

The Daily Sentinel.

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The Daily Sentinel.

JOSIAH TURNER, JR., EDITOR.
TEA AND ITS ADULTERATIONS.

NOW DIVIDED.

Though tea is generally divided into black and green, there are a number of varieties of each offered for sale in our markets; the black being coca, campe, sahong, pouchong, colong, and peko; their value increasing from the first through the last; while the greens are twankey, hyson white, young hyson, hyson imperial, and gunpowder, the last of which is the most valuable of its series. With the exception of the imperial, it is said that these commercial varieties are not known to the tea grower, but arise from successive sortings made by the dealers through whose hands they pass. In the tea-growing districts but two kinds of plants are recognized, viz: the viridis, and T. bohea, either of which will make a black or green tea according to the method of curing; through the first makes the best green tea. To these we may add a red tea used by the Tartars, though the difference may again be due to the manner of curing, and not to any essential difference in the shrub.

HOW CURED.

In curing the green tea leaves are collected, one workman throwing them in small handfuls into a flat pan which is made almost red hot, while another keeps them continually stirred with his naked hands until they become so hot as to be almost unendurable, when they are tossed out on a mat, from which they are taken by other workers who roll them between their hands to give them the proper curl, another at the same time keeping up a constant current of air with a fan to cool them quickly, and to enable them to retain the curl. This operation is repeated three or four times to insure thorough drying; they are then dried by adding to each pan of tea one teaspoonful of gypsum, one of turmeric, and two or three of Prussian blue, and separated into different classes by a species of winnowing machine, those that fall nearest to the machine, being the heaviest, are called by the exporters gunpowder tea. It is worthy of remark that the Chinese do not use these dyed teas themselves, but only prepare them for the foreign market, and to please the palates of those outer barbarians who know no better than to insist on having turmeric and Prussian blue in their tea.

The black teas are dried in these, then beaten with rods and put away. This operation is repeated three or four times. They are then pressed in baskets and closely covered, to ferment. As soon as the latter operation has reached a certain point, they are dried and curled in the same manner as the green teas. The change produced by the fermentation causes the difference in flavor between the two kinds. The Chinese consider that the best teas are produced in the vicinity of Nanking. Those brought to Europe and America are from Fukio. The Russians obtain a better article than that furnished to us, from the district in which their teas are grown, the superiority being due to the difference in the plants and the method of curing, and not to the fact that the tea is not submitted to a sea voyage, as was formerly supposed.

NOW PREPARED FOR USE.

In China, the solution of the leaves is prepared by placing them in the cup and covering them with boiling water, a grating of silver wire being dropped over them to keep them at the bottom when the infusion is completed. The Japanese, on the contrary, pulverize the leaves, infuse them in the water for a short time, and then whip up the powder with the fluid by means of a kind of bamboo brush, until the mixture becomes creamy, when they drink it, swallowing both leaves and infusion, and so obtaining all the nutritive properties of the plant. The English method of pouring boiling water on the leaves at the table is more like the Chinese custom of treating fine teas, and is very well adapted to the preparation of the valuable varieties. The addition of sugar and milk is not practiced in the East; and when the tea is good the connoisseur cannot consider it an improvement.

WHEN IMPORTED.

Although there is no account of the importation of tea into England before 1660, it must have been pretty well known there at that time, for a tax of eighteen pence a gallon was laid on the infusion; and in the following year Pepys says, in his diary, "I sent for a cup of tea to Chinese drinck, of which I never drank before." In 1664, the East India Company desired to make a present of two pounds of tea to Charles II, and obtained it on the Continent for two guineas a pound. It is generally stated that the first regular importation was from Holland in 1660, by Lord Arlington and Gascoy; but Dierell says, "This is by no means satisfactory. I have heard of Oliver Cromwell's request, in the possession of a collector." The first importation direct from China was by the East India Company, in 1669, when 150 pounds were introduced; but so slowly did it gain a foothold, that, in 1678, when 9,000 pounds were imported, the market was so overstocked that only 40 pounds were imported during the succeeding six years; whereas, in 1647, the importation was 36,172,000 pounds.

THE AMOUNT CONSUMED.

The consumption of tea in the United States is now about 30,000,000 pounds, and is chiefly in the North-eastern and Northern States. In the Middle States, tea and coffee are both found in general use, while in the Southern and Western States coffee is more generally employed, and in some of the Southern States tea is almost unknown. This is, in a measure, due to the fact that the American coffee-producing districts are, as it were, almost next door to the Southern States, and tea can only reach them at a greatly enhanced price through a very roundabout channel.

