Chicago Tribune.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 25, 1863.

THE $300 EXEMPTION CLAUSE.

We observe an attempt being made to prevent the repeal of the $300 exemption clause in the Conscription law. It is now discovered that the $300 clause is peculiarly adapted to the wants of "poor men," and that it would be a great wrong to them to repeal it. If the matter is to be discussed in that light, why not reduce the sum to $100 or to $25? It is far higher than many of the poor can pay, as was proven by the operation of the draft during the past season. A draft was made in thirteen States. The names of 300,000 men were drawn. The number of men wanted was 200,000; but all escaped by means of the various exemptions, save 25,000, who could find no loop-hole at which to crawl out, and were too poor to raise the $300. They were unable to feign themselves in possession of any disease, or to take out foreign protection-papers, or show that they depended upon "only widows" or "fatherless children" for support; and they were unfortunately short of greenbacks, and had no friends to lend them any; their bank accounts were drawn down or overdrawn, and the financial institutions refused to "do" their paper. The consequence was, that those 25,000 "poor men" were sent to the wars to fight the battles of the chaps that happened to have the $300 on deposit at the time of the draft. Forty-six thousand conscripts got clear because they could put up their little $300 apiece, while 25,000 conscripts were marched to the bivouac and the battle, as the penalty of their impecuniosity. If the $300 clause is the *poor* man's friend, we don't think *they* see it. It is only fair to add that 10,000 substitutes were procured by drafted men, making the number obtained by the draft 35,000, or *one in nine* of those drawn. If the Government wants commutation money instead of men, perhaps the $300 clause is a good way to get it. But if it be soldiers to fight that are needed, then the sooner that exemption is repealed the better. And several other big holes in the present law ought also to be stopped.

If the whole 3,000,000 of enrolled militia were drafted and sifted through the existing law, it would yield but 200,000 conscript soldiers. All the rest would escape as aliens, "sons of widows," "fathers of children," or possessing some physical defect; or if none of these dodges sufficed, then by boldly buying off, on the payment of a few dollars. As a military measure, the act in its present shape is an unmitigated humbug.

BRITISH FEELING.

We were beginning to forget how hostile the voice of the British nation had been towards us since the war began, when the matter of the Chesapeake at Halifax recalls it all. We have been well disposed to forget that hostility in our satisfaction at the stoppage of the rams, and especially since Mr. Beecher returns with the assurance that the feeling is all right since his speaking in Exeter Hall. Probably the Chesapeake affair will blow over without any considerable difficulty. And yet, it is an index of the real feeling, not alone among the Blue Noses, but of the nation with which they are connected. For in getting at the state of the vital organs in the body, we can learn it as well, if not better, by feeling the pulse at the extremities, as by a more direct examination.

It is well for us to understand the state of the case, and to know, proximately at least, how far we may *rely* on British friendship. For allowing Mr. Beecher all the credit he may claim for his great services in setting the case right with John Bull, we have no idea that he has converted the whole British nation to our cause. He undoubtedly impressed his audiences there with his power as a speaker, and perhaps gave sundry of them new ideas as to points in the controversy which they had failed to understand; yet without doubt many of them were in the same condition with some of his hearers at home, who think themselves brought into love with religion by hearing him preach, when the truth is, they are only brought into the love of *hearing him*, and in reality love religion no better than before. Probably a good many who heard him in Exeter Hall were very content with the speaker, who now love us no better than they did before hearing him.

There are two grounds upon which the British people are led to side with the rebellion. One is political; the other commercial. The first affects the aristocracy; the second the middle, manufacturing and trading classes. The enmity of the aristocracy is undying. It comes of difference of nature. It is like that which exists between a man and a lion. They feel themselves to be at enmity of necessity, so soon as made aware of each other's presence. The nobility of Great Britain hate this Government because it is bred in democratic ideas; and democratic ideas are ever making a necessary war on aristocratic institutions, whether they aim to do it or not.

But the nobility are not the fools to be always exhibiting their true feeling. In times of peace they keep it out of sight, and try to persuade themselves that no trouble will come to them of the democracy, at least in their day. But so soon as the war endangers the integrity of this nation, the feeling that is within them breaks out. They would give their right eyes to have this nation crippled or broken, and thus free themselves from future danger.

And though the nobility of Great Britain consists of comparatively a few persons, they are somewhat like our former slaveholders in their influence. They control the press, and give voice to the nation, far beyond their title as a numerical question. But the manufacturing and commercial classes have separate reasons for siding with the rebels. They want market for their goods. The United States, as one people, buy largely of them, it is true; but they are in fear of losing this custom, because the Northern States are manufacturers too, and they enact Morrill tariffs, which threaten further to increase their productions. While united as one nation, the North supplies the South.

