

from the number of experimental growers, and the quantity of plants they have already planted out, or that will be so sufficient early next summer; and abundance of home seed for sowing as well as for practically testing its quality, will be produced in the autumn of 1878. And as with other cultivated plants the tree mallow can doubtless be improved by selection, careful cultivators will do well to select their "stock seeds" always from the best plants.

The thrashing or separating of the seeds from the stalks or barm, may either be done by rippling combs, as with the flax; by flails, or by machinery. It is probable that it may be found advisable to cut off or separate the seed-bearing twigs from the thicker branches and stems, as doing so would likely facilitate the after operations of stacking or storing, thrashing, and peeling.

Peeling or stripping off the bark is easily done at all times during the growth of the plants, and only a little less so when the seeds are sufficiently matured for pulling or cutting the crop; while even after the stalks are dried by stacking, or standing them out on end through the winter, the bark comes off quite freely if they are saturated for a short time in water, or even thoroughly wetted by rain.

The principal advantages to be derived from the cultivation of the tree mallow are its production of two crops or returns—seeds and fibre—either of which would alone remunerate its growers; its suitability for extensive districts which are now almost worthless, or only capable of bringing low pasture rents; the prevention or abatement of river pollutions, as little if any caustic soda or other deleterious chemicals will be required in the preparation of its fibre; its resistance of injury from wet weather at, and after harvesting.

We think we have quoted enough to enable our agricultural and planting readers to feel that the "tree-mallow" is a plant deserving of attention even in Ceylon, and we shall follow with great interest Mr. Hay's Dolosbagie experiment. The sample of fibre sent to us is most promising, but it will be impossible to say what its value may be without reference to home commercial and manufacturing authorities.

COFFEE AND DATE COFFEE.

A correspondent sends us the first page of the *Manchester Courier* of 17th June, which contains a number of advertisements of a large clothing establishment, Lewis's, which set forth as an inducement to customers that from the following morning coffee would be supplied in 1 lb. and ½ lb. canisters at 1s the lb. Unfortunately, however, we also read that the coffee was to be fixed with "a small judicious quality of the best chicory," which is said to be "very wholesome, and, with coffee, very agreeable." The reason given for this adulteration (for it is nothing else) is that *ninety-nine persons out of a hundred prefer a little chicory with their coffee. This is considered a great improvement by most coffee drinkers.* If this refers to the coffee drinkers of Britain alone, there is no doubt much truth in it, though also some exaggeration; but it certainly is very far from the truth as regards the coffee drinkers of the world at large. If, therefore, this enterprising clothes dealer had contented himself with selling the pure article, Ceylon planters might have felt grateful to him. As it is, he has placed himself in the same position as the grocers by adulterating our staple to please the vitiated taste of the public. Our correspondent states that Lewis supplies tea and tobacco to his customers in the same way at almost cost price, thus earning for himself the hatred of the grocers and tobaccoists. In the same paper we find an advertisement of the date "coffee" abomination at 1s and 1s 6d per lb. Better Lewis's mixture than this concoction!

GOLD IN CEYLON.

The latest report from Dolosbagie is to the effect that the miner (Mr. Evans) finds the stones getting harder and more like auriferous quartz as he proceeds with his tunnel. There are traces of "mundic" (pyrites) such as is often found side by side with gold, in the samples blasted, but as yet only a very slight trace of gold itself has been found.

"Theberton" estate, from which the fine specimen of gold in quartz has come, belongs to Rev. T. N. Grigg of Nottingham and is a 201 acre block situated at the lower end of the Maskeliya valley, adjoining new Laxapanagalla and opposite to Elfindale. We believe it lies on the range between Ambagamawa and Maskeliya, Aberdeen and Harnish estates being close by. Mr. Grigg, the manager, merely sent the quartz samples along with some limestone which he wanted to have analysed. The latter has turned out to be the richest limestone yet seen in the island quite equal to Colombo coral. Gold is often found in connection with limestone (dolomite).

BANKING IN INDIA must be very prosperous:

"The following Bank dividends have been declared:—Bengal 10 per cent.; Madras, 11 per cent.; Bombay, ditto; Allahabad, 15 per cent."—*Times of India.*

A WANT: A RUSSIAN CONSUL IN CEYLON.

Several letters are lying at the G. P. O. addressed to the care of the Imperial Russian Consulate, Ceylon, but, we believe, no such office or agency exists. Here is a chance for a merchant ambitious of "the private entrée" and other official privileges!

