care has been taken to obtain freſh seeds, or to preſerve them. The best method would be, to sow freſh ſeeds in fine light earth immediately on leaving Canton, and to cover them with wire to ſecure them from rats and other animals that might attack them. The boxes ought not to be too much expoſed to the air, nor to that kind of dew which riſes from the ſea. The earth in the boxes muſt neither be hard nor dry, and ſhould from time to time be gently watered with freſh or rain water ; and when the ſhoots begin to appear, they ought to be kept in a slight moiſture, and ſheltered from the sun. The tea-plants to be found in England have been procured by theſe means only; and though leveral of the young rising ſhoots periſhed, the laſt method propoſed is probably that which may be followed with greateſt ſuccess.

The fineſt tea-plant known in England was raised in Kew gardens ; it was carried thither by Sir J. Ellis, who brought it from ſeed : but the firſt that ever flouriſhed in Europe was one belonging to the Duke of Northumberland at Sion, from a drawing of which our engraving is taken. The plants which are cultivated in the gardens near London thrive well in the green-houſe during winter, and ſome ſtand that ſeaſon in the open air. Linnæus, who obtained this ſhrub in its growing ſtate, contrived to preſerve it in the open air in the northen latitude of Sweden. France has alſo procured ſome plants. There can be no doubt but they would ſucceed in many countries of Europe, if proper care were paid to their cultivation till they became inured to one climate. It will be a great advantage if we can rear that plant, which can never ſuffer ſo much from change of soil as from growing musty during the long voyage from China. Beſides, the demand for tea is now become ſo great, that the Chineſe find it necessary, or at leaſt profitable, to adul­terate it. Bad tea is now become an univerſal complaint. The Abbé Groſier tells us, that there is a kind of moſs which grows in the neighbourhood of the little city of Manging-hien, which is ſold as a delicate ſpecies of tea. If this delicious commodity is adulterated in China, can we flatter ourſelves that none comes to us but what is pure and un­mixed ? How would our fine ladies like to be told, that inſtead of tea they drink nothing but the infuſion of moſs from the rocks of Manging-hien @@(f)?

Of the chemical qualities and effects of tea on the conſtitution, many various and oppoſite opinions have been formed. About a century ago, Bontikoe, a Dutch phyſician, beſtowed extravagant encomiums on the benefits of tea. With him it was good for every thing; and any quan­tity might be drunk, even to the amount of 200 diſhes in a day. Whether Bontikoe in this caſe acted as a physician, or, being a Dutchman, was eager to encourage the ſale of an important article of his country's commerce, is not eaſy to ſay. On the other hand, the pernicious effects of tea upon the nervous ſyſtem have been often repeated, and very oppoſite effects have been ascribed to it. Some affirm that green tea is mildly aſtringent ; others ſay it is relaxing : Some ſay it is narcotic, and procures ſleep ; while others contend, that taken before bed-time it assuredly pre­vents it.

Dr Lettſom, who has written the Natural Hiſtory of the Tea Tree, made ſeveral experiments to determine its chemi­cal qualities. He found an infuſion of it preſerved beef freſh; it is therefore antiſeptic : and from its ſtriking a purple colour with the salt (sulphate) of iron, he juſtly con­cludes that it is aſtringent. He concludes alſo, that the eſſential qualities of tea reside in its fragrant and volatile parts.

We have heard much of the bad effects of tea, but we have neither felt nor obſerved it. If it were ſo pernicious as it has been repreſented by ſome, its effects muſt certainly be evident in China, where it is drunk by all ranks ; yet ſo far from being thought hurtful in that country, it is in high eſtimation. The preſent emperor has compoſed a kind of eloge on the virtues of tea. We are told by thoſe who have written the hiſtory of China, that inflammatory diſeases are leſs frequent there than in many other countries, which is aſcribed ſolely to the liberal uſe of tea. It muſt be obſerved by all, that tea is an antidote againſt intempe­rance, and that he who reliſhes the one ſeldom runs into the other. Raynal says, that tea has contributed more to the ſobriety of this nation than the ſevereſt laws, the moſt eloquent harangues of Chriſtian orators, or the beſt treatiſes of morality. We have no doubt but it may be hurt­ful to ſome conſtitutions in particular circumſtances ; but we suspect that the nervous diſorders ſo often attributed to tea, are rather owing to hereditary diſeaſes, to want of exerciſe, and to irregularity in food or ſleep, than to tea. “ Weak tea drunk too hot (ſays Dr Leake) will enervate, and if very ſtrong, may prove equally pernicious by affect­ing the head or ſtomach. But when it is drunk in modera­tion, and not too warm, with a large addition of milk, I believe it will ſeldom prove hurtful, but, on the contrary, ſalutary. After ſtudy or fatigue it is a moſt refreſhing and grateful repaſt ; it quenches thirſt, and cheers the ſpirits, without heating the blood ; and the pleaſing ſociety, in which we ſo often partake of it, is no inconſiderable

@@@(f) There is very good reaſon to believe, that the adulteration of tea is not confined to China. It is practiſed, and often with too much succeſs, among ourſelves. Mr Twining, a conſiderable tea-dealer in London, publiſhed a pamphlet ſome years ago, in which he has expoſed this infamous traffic. The information (he ſays) was obtained from a gentleman who had made very accurate inquiries into this ſubject.

The ſmouch for mixing with black teas is made of the leaves of the aſh. When gathered, they are firſt dried in the sun, then baked ; they are next put upon a floor, and trod upon until the leaves are ſmall, then lifted and ſteeped in copperas with ſheeps dung ; after which, being dried on a floor, they are fit for uſe. There is alſo another mode : When the leaves are gathered, they are boiled in a copper with copperas and ſheeps dung ; when the liquor is ſtrained off, they are baked and trod upon, until the leaves are ſmall, after which they are fit for uſe. The quantity manufactured at a ſmall village, and within eight or ten miles thereof, cannot be aſcertained, but is ſuppoſed to be about 20 tons in a year. One man acknowledges to have made 600 weight in every week for six months together. The fine is ſold at 4l. 4s. *per* cwt. equal to 9d. *per* lb. The coarſe is ſold at 2l. 2s. *per* cwt. equal to 41/4d. *per* lb. Elder buds are manufactured in ſome places to represent fine teas.

For the honour of human nature, we hope ſuch a traffic as this is not very common ; but if there be, thoſe concerned in it deserve exemplary puniſhment. The only way (Mr Twining ſays) to eſcape this adulterated tea, is never to pur­chase from thoſe who offer their teas to ſale at lower prices than genuine teas can be afforded ; but to purchase them only from perſons of character.