But now that the war has broken out, if the American country can only be violently divided, as the result of it, the North will lose the South as its customer. But who shall have it? Who but Great Britain, stepping in with friendly voice to cheer them on in the war? And twelve millions of people, among whom manufactures, with a slave system, are impossible, constitute a customer for all time not to be sneezed at.

This motive was one which, as soon as our trouble began, was felt with such prodigious force that it swept the British nation from its feet. What though it had been *anti-slavery*, and had abused us without stint, because the nation had upheld the system? The benefits of that system, which had been so powerful with us, would now enure to them. And was it any worse for them to uphold slavery than it had been for us to do it? We had stood the abuse and grown rich; could not they?

And now as to the change which has come over the British nation in regard to our affairs. Let us not misunderstand the cause of it. Doubtless the British Government was moved to stop the rams by the fear of a war with us, which, even with our difficulties at home, they did not care to undertake. But *the thing* which has moved upon the English mind, and set them to hedging the future, is the fact that *the rebellion is being put down*. Even a war with England would not change that. And this consideration is one which avails with all classes. And so nobility, tradesmen and manufacturers may as well keep friends with us, as far as they can. Even Mr. Beecher's effort, so far as it availed, did so mainly by his use of this fact. He showed them that we meant to quench the rebellion; that we felt ourselves able to do it; that we were actually doing it, and *should complete it*. And that was a sort of information which, though relished by John Bull as cats are said to relish warm soap, was extremely useful to him in helping him to get his cue.

But that he feels good in his mind towards us as yet, we do not believe. Nevertheless, the commercial and manufacturing enmity will doubtless soon recover, seeing the chance which was to gratify its selfishness is gone. When Liverpool sees that she cannot make any money out of our dismemberment, she will love us as well as of old.

But the enmity of the aristocracy will never die; at least while we are a democratic nation. And we need not, and shall not, forget either the existence of this enmity, nor the ground of it. We now know it. The war has revealed it, and shown its measurement. And when this war is over, there will be a reaction which will plague the undying enemies of this nation. Their enmity will be sure to re-act upon themselves.

GENERAL GRANT AND THE PRESIDENCY.

Gen. Grant is a great strategist. He has headed off the attempt of the New York *Herald* to kill him by advocating him for the Presidency, and has written letters to his New York friends to that effect. The old hero suggests that there is time enough to look up candidates for the Presidency six months hence, and that in the meanwhile the friends of the Union would better consult the interests of the country and his own desires by filling up his wasted regiments in order to enable him and them to give the finishing blow to the rebellion as speedily as possible.

☞ General Averill's raid into Southwestern Virginia is an accomplishment of considerable importance. The damage he was able to inflict was large, in the destruction of stores, bridges, etc. He reports having destroyed three depots containing 2,000 barrels of flour, 10,000 bushels of wheat, 100,000 bushels of shelled corn, 50,000 bushels of oats, 1,000 sacks of salt, 31 boxes of clothing, 20 bales of cotton, besides harnesses, shoes, leather, tools, oil, tow, 100 wagons, and 2,000 barrels of meats. He also cut and destroyed the telegraph for half a mile, and a section of the railroad, with water-stations and tanks—also five bridges, and the culverts for fifteen miles, to say nothing of bridge timber and building materials. All of this was done at Salem, in Virginia, which is not quite half way from the crossing of the Kanawha river to Lynchburg, and about forty to fifty miles from the latter place. He thus cut off Longstreet from his railroad connection with Lynchburg. The force with which this was done the rebels estimate at 25,000; but it was probably not a sixth of that. The hardships of the command in their passage of mountains and in swimming streams at this inclement season were very great, and entitle the troops to the gratitude of the country. It is our hope that Southwestern Virginia will not a great while be left to mere raiding. A suitable force pushed upward from Knoxville might work a fire in the rear of Lee's army, which might be extremely inconvenient to him.

Another Rebel Pirate Case.

News by the *Morning Star* states that another American vessel, the James L. Garety, which left Matamoras on November 16th, was taken possession of by rebel pirates, after the fashion of the Chesapeake affair. Six persons took passage on the vessel, as passengers, and when one day out, suddenly attacked the captain and crew, with revolvers, overpowered and confined them for eight days, and then sent them to sea in an open boat. After being two days and nights at sea, they landed at Sisal, and thence obtained passage to Havana. The captain says there are four other parties waiting opportunities like this. This peculiar mode of piracy will no doubt run its length like an epidemic. The remedy to check it should be a speedy application of *hemp*.

More Rebel Vessels Afloat.

