

ADULTERATION OF TEAS.

Dr. J. C. Draper describes at length, in the *Galaxy*, the various means resorted to for adulterating teas. They may be divided into the following divisions: First, the substitution of inferior for superior varieties; second, the addition of leaves of other plants; third, the employment of what the Chinese call "lie tea," fourth, the coloring and redyeing of leaves that have already been used, or of those that have been damaged, so as to pass them for good green or black tea. The greater part of the adulteration takes place before the teas reach our shores.

The camellia plant, used by the Chinese for adulteration, so closely resembles the genuine that they have been classified by botanists in the same natural family. There is, however, a decided difference in the arrangement of the veins of the two plants. In England, the leaves of the beech, elm, hornbeam, oak, willow, poplar and hawthorn are used for adulteration. These are doctored with rose pink, Dutch pink, catechu, chromate of lead, sulphate of iron, Venetian red, soapstone, carbonate of lime, carbonate of copper, chromate of magnesia, arsenite of copper, chromates of potassa, Prussian blue and indigo, and are made to assume the appearance of black or green teas, according to the demand.

The "lie tea" of the Chinese is made from the dust of tea leaves and sweepings of the warehouse, to which portions of foreign leaves and sand are added, and the whole is made up with gum and paste into small masses, which are colored green or black as circumstances require. The Chinese usually mark it "lie tea." They, however, use it for the purpose of adulterating other teas, but at the same time give a certificate of the proportion of true and false matter in the sample.

The fourth method of cheating, is that of reworking exhausted and damaged leaves, observes Dr. Draper, at one time carried on to such an extent, that, in 1843, there were eight establishments devoted to it alone. Agents bought the leaves at the coffee houses, and delivered them to the factories, where they were manipulated with gum, sulphate of iron, and catechu, to restore the stringency, and then dried and roughly curled. If a black tea was to be made, the requisite gloss or facing was imparted by the judicious use of rose pink and black lead. If a green was required, the leaves were submitted to a dyeing similar to that employed by the Chinese, in which the use of Scheel's green, carbonate of copper and other poisonous compounds often entered.

It is undoubtedly true, as Dr. Draper asserts, that to the apathy prevailing among the consumers themselves is the large amount of adulterated tea in use due. Many do not know what a good cup of tea is, and even if they suspect the tea is not good, they do not take the trouble to investigate or expose it. Until the people interest themselves, and so oblige the importers to exercise greater pains in the selection of their teas, inferior qualities will continue to be foisted upon us.—*New York Commercial Advertiser*.

**HUNTING HARES IN CHINA.**—The manner of conducting the sport is this: The hunter goes out with his game-bag slung on his side and his falcon poised on his finger. Presently his sharp eye detects a hare in the grass. Instantly he sets out at a brisk trot, tramping heavily round and round an ever-narrowing circle, until the timorous beats scud off, outrunning the wind to a good boot his troubles. Then, with a wild "Ai, ai, pong hio!" the falcon is let loose upon him. Down comes the fierce bird upon "poor Wat's" back, beak in neck and talons in fluff. Escape is hopeless. In a few moments, before even the hunter has time to come up, the hare lies quivering in its death throes. A piece of flesh is torn off to reward the falcon, the rest goes into the bag, and master and bird stroll off together to find another quarry. Oddly enough, though they take all this trouble to catch their hares, the Chinese rarely eat them, they boil them down to make soup, and fling the flesh away as worthless.—*Chasell's Magazine*.

**A GOOD STORY.**—There is an excellent story on record of an architect repudiating any connection with the building fraternity in the case of the eminent and talented M. Alexander, the architect of Rochester bridge and several other fine buildings in the County of Kent. He was under cross-examination, in a special jury cause at Maidstone, by Sergeant—afterwards Baron—Garrow, who wished to detract from the weight of his testimony, and who, after asking him what was his name, proceeds thus: "You are a builder, I believe?" "No, sir, I am not a builder, I am an architect." "Ah! well; architect or builder, builder or architect, they are much the same I suppose?" "I beg your pardon, sir, I can not admit that; I consider them to be totally different." "Oh, indeed! perhaps you will state wherein this great difference consists?" "An architect, sir, prepares the plans, conceives the design, draws out the specifications—in short, supplies the mind; the builder is merely the bricklayer or the carpenter—the builder, in fact, is the machine; the architect the power that puts the machine together, and sets it going."—"Oh, very well, Mr. Architect, that will do; and now, after your very ingenious distinction without a difference, perhaps you can inform the court who was the architect of the Tower of Babel?" And now mark the reply—which, for promptness and wit, is perhaps not to be rivaled in the whole history of rejoinder: "There was no architect, sir,—and hence the confusion!"

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