

"I'D CHOOSE TO BE A BABY."

[The following parody, on the beautiful ballad, "I'd Choose to be a Daisy," is published in sheet music by one of the music houses in New York:]

THE OLD AND NEW.

The Old Year sat beside the hearth In thoughtful mood; the hour was late; And ere he vanished from the earth, The past he faintly would contemplate.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE.

Special Report, No. 3, of the U. S. Department of Agriculture on the cultivation of the Chinese Tea Plant, reveals a grand enterprise worthy the serious attention of the public.

INTRODUCTORY.

Washington, D. C., November 15, 1877. An examination of the statistical tables of imports, compiled in the Treasury Department, show that the people of the United States import annually from China and Japan about twenty millions of dollars' worth of tea.

This tea must be paid for in coin, and as the British merchants have secured nearly a monopoly of this trade, the annual drain of this large amount finds its way directly into the pockets of our friendly but astute rivals, whose merchant-fleets fill every harbor where a market may be had for their wares.

Believing that this large annual expenditure may be saved, and that with proper encouragement our people can export tea in successful competition with any other nation, I have caused to be prepared the following special report, by Mr. A. C. Jones, of this Department, who has endeavored to include some facts of practical value in relation to the history and culture of the tea-plant, not only in China and Japan, but, also, has collected, by correspondence and otherwise, so far as possible in the limited time allowed, a history of the tea-plants which have been successfully cultivated in various portions of the United States, mostly by persons having in view, merely, the possession of a rare exotic, rather than with any hope of profit.

As will be seen by reading the report and correspondence, the culture of the tea-plant, in the United States is a success, so far as the growing of healthy and vigorous plants, and the preparation of small samples of tea here and there, can be called a success.

efforts, which have resulted in the healthy growth of a few ornamental shrubs, and in the permanent establishment of a great industry which shall compete with the inherited dexterity and cheap labor of Asia, is fully realized and considered, and with a firm faith in the possibility of success I have determined to exercise whatever of power or influence shall be entrusted to this Department in the effort to demonstrate that, at least for our home supply of this necessary plant, we can and will be dependent only upon our own soil and agriculture.

This Department will, therefore, as far as the limited means and ground at command will allow, procure seed and propagate plants, and distribute them to persons who will undertake to give such care and attention as may be required.

Special localities will be selected for this distribution, after careful consideration, having due regard to soil, climate, and surrounding circumstances, in which a number of persons will join, and each agree to inclose, plant, and carefully cultivate a certain number of plants, sufficient in all to make it worth while to establish in the neighborhood at the proper time a tea-planting house.

The first attempts to establish this industry will be made in South Carolina and Georgia, in localities where the tea-plant has already been successfully grown.

Applications may be made, and correspondence is solicited with agricultural associations, which will undertake to carry out the plans and wishes of the Department, and plants will be furnished such associations from time to time, and as speedily as may be possible.

Meanwhile, to test the climate and soil of various untried localities, the tea-plants will be sent in small numbers to any part of the country where it is fairly probable success can be attained.

There are at present only about 2,000 tea-plants in the propagating beds of the Department, and these are engaged; but seeds have been and will be planted, which it is expected will produce several hundred thousand plants for distribution early next spring.

I appeal to those persons who realize the importance of the success of this attempt to establish a new industry, and to increase the prosperity of the whole country, as well as of the particular sections known to be well adapted to the culture of tea, for a deliberate, determined, persevering effort until success is attained.

WM. G. LE DUC, Commissioner. PRESIDENT AND PRESS. The White House is liberally supplied with newspapers, only a few of which are kept on file. President Grant used to have one of his secretaries cut out the leading editorials on political topics in the New York daily papers and occasionally from papers published in other cities, which cuttings were handed to him in a bunch, for his perusal late in the afternoon or in the evening.

SOME REPRESENTATIVE SOUTHERN MEN.

One of the most striking sights to be seen here is in some of the old Southern men who linger about the scenes of their former greatness—Clingman, of North Carolina; Boyce, of South Carolina; Foote, of Mississippi; Stephens, of Georgia, and many others. Twenty-five years ago and they were in their glory. Foote was threatening to hang John P. Hale, or drawing a pistol on old Tom Benton in the Senate lobby. And now this formerly passionate politician and fire-eater is as gentle as a sucking dove and looks like a saint. He is a good Republican and an advocate of generous treatment for the negro. He is often to be seen in the Senate and in society here. Alexander H. Stephens everybody is familiar with. He is still a power in Congress, but twenty years ago he seemed as now to have one foot in the grave.