The late foreign news brings the intelligence that the new rebel steamer Rappahannock, which they bought in England, was in the roadstead off Calais. The London *Daily News* says that a ram, supposed to belong to the rebels, had sailed from Hull. This makes two more rebel pirates afloat to prey upon our commerce. They never attempt to engage our vessels of war, but sneak out of their way and prowl upon the track of our unarmed merchantmen. It is to be hoped that our Government will at once send out cruisers in search of these new pirates. The Alabama and Florida have given our commerce annoyance enough, without any further addition in that line, and our navy should wake up to a realizing sense of the fact that, as the neutrality of the English water is so easily violated by the rebels, even under the very nose of the British lion, we must depend wholly upon our own strength to sweep these pirates from the seas.

☞ A significant vote was taken on Monday in the House of Representatives. The bill appropriating $20,000,000 for bounties to encourage enlistments was under discussion, and Cox, Brooks and other Copperheads exhausted their ingenuity in finding flaws with it—all the while protesting their anxiety to support the Government in putting down the rebellion. Finally, Harding, of Kentucky, met the case fairly and squarely, and proposed as an amendment that no part of such money should be used to raise, pay, equip and support colored soldiers. Nobody cared to talk back, and the House voted at once: Yeas, 41; nays, 105—a very satisfactory majority for the right side. Not one Union man can be found in the yeas, and only three or four of those known as Border State men. On the other side we find a number of the Border State men, and no less than twelve out-and-out Democrats, viz:

English, of Conn.; Ganson, Kernan, Odell, Radford, Richardson, Wright, Winfield S. Fernando Wood, of New York; Perry and Steele, of New Jersey; and Baily, of Penn.

A considerable number of the slipperier sort of Democrats managed to dodge the vote altogether.

The following are the Copperheads who boldly voted against paying and supporting colored soldiers:

YEAS—Messrs. Ancona, Biddle, Brown (Wis.), Cobb, Cox, Crittenden, Eden, Eldridge, Fernando Wood, Gaither, Gibbons, Grider, Hall, Harding, Harrington, Harris (Md.), *Harris* (Ill.), Johnson (Pa.), Johnson (Ohio), King, *Knapp* (Ill.), Law, Long, Mallory, McDowell, Mitchell (Pa.), Morris (Pa.), Morrison, Noble, O'Neill (Ohio), Pendleton, Randall (Pa.), Rogers, Ross, Scott, Stiles, Strouse, Stuart, C. A. Wickliffe, Wood, Wright and Yeaman.

The other Illinois Copperheads skulked the vote, and refused to face the music.

UNPRECEDENTED SUCCESS IN LIFE INSURANCE.—We have before us the statement of the Equitable Life Insurance Society of New York, as submitted to the Massachusetts Insurance Department on the first day of November last. From it we learn that the Company in this, the fourth year of its existence, has issued 1,855 policies, for which cash premiums to the amount of $266,857 have been received. The accumulated fund has reached the handsome aggregate of $500,000. We challenge the records of Life Insurance Companies in the United States to show an instance of such remarkable prosperity. As a cash Company, it now ranks second on the list, and bids fair in a few years to stand at the head. The management of the Equitable have evinced great shrewdness and a thorough knowledge of life insurance in both theory and practice, and to this may be added the highest integrity and most untiring industry. If these characteristics combined in the officers will not build up a Company, then we should give up forever the undertaking. The Agent for Chicago and Illinois is Edward C. Wilder, Esq., whose office is at the corner of Clark and Randolph streets, under the Sherman House.

THE ASSASSINATION OF COMONFORT.—The accounts of this sad event are quite contradictory, and it is uncertain whether the French authorities had any hand in it. The official account states that Commandant Gonzales Aymire, having learned of Comonfort's approach with an escort of 150 horse, set out with his forces to meet him, and had a running fight for some distance. In returning back to where the engagement began, twenty dead bodies were picked up, among which was that of Comonfort, together with various documents of interest. According to another account, Comonfort's body was taken up by the adherents of Juarez's party, and carried to San Miguel de Allende, where it was made the subject of a post mortem examination, and afterward buried with the military honors due to his rank. He was found to have received a wound from a lance in the heart, one or two balls in the right side of the breast, and several sabre cuts about the head. As Comonfort had considerable money on his person, some have supposed robbery to be the motive of the attack; but the probability is that he was slain as one of the most valued adherents of the Juarez cause. He was born at Puebla in 1812. After rising high in military honors, he entered the Mexican Congress in 1842. He acted a prominent part in the expulsion of Santa Anna; and became President in 1855, holding the office three years, when he retired before the revolution by the Church party. He went to France, but returned when the French invaded Mexico, and offered his services to Juarez. He was appointed chief commander, and gained even the regards of his enemies.

A GREAT FEAR.—Mr. Phelps, of San Francisco, has just brought to New York a pear in perfect state of preservation, which was picked from an orchard in Los Angeles as long ago as the 20th of August. It weighs

THE TEA TRADE.

History of its Growth—Decay of Ancient Prejudices—Its Use as a Sanitary Agent—Present Magnitude of the Trade in Great Britain and the United States.

