

**A POPULAR TREATISE
ON TEA: ITS QUALITIES
AND EFFECTS**

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A popular treatise on tea: its qualities and effects by John Sumner

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JOHN SUMNER

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BOHEA TEA.

A

POPULAR TREATISE ON TEA :

ITS QUALITIES AND EFFECTS.

The bond of Commerce was designed
To associate all the branches of mankind;
And if a bounteous plenty be the robe,
Trade is the golden girdle of the globe.
Wise to promote whatever end He means,
God opens fruitful nature's various scenes;
Each climate needs what other climes produce,
And offers something to the general use;
No land but listens to the common call,
And in return receives supply from all.

COWPER. "Charity."

BY JOHN SUMNER.

[ENTERED AT STATIONERS' HALL.]

BIRMINGHAM:

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PREFACE.

THE great Anglo-Saxon race are essentially a tea-drinking people; wherever they are established on the wide world this fragrant herb—this pleasant and gentle stimulus—is considered to be one of the necessaries of life. Tea soon became an established favourite with our ancestors, and its use increased most rapidly. How few now would view with complacency the idea of being deprived of their tea! and yet, if perchance the plant which yields this grateful beverage should be made the subject of conversation, beyond the bare fact, that it comes from China in chests, has a series of hard names, and that the green variety has a bad reputation as being inimical to sleep, we venture to say that, to nine-tenths of society as ordinarily constituted, all is a mystery respecting the history, use, fiscal value, or effects on the human frame, of this extraordinary Chinese leaf, which has alternately been lauded as a cordial and denounced as a poison.

Simple as it may seem, information on these points is by no means easily acquired; I have not found any work which professes to bring together, in a connected and intelligible form, that valuable and scientific knowledge which, it is true, exists, but has to be sought for through many a ponderous tome; a labour of love it might be to a few, who, like myself, feel a very great interest in the subject, but one scarcely compatible with the inclinations or the avocations of the many.

This little Treatise, which I have arranged into chapters, as affording a natural division of the subject and as being convenient for reference, is an attempt to supply in a condensed and, I trust, a readable form, that information which I believe is much needed on the history, culture, statistics, and effects of Tea.

As before stated, I have long taken an interest in the study of Tea; circumstances have made me practically cognizant with my theme; and, as I do not pretend to set forth any theory on the action or constitution of Tea, or attempt to convey the idea that this little work respecting the plant is aught beyond a plain unvarnished history, derived from the best sources of information, it is to be hoped that the avowal may have the effect of disarming all hostile criticism.

98, HIGH STREET, BIRMINGHAM,
JANUARY, 1863.

INDEX.

	CHAPTER
HISTORY OF TEA	1
BOTANICAL DESCRIPTION OF TEA—HABITS OF THE PLANT, METHOD OF PREPARING BLACK, GREEN, AND SCENTED TEAS	2
VARIETIES OF BLACK AND GREEN TEAS	3
SUBSTITUTES FOR TEA USED IN VARIOUS PARTS OF THE WORLD	4
CHEMISTRY OF TEA	5
MEDICINAL PROPERTIES OF TEA, OPINIONS OF MEDICAL MEN, AUTHORS, &c., IN REFERENCE TO THE SUBJECT	6
THE SOCIAL INFLUENCE OF TEA	7