The wide difference between the sporadic efforts, which have resulted in the healthy growth of a few ornamental shrubs, and in the permanent establishment of a great industry which shall compete with the inherited dexterity and cheap labor of Asia, is fully realized and considered, and with a firm faith in the possibility of success I have determined to exercise whatever of power or influence shall be entrusted to this Department in the effort to demonstrate that, at least for our home supply of this necessary plant, we can and will be dependent only upon our own soil and agriculture.

From the Lutheran Visitor. CHURCH DISCIPLINE.

That great and good man, John Arndt, in 1618, at the command of Duke Christian, prepared a church constitution and discipline, which met with great favor in the Lutheran churches in many parts of the empire.

It provides for the excommunication of those from the Church who give offence by gross transgression, or by neglect of public worship or the sacraments. His idea, and that of the Church in his day, and of the Church authority, and the "power of the keys," may be inferred from the form of excommunication. "As he has despised the earnest admonitions of God and his servants, and obstinately persists in his disobedience of the Word of God, the reverend consistorium has determined and commanded to proclaim publicly the ban against the disobedient and contumacious sinner, N. N., now resident in this parish, and to exclude him from the communion of Christians. And let him and all men know that what is here publicly done and declared in relation to this obstinate sinner, is confirmed and ratified in heaven, and which resolution no creature can annul. God has declared to his servants, Matt. xviii: 18: 'Verily I say unto you, what ye bind on earth shall be bound in heaven,' and will not accept the sinner on any other condition than repentance.

Therefore I, as the pastor of the Christian Church, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, deliver this impatient and open transgressor, N. N., unto Satan, for the destruction of the flesh, that his spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus Christ, if he repents; and that his repentance may soon take place, may Almighty God give him grace."

The excommunicated person was allowed to attend Church, but was compelled to sit behind the door or in some obscure seat. If he confessed his sins and repented, he was required to hear the sermon on his knees in a conspicuous place in the church. When, upon repentance, the ban was removed, the minister used the following language: "I, therefore, by the command of Jesus Christ, in virtue of his own true, eternal Word, 'Whosoever sin ye remit they are remitted unto you, N. N., the forgiveness of your sin, and announce to you grace, peace, consolation, and eternal life in God, and that you are restored to the communion of the Christian Church, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost.'"

This system of Church discipline, we are told, was practised with the utmost severity, and without respect to persons, and that incalculable good resulted from it.

It is an interesting matter with us to know who is responsible for sins of omission, in case of neglect of discipline, and persons thus omitting are persuaded, by the leniency of the Church, to believe that the omissions (to attend public worship and the Lord's Supper) are not sinful. We believe there are churches that do attach so little importance to discipline and to the Lord's Supper, that persons are allowed to remain in full membership who habitually neglect this part of Christian duty.

The sin thus committed rests somewhere. Where is it? H.

The Lady Grape.—We have a single vine of the Lady Grape. It fruited the past summer for the first time. If we were to judge of all Lady Grapes by this, we should pronounce it, so far as our knowledge extends, as the best white grape in cultivation. The vine is as vigorous as its parent the Concord—the bunches and berries of medium size, the color that of a pea or of any green grape just before it begins to ripen. The taste is nearly that of the Concord, yet there is a difference in its favor that enables one to eat first one and then the other and to determine which is which with his eyes shut. They ripen during the latter days of August.

A chemical remedy for the Phylloxera is claimed to have been discovered by Signor Pietro Torrinnetti of Verona. In his practice he uses a mixture of 50 grammes of Peruvian guano, 2 grammes of acetate of baryta, 2 of acetate of lead, and 1 of acetate of zinc, for each plant, the mixture being put into a small hole, about 6 inches deep, at the foot of each vine stock and immediately covered with earth. While the guano furnishes nourishment to the vine, the other three ingredients, as soon as dissolved by the moisture of the earth, rapidly penetrate all parts of the plant and kill all the infesting insects without causing the slightest injury to the vine. Of 500 vines treated in this way, not one has been injured by phylloxera or poison.

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VEGETINE.

The following letter from Rev. G. W. Mansfield, formerly pastor of the Methodist Episcopal Church, Hyde Park, and at present settled in Lowell, must convince every one who reads his letter of the wonderful curative qualities of VEGETINE as a thorough cleanser and purifier of the blood. HYDE PARK, MASS., Feb. 15, 1876.

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