THE CHICAGO TEA WAREHOUSE.

It is certainly a pleasing duty for the journalist to turn aside from the contemplation of "grim-visaged war," with all his "stern alarums," if perchance he can find aught to note of improvement or progress in his community. In the "piping times of peace" it is no longer a subject for marvel that we record the changes which in a young and thrifty centre like our own are constantly developing into forms which are thereafter to become sources of influence, power and wealth, and which from their inception are indices of wants felt only to be supplied. But the case becomes widely different when the sharp tattoo of the recruiting drum and the trumpet notes of the morning reveille are echoed back by the sound of the mason's trowel and the busy hum which proceeds from a Heart of Commerce, throbbing and heaving with the beat of one hundred and fifty thousand pulses of money-seeking Humanity. These are stirring times, yea, "the times which try men's souls;" and it is a fact which is, perhaps, not less apparent to others than ourselves, that our "lines" are cast in a community which has no parallel in the Old World or in the New, for Vigor, Thrift, and all the Elements of substantial, enduring prosperity. Whilst in her early days it was predicted by the envions or the foolish that our newly fledged city would add another to the long category of "golden dreams and leaden realities" in which the West was then so fruitful, sinking into a mere refuge for the moles and the bats, she has long since passed the Rubicon which was to have been her annihilation and her ruin, and we now accept the congratulations and the wonder of the stranger with becoming pride and dignity; pointing in return to our wharves, our shipping, our grainaries, our railroads, our manufactures, our thronging streets, our "market places" wherein no one *need* "stand idle." And lastly, as being the most important—the sub-soil, in fact, producing these results—we point with pride and gratitude to those rich plains, stretching onward and onward towards the setting sun, teeming with the countless riches of an exhaustless Nature. Step by step is this Great City of the plains advancing in all that is Progressive, beyond the growth of her elder sisters of Cincinnati and St. Louis, and keenly entering into the race with the only centre on the continent which will compare with her; and even New York herself has nothing in her Annals which can be likened to our own for the rapidity with which our city has so rightfully and surely asserted her commercial pre-eminence and position in the world. If we would "see ourselves as others see us," let us turn to our English cousins who are beginning to find us out; and show as they are to recognize and acknowledge merit, it is only a few days ago that the "Thunderer" had his "special" in our wake, with words of commendation and marvel, while the London *Illustrated News* ventured the prediction that "Illinois, with her 150,000 men in the tented field, was destined to be the mother of the greatest nation the world has yet seen, with Chicago for her capital and New York her seaport." Surely, then, if we are already esteemed so highly by our friends and by the stranger, we may be pardoned for any exhibition of exuberant pride. And we confess we *are* proud of our city and our country. May God preserve them both!

And now while these past years, few in number though they be, have found us progressing as a Market for the great staples of the world, to an extent far surpassing the brightest dreams of the wildest enthusiast amongst us, there has been steadily growing up in our midst a branch of Commerce which, large as it is at present, so far as the Western States are concerned is only just in its infancy. We mean none other than the TEA TRADE, of which it may be safely computed that the amount annually consumed in Illinois alone is fully equal to the entire trade of the British Islands in 1738—or 1,493,026 pounds—of which by far the larger portion is that commonly known as *green*. As the history of this valuable commodity is little understood by the public generally, we may be excused for referring to such features as we think will be of interest to our readers.

And, first, we may premise that the Tea-plant is an evergreen shrub, usually growing to a height of from three to five feet. The stem is bushy, with numerous and very leafy branches. The leaves are large and placed on short foot-stalks—the flowers white and slightly fragrant. It is cultivated more or less in every province of China, and is brought from the small farms in the interior for sale to the merchants at the seaports, in much the same fashion as farm products are brought to market here. Two hundred years ago the use of tea was scarcely known in Europe. Corroborative of which is the account of Father Alexander DeRhodes, who entered China in 1623, remained there more than twenty years, and afterwards traveled through other parts of Asia, and who asserts that although the use of tea was then common throughout the East, and "*begins, I perceive, to be known in Europe*, it is in all "the world, only to be "found in two provinces of China, those of Nanquin and of "Chin-Chean, where the gatherings of it occupies the people as the vintage occupies us. All "China, Japan, Tonquin, and other kingdoms "use it, and the abundance is so great that "it is sold at a very cheap rate." They drink it, he adds, at all hours. He found it in his own experience an instantaneous remedy for headache, and when compelled to sit up all night to hear confessions, its use saved him both from drowsiness and from subsequent fatigue. On one occasion, he tells us, he so sat up for six consecutive nights, but he honestly adds that at the end of them he was very tired, notwithstanding the virtues of tea. Since that period, however, tea has been imported to an extent that has changed the habits and worked a domestic revolution, not only in our country, but all through Europe. The gratification of the taste thus acquired—the absolute indispensableness of

"The cup that cheers and not inebriates,"

has made us dependent on China for much of the comfort of a large portion of every class of society. Perhaps the poorest amongst us are those who are most of all benefited and comforted by the introduction and extended use of tea.