Many attempts have made to cultivate the tea plant, for commercial purposes, in various countries; but the only instances that thus far met with success are in India, where a tea variety is found; and in Brazil, though there seems to be some doubt in the latter case regarding the value of the product. — The Galaxy.

In a trial for assault and battery, Connell—*A* will now introduce an eye-witness of the affair, Samuel Smith. What is your opinion, sir? "Blind beggar?"

Bakers must find it hard to please. Is their bread "light"? they are justly fined; is it "heavy"? they will pay their customers.

PETERSBURG ADVERTISEMENTS.

DRUGS:

JORDAN & CARR,

(Successors to Geo. H. Jones & Co.),

Sycamore, corner Washington St.,

PETERSBURG, VA.,

THEIR PLEASURE IS ANNOUNCING TO THE
MERCHANTS OF VIRGINIA—North Carolina and Tennessee, that they have one of the most
various and complete stocks of

DRUGS, MEDICINES,
PAINTS, OILS, VARNISHES,

PIPE-SUITS, WINDOW GLASS, BRUSHES,

PERFUMERY, COMBS,

FANCY AND TOILET ARTICLES,

SPICES,

TOBACCO AND SNUFFS.

To be found South of the York. Buying cash,
pay for Cash from first hand only. THE
COMPANY OFFERS NO INDUCEMENT EQUAL TO ANY

JOURNAL HOUSE NORTH OR SOUTH. Call
and examine their goods.

WALTER E. JORDAN,
JOSEPH CARR.

March 26-19.

TO THE

WHOLESALE TRADE

OF

NORTH CAROLINA.

IN INVITING THE MERCHANTS OF NORTH
Carolina to an examination of our

SPRING STOCK,

WE DESIRE TO INFORM THEM THAT, owing to the rapid
increase of our stock

WHOLESALE BUSINESS,

WE SHALL BE PREPARED TO OFFER THEM, THIS SEASON,
A STOCK OF

FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC DRY GOODS

AND

YANKEE NOTIONS

ARE EQUALLED IN THE STATE OF VIRGINIA, ENBRACING
EVERY ARTICLE NEEDED BY VIRGINIA AND NORTH CAROLINA MERCHANTS, ALL OF WHICH WE INTEND TO SET AT

THE LOWEST PRICES.

OUR STOCK IS NOW READY FOR SHIPMENT.

WE ARE PREPARED TO EXECUTE ALL
OUR ORDERS PROMPTLY.

JOHN E. CARR,

Wholesale and Retail Druggist,

PETERSBURG, VA.

Feb. 16-47

FRESH GARDEN SEEDS.

WE HAVE JUST RECEIVED A LARGE STOCK OF BURST'S
NEW CROP OF GENUINE GARDEN SEEDS, ENRICHING
NEARLY EVERY KIND OF

ARTICHOKES, ASPARAGUS, WATER-MELON,
BEANS, BEETS, BEEF-ROAST, BUCKWHEAT,
BROCCOLI, CABBAGE, CUCUMBERS, ETC.

BRUSSELS SPROUTS, CABBAGE, CUCUMBERS,
CARROTS, CUCUMBERS, ETC.

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COLLARDS, CORN, CUCUMBERS, ETC.

CORN, CUCUMBERS, ETC.

CORN-SALAD, CUCUMBERS, ETC.

EGLANTINE, ETC.

ENDIVE, ETC.

LEeks, ETC.

Lettuce, ETC.

MUSTARD, ETC.

ONIONS, ETC.

PEPPERS, ETC.

Radish, ETC.

Spinach, ETC.

Tomato, ETC.

Turnip, ETC.

WE ALSO HAVE A SMALL STOCK OF HERBS.

ALSO, CLOVER, TIMOTHY, ORCHARD, HERBS,

KENTUCKY BLUE AND MIXED LAWN GRASS SEEDS,

WHICH WE WARRANT FRESH, AND WILL SELL FOR
CASH.

JOHN E. CARR,

Wholesale and Retail Druggist,

PETERSBURG, VA.

Jan. 28-47

HARDWARE.

WE HAVE JUST RECEIVED A LARGE STOCK OF BURST'S
NEW CROP OF GENUINE GARDEN SEEDS, ENRICHING
NEARLY EVERY KIND OF

ARTICHOKES, ASPARAGUS, WATER-MELON,
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BROCCOLI, CABBAGE, CUCUMBERS, ETC.

BRUSSELS SPROUTS, CABBAGE, CUCUMBERS,
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CORN-SALAD, CUCUMBERS, ETC.

EGLANTINE, ETC.

ENDIVE, ETC.

LEeks, ETC.

Lettuce, ETC.

MUSTARD, ETC.

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PEPPERS, ETC.

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