

THE P. A. AND AN ENTOMOLOGIST.

The Ceylon Planters' Association lately approached Government with a suggestion that an entomologist should be appointed to the Museum, their objects being to get further information regarding tea pests. It is unfortunate the authorities have not seen their way to incur this expenditure, but suggested a compromise that an Entomological referee might be appointed, who would not be paid a regular salary but fixed charges for consultation by letter or for visiting estates, etc.

It is, we think, a pity this suggestion has not met with more support in Ceylon and we hope it will not be long before the Indian Tea Association will be able to find funds and a suitable person willing to continue the experiments and researches commenced by Mr. Banber.

That there is still a great deal to learn no one will deny, and while individual planters do collect a certain amount of knowledge, very few really have the time or are always able to gather together the necessary particulars and to take the very careful notes in order that their conclusions may be accepted by others.

With special subscriptions for the American Tea Fund perhaps this proposal will not meet with so much favour this time, but considering the great advantages the industry may expect to reap, we think it would be a mistake to postpone matters for some time.

The more light and knowledge we can get on all subjects connected with tea, the better will we be able to cope with our competitors and improve our older properties, which in several instances suffer so severely from blights and all kinds of enemies.—*Indian Planters' Gazette.*

TEA AND SCANDAL.

FIVE O'CLOCK TEA.

(Written for the Owlet Society, and Amateur Essay Club.)

1
My dearest Jane, I fear you'll think
I'm very poor in pen and ink;
For seven months have passed away
(How quickly!) since my wedding day,
And you have never had a word
To tell you what has since occurred.

2
Well, nothing great, I'm bound to own;
For Hugh and I live much alone;
And being rather short of cash,
And much averse to "going smash,"
We take our modest pleasure here—
Within our own domestic sphere.

3
For me, I'm growing quite a c o k
For Hugh, he means to write a book;
We form a hundred plans a day
How to contrive to pay our way,
Nor altogether lose the power
Of asking friends to spend an hour.

4
Now, in the present race for wealth,
When all is bought but joy and health,
This would be rather hard to do,
But for one fact—or rather two.
The first, that friends care less by far
For what you *have* than what you *are*.
The second, that without a shock
One may drink tea at five o'clock.

5
Oh! excellent five o'clock tea!
Unparalleled five o'clock tea!
A muffin, a "bunn," and cup of Bofea;
The people you like best to hear and to see;
Some gossip and chat, A song and all that,
And your duty is done, You've had plenty of fun,
And of worries, and fuss, and extravagance,—none.

6
Just think of the anguish of people of taste,
Of dinners to give and no money to waste;
The fish over-boiled, The side-dishes spoiled;
Your servants can't wait, And your 'lions' come
late,
And the whole's overruled by inimical Fate.
I can't tell you the comfort and saving to me
Of this sweet institution of five o'clock tea.

7
And then, my dear Jane, there are people you
know,
Who are terribly fast, or tremendously slow;
Are gossips, or snobs, or disgracefully mean;
Old maids who are blue, or youths who are green;
And saints, in whose presence one feels quite a
sinner.
(What a bore and a nuisance to ask them to
dinner!)
But now, since this fashion, one's quit,—don't
you see?
—By asking them just to a five o'clock tea.

8
And then there are persons so sadly genteel,
That they make you quite wretched at every meal;
For if glasses for fingers, or claret, or hock,
Are wanting, their feelings receive such a shock,
That at mutton and beef and such trifles as
those,
They sit and do nothing but turn up their nose;
Of course one must bear them, but then, dear,
you see,
There's so much less of them at five o'clock tea.

9
So I wish her all joy, whoever she be,
Who first invented the five o'clock tea!
And new-married people, who haven't much money
Should "tea-pot" that lady—that would be so
funny!
Good-bye, my dear Jane, I will sign, for variety,
Your affectionate QUILLS
(Of the Owlet Society.)

—*The Argosy*, p. 80, July, 1875.

YOU.

The Chinaman praiseth his T's,
The mandarin praiseth his Q,
The gardner praiseth his turnips and P's,
But I praise U.

The mariner loveth the O's,
The billiardist loveth his Q,
The husbandman loveth his cattle and B's
But I love U.

The foolish have need of the Y's,
The actor needeth his Q,
The pilot hath need of two excellent I's,
But I need U.

The huntress seeketh the J's,
The shepherd seeketh his U,
The College boys seek their final "B-A's"
But I O, Q.

—*"Jaffna College Miscellany."* LAPHSON SMILES.

CEYLON AND INDIAN TEA Vs. CHINA.

(*London Times*, Aug. 6.)

One of the most striking episodes in the annals of modern commerce is the struggle between India and China for the tea supply of the world. Under the general heading China tea we include Japanese and small supplies from other non-British sources. As regards the consumption in Great Britain the result of that struggle is no longer doubtful. The Indian and Ceylon tea grower has won the battle; but at a serious cost to himself. During the past 18 years he has displaced China teas in the British market to the extent of 76 million pounds; in doing so the Indian planter has had to reduce the price of his competing product by nearly one-half. In 1881 Great Britain consumed 112 million pounds of China teas; in 1893 she consumed only 36 millions. In 1881 Great Britain consumed only 48 million pounds of Indian and Ceylon teas; in 1893 she consumed 172 millions. While, therefore, the total British consumption of tea had increased by 48 million pounds during the past 18 years, her purchases of tea from India and Ceylon have increased by 124 millions, and her purchases from China have decreased by 76 millions.

This great industrial revolution has been accomplished by an international rivalry almost without a parallel in the history of the world. The Chinese and the British tea growers have fought with all the characteristic qualities of their two races. British enterprise has been doggedly met by Chinese persistence. The economies in produc-