In "the good old times," ladies of fashion were wont to drink strong ale at their breakfast. The poorest woman in our days would not touch such a beverage when she can obtain the indispensable cup of tea. That the use of this fragrant herb, besides being a source of riches to individuals and of immense revenue to the Government, has been highly beneficial in improving the moral character and promoting the domestic comfort of ourselves, as a Nation, cannot for a moment be called in question.

To lovers of the curious there is much that is interesting in connection with the introduction of tea into England, particularly in regard to its *cost*, of which there is direct evidence that for some years prior to 1657 tea was occasionally sold in England at prices ranging from $50 to $50 the pound weight. "In respect of its scarceness and dearness, it hath been only used as a regalia in high treatments and entertainments," writes the first English tea-dealer, Thomas Garway, "and presents made thereof to Princes and grandees." Pepys also thought it worthy of record in his diary, that on the 20th Sept., 1660, "I did send for a cup of tea, a China drink of which I never had drank before." On the sanitary effects of tea, there was, for a long period, much controversy. "Among many other novelties," says a medical writer in 1722, "there is one which seems to be particularly the cause of hypochondriac disorders, and is generally known by the name of thea, or tea." Dr. Lettsom was the first medical writer who gave the public a reasonable and scientific account of the plant; but even his fear of its abuse ran away with his judgment. That tea may be so abused as to cause a craving for alcoholic stimulants, is unquestionable. That at any period the abuse of tea has been so general as to become a main cause of drunkenness, may safely be denied. So popular was the new beverage then becoming, that the "jolly fellows" already began to look with discontented eye at the growth of a practice which might make liberality with the tea caddy an excuse for restrictions on the wine cellar; and we find Mr. Henry Saville writing to his uncle, Mr. Secretary Coventry, in sharp reproof of certain friends of his "who call for tea instead of pipes and bottles, after dinner—a base, unworthy practice, which I must ever admire your most Christian family for not admitting;" and he adds, with an audible sigh, "*The truth is, all nations are growing so wicked as to have some of these filthy customs.*"

With the brain workers, tea has always been a favorite beverage—the subdued irritability, the refreshed spirits, the renowned energies, which the student so often owes to it, have been the theme of many an accomplished pen. To say nothing of our own and English poets and essayists, its praises have been sung by Herrichen and by Francius, in Greek verses; by Pechlin in Latin epigrams; by Pierre Petit, in a Latin poem of five hundred lines, and by a German versifier, who celebrated, in a fashion of his own, its "burial and happy resurrection." Huet, Bishop of Avranches, has also paid his graceful tribute to a stimulant to which, probably, no scholar was ever more indebted, and which he continued to enjoy at the age of ninety. Johnson, indeed, wrote no verses in its honor, but he has drawn his own portrait as "a hardened and "shameless tea-drinker, who for twenty years "diluted his meals with only the infusion of "this fascinating plant; whose kettle had "scarcely time to cool; who with tea amused "the evening, with tea solaced the midnight, "and with tea welcomed the morning." The assailants are not so distinguished, but as we have partially seen already, they have been quite as emphatic. Jonas Hanway, a man "whose failings," as Johnson said, "may well be pardoned for his virtues" is perhaps the most conspicuous of these. "Men," says he, "seem to have lost their stature and comeliness, and women their beauty. What "Shakespeare ascribes to the concealment of "love, is, in this age, more frequently occasioned by the use of tea." To these complaints echoes were not wanting, but after a while the tea drinkers had it all their own way, until it has become in every household an article of prime necessity.

The most conspicuous chemical constituents of tea are (1) tannin, or tannic acid, to which it owes its astringency; (3) volatile oil, to which it owes its peculiar aroma; (3) theine, the crystalline principle, which is characteristic alike of tea and coffee, and which is to those beverages what quinine is to bark. The other substances extracted from tea by chemical analysis are those which in various proportions enter into the composition of all plants. The volatile oil in good tea is about ¾ per cent. We subjoin Mulder's analysis of Hyson and Congou teas of Chinese growth:

	Hyson.	Congou.
Volatile oil	0.79	0.60
Chlorophyl	2.24	1.94
Wax	0.33	0.00
Resin	2.22	3.64
Gum	8.56	7.38
Tannic acid	17.55	12.83
Theine	0.43	0.46
Extractive matter	22.80	19.83
Apothem	traces.	1.43
Coloring matter separable by aurilatic acid	23.60	19.12
Albumen	3.00	2.29
Woody fibre	17.05	28.32
	98.78	99.30
Salts or ash contained in these constituents	5.50	5.24

