vacant terms, both Foote and Davis.

On a railway in Germany the snow is said to have drifted to the height of 90 feet.

### LORD PALMERSTON'S RETIREMENT FROM OFFICE.

A London paper brought by the last arrival gives the following account of the dismissal of the veteran office-holder:

We have, from undoubted authority, all the facts in connexion with the recent event, and we shall proceed to detail them without any current note or comment, adhering closely to the narrative of the events as they occurred.

Before the cabinet differences respecting the Finsbury Kossuth affair had been arranged with his colleagues and in higher quarters by Lord Palmerston, Count Walewski called on the noble ex-Secretary for Foreign Affairs and communicated to him the fact of the *coup d'état* which had been accomplished by the Prince President, together with the reasons by which Louis Napoleon considered himself compelled to take the steps which he had adopted. Lord Palmerston on that occasion, as the result of the interview, approved of the course adopted by the French President, considering that the reasons assigned for it by Count Walewski were sufficient to justify it.

These facts have been made known to Lord John Russell, the Premier sent a written remonstrance to Lord Palmerston, complaining that the Foreign Secretary had taken steps important in that he did not fully comprehend the *coup d'état* of Louis Napoleon without consulting his colleagues, whom he had thus committed to confinement.

Lord Franklin's name was Porden—Elmou Porden, and was born in 1795. She early manifested considerable knowledge of Greek and other languages. Her first poem, the Veil, was written when she was seventeen. Her next was The Arctic Expedition, which led, in 1822, to her marriage with Capt. Franklin. Her principal work was the *Cœur de Lion*, which appeared in 1825. Her poems display much elegance, spirit, and richness of imagination. The foregoing incidents in her life we find in a biographical dictionary. This lady has recently attracted the attention and gained the admiration of the civilized world, by her energy and persevering efforts to aid relief to their unfortunate husband in the frozen regions of the North, or to ascertain his fate and that of his companions.

The reply of Lord Palmerston to this written remonstrance was, that his interview with Count Walewski had been a private conversation, and that neither as attorney nor the result committed the government in any particular course of action, and that the British Executive might, if it pleased, go to war with France even without violating any diplomatic privilege given by him—that Count Walewski had proved to him by unquestionable documents that Louis Napoleon would have been arrested in a few days by the opposite party in the Assembly, (who had prepared their *coup d'état*), and would have been shut up in Vincennes, had he not struck the first blow, which he had then been compelled to strike.

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