According to the chemical classification of food, the "flesh formers" in tea of average quality may be said to be about eighteen per cent., and the "heat givers" about seventy-two per cent., water and mineral matter dividing between them the residue. They are as follows:

		Quantities contained in one pound of good tea. oz.	grains.	Centesimal proportions.
Constituents.				
Water		0	350	5.00
Flesh formers	Theine	0	210	3.00
	Caseine	1	050	15.00
Heat givers	Volatile Oil	0	52	0.75
	Gum	2	285	18.00
	Sugar	0	210	3.00
	Fat	0	280	4.00
	Tannic Acid	4	87	26.35
Woody fibre		3	227	20.10
Mineral matter, or ash		0	350	5.00
		15	267	100.00

Briefly, it may be said, that to persons in health, besides the more obvious effects with which almost everybody is familiar, tea saves food by lessening the waste of the body; thus it soothes the vascular system, whilst it excites the brain to increased activity. Nor are its direct medicinal effects quite without importance. In the early stages of fever and is a useful diluent; in the later ones, a tincture, made by macerating tea in proof spirits is sometimes administered with advantage. A very strong infusion of tea has proved an antidote in cases of poisoning by arsenic, and by tartarized antimony as well as by opium. Under the infirmities of advancing age, when the digestive powers become enfeebled, and the size and weight of the body begin very perceptibly to diminish, the value of tea in checking the too rapid waste of the tissues is especially observable. That the characteristic element, *theine*, should be present not only in the tea shrub of China and India, but in coffee, and in the mate-plant of Paraguay, of which last named plant it is estimated that 40,000,000 pounds are consumed annually in South America,—is a striking and beautiful fact. From plants so unlike in appearance, and so remote in birth-place, myriads of people in all parts of the earth receive a refreshing and exhilerating beverage. Little appreciated by persons of all degrees of civilization and culture. In such a fact there may be more significance than science has yet elicited.

As indicative of the strides which the product of this shrub has made since its introduction amongst the nations of the West, it may be remarked that since the year 1678, when the importation into England was 4,713 pounds—a quantity, by the-way, which *glutted* the market for several years, it has gradually worked its way into public favor, until from a choice and costly luxury to be obtained, as we have seen, only at the tables of the wealthy, it has become one of the prime necessaries of life, used alike by rich and poor. In proof of this we have only to take Martin's report on the Tea Trade, and we will find that in 1728, England, with a population of 6,252,750, consumed 1,493,826 lbs in 1828, with a population of 24,561,000, she required 31,820,620 pounds; and in 1859 she consumed 76,300,000 pounds, her population being 28,000,000—or about forty ounces per head. And the very valuable Tea Reports of Messrs. W. J. & H. Thompson inform us that in 1820-21 the American trade in Tea amounted to 7,890,267 pounds, increasing each year (with the exception of the years 1830-31), until in 1833, the imports had reached 16,327,600 lbs. Looking still further, we find in *Hunt's Merchants' Magazine*, vol. 29, pp. 105, that the imports of tea into the United States amounted, in 1848, to 19,339,083 lbs; in 1851, to 28,056,712 lbs, and in 1852-3, to 40,960,737 lbs, the average consumption being over 16 ounces per head, giving us the *second* place, as tea consumers: it being estimated that the consumption in Russia is 4 oz., in France 1 oz., and in Germany ½ ozs. per head.

We have been led thus to consider the subject, by an announcement which appeared in our columns a few weeks ago, of the opening of the "CHICAGO TEA WAREHOUSE," exclusively for wholesale trade, under the auspices of a well-known firm formerly in the general grocery trade—Messrs. PARSONS, PITKIN & HANKEY,—and who, to use the language of their advertisement, for the future propose to give their sole attention to the IMPORTATION and JOBBING of Teas, on a scale larger than has yet been attempted in any market west of the seaboard. They are gentlemen of energy, character and capital, and as they have met with a large measure of success in the past, so do we trust they will be equally fortunate in their present undertaking. It speaks well for our city as a large and rapidly developing market—that the *interests* of the consumer *demand* that each staple in merchandize shall become a Specialty in itself, sufficiently ample to employ the energies and capital of those who are willing to embark in its service,—and we therefore the more cheerfully invite the attention of the public to this new enterprise. A few years ago the mere idea would have been treated as visionary. Now, with an area of ten States as a field of operations, it need not be regarded as beyond the bounds of probability that the day is not far in the future when vessels, whose keels are fresh from the Chinese seas, may discharge their cargoes at the hospitable portals of the Chicago Custom House, without the intervention of New York or other Eastern harbors. Thus we progress.

And now a word in conclusion: With one of the gentlemen of the firm we have mentioned, one of the editors of this paper has an acquaintance of some years' standing, and it is a source of great pleasure for him to feel that he was instrumental in bringing his young friend to a field where his energy, self-reliance and correctness of conduct have placed him in the foremost ranks of the mercantile community. Commencing with an humble clerkship, on a small salary, he has, through close and faithful attention to the trust reposed in him, risen step by step to his present position—a fine example of what the qualities we have named are sure to bring to the possessor when rightly exercised in our growing city. And while chronicling past success, and predicting the future prosperity of the house with which he is connected, we feel it no less a pleasure than a duty to thus hold up the example of our friend to all generous-minded young men who may now, or hereafter, seek the rewards of probity, industry and energy in this busy mart, as worthy of their imitation, and as an encouragement to perseverance in the strait and narrow path of commercial integrity and honor.

The Reciprocity Treaty.

The following is the joint resolution introduced in the House by Mr. Ward:

WHEREAS, Under the treaty made by the United States with Great Britain, proclamation of which was made by the President of the United States on the eleventh of September, one thousand eight hundred and fifty-four, for the purpose of extending reciprocal trade between the British North American colonies and the United States, nearly all the articles which Canada has to sell are admitted into the United States free of duty, while heavy duties are now imposed upon many of those articles which the people of the United States have to sell, with the intention of excluding them from the Canadian markets; and whereas, the President of the United States, in the first session of the Thirty-sixth Congress, caused to be submitted to the House of Representatives an official report, setting forth the inequality and injustice existing in our present intercourse with Canada, and serve the subsequent legislation of Canada; and whereas, by the fifth article of the treaty, provision was made that it should remain in force for ten years from the date at which it should go into operation, and further until the expiration of twelve months after either of the high contracting parties should give notice to the other of its wish to terminate the same, each of the high contracting parties being at liberty to give such notice to the other at the end of the said term of ten years, or at any time afterwards; and whereas, by a further proclamation issued by the President of the United States, bearing date the sixteenth day of March, one thousand eight hundred and fifty-five, it was declared that the said treaty should go into effect and be observed on the part of the United States; *and whereas* it is desirable that friendly relations should be continued between the United States and the British North American provinces, and that commercial intercourse should be hereafter carried on between them upon principles reciprocally beneficial and satisfactory to both parties; therefore,

Be it Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the President of the United States be, and he is hereby authorized, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, to appoint three commissioners, to confer with persons duly authorized by Great Britain in that behalf, to negotiate a new treaty, based upon the true principles of reciprocity between the two Governments and the people of both countries, with the view of enlarging the basis of the present treaty, and for the removal of existing difficulties.

FINANCIAL AND COMMERCIAL

THE MONEY MARKET.

THURSDAY EVENING, Dec. 24, 1863.

This has been one of the most active days of the season in the money market. This was in a great measure influenced by the fact that borrowers had to get their supplies for two days, the banks not intending to open to-morrow, (Christmas day.) The bankers declined all that second, but not enough to supply anything like the demand, and of course many borrowers were subjected to disappointment. We think the regular customers were about all supplied, and outsiders the principal sufferers. There was an active demand for eastern exchange, and the quotations were very firm at ¼ buying, ¼ selling. There may have been some variations from these quotations, but we think they were very generally adhered to.

The Gold market was steady, with a pretty large business. In New York the quotations as telegraphed to James Boyd, Esq., were as follows: At 9¼ a. m. 153; 9:45—151⅞; 10—151⅛; 2 p. m. 151; 3—151½. There was no second Board. Here the buying range was 150@150⅝, and some large lots at 151. Silver is firmer, and larger sales at 1 per cent. The rates were 140 for small coin, and 144 for large. The demand was in a great measure for the Canada markets by speculators. Sellers were not near as plenty as buyers. Legal tender notes are firmer and in more demand, with an advance in the quotations. The buying price was ¼, and selling ⅜ per cent premium. In some cases sales were made at ⅜ premium.

According to the chemical classification of food, the "flesh formers" in tea of average quality may be said to be about eighteen per cent., and the "heat givers" about seventy-two per cent., water and mineral matter dividing between them the residue. They are as follows:

	1862.	1863.	
Freight	$28,287.21	$24,193.95	$219,226 Dec.
Passengers	6,061.89	126,97.10	633,521 Inc.
Mails, &c.	1,250	1,200	50.00 Inc.
	$34,299.10	$38,191.05	$3,891.95

COMMERCIAL.

THURSDAY EVENING, Dec. 24, 1863.

The following table shows the receipts and shipments during the past twenty-four hours:

RECEIPTS, LAST TWENTY-FOUR HOURS.

	Flour, bbls.	Wheat, bu.	Corn, bu.	Oats, bu.	Rye, bu.	Barley bu.
G&CURR.	832	4666	556	7812	256	731
HIRN	259	2800	1200	2500	500	1500
IGR'T	720	700	1750	1000		
IB&ORR.	510	1250		4666		1000
NWR.	560	13750	700	8450	700	1200
A&SILBR.	150		1050			
Cin. Air Line				1000		
Total	3213	24966	7336	22128	1056	2731

	Grass Seed, lbs.	Tallow, lbs.	Live Hogs, no.	Dr'ed Beef Hogs, no.	Cattle, no.	Hides, no.
G&CURR.	5150		6540	300	154	22568
HIRN			2500	1500	86	5775
IGR'T			100	375	96	20210
IB&ORR.	4561	1859	5349	1904	491	41495
NWR.	13002	4600	560	530	375	11550
A&SILBR.			150	150	56	
Total	8713	6200	14747	7101	1227	151598

The receipts of Hogs, live and dressed, to-day amounted to 21,850. The market for Live Hogs to-day was unusually brisk, and the market was firmer—with sales of upwards of 14,000 head, at $4.00@6.00 gross—mostly at $5.00@5.60. The packers were the principal buyers—the shippers having suspended active operations for the present.

The market for Beef Cattle was less active, but there is no change to note in prices—with sales of upwards of 1,000 head at $2.25@4.80 gross. The demand for shipment is light; but there is still a fair demand by packers.

Under the liberal receipts of Dressed Hogs, the market to-day ruled 15@20c per 100 lbs lower than yesterday, at which the sales were unusually heavy—prices ranging from $5.00@7.10—the most of the sales being from at $6.00 and $7.00, dividing on 200 lbs. At the close the market was heavy and the tendency downwards.

The increased receipts of Hogs to-day, it is important to note, is due mainly to the fact that we are now only receiving the Hogs that have been detained for nearly a week past on the other side of the Mississippi, owing to the stoppage of the ferries by the ice; and though we are not among those who think that the drove has come to stay, there is much probability of a long continuance of such a liberal supply as we have had today.

The Provision market continues firm, but there is less activity than for two days past. This is due partly to the fact that some buyers were seized with a slight timidity when they found the receipts of Hogs to be upwards of 21,000 head, but mainly to the extreme firmness of holders, and the comparatively light offerings. There is no change in Lard.

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The Grain market was steady, with a pretty large business. In New York the quotations as telegraphed to James Boyd, Esq., were as follows: At 9¼ a. m. 153; 9:45—151⅞; 10—151⅛; 2 p. m. 151; 3—151½. There was no second Board. Here the buying range was 150@150⅝, and some large lots at 151. Silver is firmer, and larger sales at 1 per cent. The rates were 140 for small coin, and 144 for large. The demand was in a great measure for the Canada markets by speculators. Sellers were not near as plenty as buyers. Legal tender notes are firmer and in more demand, with an advance in the quotations. The buying price was ¼, and selling ⅜ per cent premium. In some cases sales were made at ⅜ premium.

According to the chemical classification of food, the "flesh formers" in tea of average quality may be said to be about eighteen per cent., and the "heat givers" about seventy-two per cent., water and mineral matter dividing between them the residue. They are as follows:

		Quantities contained in one pound of good tea. oz.	grains.	Centesimal proportions.
Constituents.				
Water		0	350	5.00
Flesh formers	Theine	0	210	3.00
	Caseine	1	050	15.00
Heat givers	Volatile Oil	0	52	0.75
	Gum	2	285	18.00
	Sugar	0	210	3.00
	Fat	0	280	4.00
	Tannic Acid	4	87	26.35
Woody fibre		3	227	20.10
Mineral matter, or ash		0	350	5.00
		15	267	100.00

Briefly, it may be said, that to persons in health, besides the more obvious effects with which almost everybody is familiar, tea saves food by lessening the waste of the body; thus it soothes the vascular system, whilst it excites the brain to increased activity. Nor are its direct medicinal effects quite without importance. In the early stages of fever and is a useful diluent; in the later ones, a tincture, made by macerating tea in proof spirits is sometimes administered with advantage. A very strong infusion of tea has proved an antidote in cases of poisoning by arsenic, and by tartarized antimony as well as by opium. Under the infirmities of advancing age, when the digestive powers become enfeebled, and the size and weight of the body begin very perceptibly to diminish, the value of tea in checking the too rapid waste of the tissues is especially observable. That the characteristic element, *theine*, should be present not only in the tea shrub of China and India, but in coffee, and in the mate-plant of Paraguay, of which last named plant it is estimated that 40,000,000 pounds are consumed annually in South America,—is a striking and beautiful fact. From plants so unlike in appearance, and so remote in birth-place, myriads of people in all parts of the earth receive a refreshing and exhilerating beverage. Little appreciated by persons of all degrees of civilization and culture. In such a fact there may be more significance than science has yet elicited.

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