WHY so much Quinine is required in the United States:—Malaria seems to be developing with alarming rapidity around New York. One large jewellery manufactory in New Jersey is to be abandoned in consequence of the unhealthy character of the neighbourhood, new buildings being erected on a safer site at considerable expense to the owner, and this, as the *American Architect* points out, is only one piece of evidence of the growing gravity of the malaria question. A generation ago malaria was a little dreaded about New York as it would be in London, but now some of the most beautiful suburbs of the city are becoming depopulated from this cause, and town after town is attacked by the ague, which never again releases its hold.—*Graphic.*

CEYLON AND CHINA TEA IN AUSTRALIA.—"W. B." writing from Melbourne on 9th May to the *Calcutta Tea Gazette*, says:—

There are plenty of people here interested in China tea whose great delight is to catch the Indian tea man "tripping," and samples of some very much damaged Ceylon tea that was sold a short time ago at 4d. per lb., were sent to the Editors of all the principal newspapers and made the subject of a letter on the PURITY (?) of Ceylon tea. This tea turned out to be no Ceylon tea at all, but something recovered from a wreck and packed in Ceylon,—at least, so say the consignees; but a little fire like this can be made to produce a great smoke, especially in an article that has excited as much jealousy as "Indian tea in Australia." Indian tea should be, like Caesar's wife, above suspicion. Trusting this will meet with attention in the right quarter, &c.

CENSUS OF ATTENDANCE AT THE LONDON CITY CHURCHES AND CHAPELS.—The *St. James's Gazette* of June 13th devotes a whole page to a carefully compiled return with the following headings and totals for 63 Established Churches:—

Church.—Income: Per Clergy Directory, £41,814; per Clergy List, £36,385; Capacity, as per Ordnance Map, 32,455; Parochial Population as per Census 1871, 75,919; Total present at Service, 6,731. Analysis of Congregation: Exclusive of St. Paul's Cathedral and Temple Church. Officials and their families, 571; Choristers, 706; Poor attending for bread or money, 227; School children, 1,374. General Congregation, exclusive of officials and their families, and poor attending for relief: Men, 1,227; Women, 1,796; Children, 830; Total 3,853.

While the totals for 20 Nonconformist Chapel are:—

Capacity, as per Ordnance Map, 17,270; Total present at Service, 4,399; Officials and their families 115; Choristers, 157; Poor attending for bread or money, —; School children, 355. General Congregation, exclusive of officials and their families, and poor attending for relief: Men, 1,771; Women, 1,535; Children, 466; Total, 3,772.

We cannot find room for the details; but these are referred to in the accompanying remarks as follows:—

In another page we print a census-table of a rather remarkable character, which will not be found in any official return. It was taken on Sunday, the 1st of May; and it shows how many people attended service in all the City churches; the number of persons each church can accommodate; how the various congregations were made up; the cost of ministration, so far as the income of the clergy goes; with some other detailed information of an interesting and surprising character. From this table it will be seen that on this 1st of May, deducting officials and their families, choristers, school-children and so forth, there was in one church a genuine congregation of 10 persons; in another of 9; in another of 8; in another of 4; in another of 2. Further, it will be seen that of 57 City churches, only 11 had a congregation (with the above-mentioned deductions) of over a hundred persons; and that in more than half the churches there were not fifty of such worshippers. Next, it may be noted, there were 706 choristers to sing to a total congregation (always with the aforesaid deduction) of 3,853—a very large number of these choristers being hired; that the total income of the clergy who ministered to the total general congregation of 3,853 was, according to one authority, more than £36,000; according to another nearly £42,000. After looking at these and some other interesting figures, attention should be given to the returns of attendance at the Nonconformist chapels on the same day; from which it appears that the total general congregation in 15 chapels nearly equalled the congregations in the 57 churches.

With such figures as the above before them, it is not surprising that many good Churchmen are discontented. They reflect upon the fact that year by year the resident population of the City diminishes (the last census shows that it has fallen in ten years from 76,000 to 53,000—round numbers), they see new populations crowding the suburbs, where sufficient church accommodation can only be supplied by constant demands on their pockets, and they grumble at the maintenance of these costly empty churches—three or four of them in an area of a few hundred square yards. And nobody can wonder at it. Of course, we know that it is very difficult to face the demand for abolishing them in any considerable measure. For one thing, most of these churches are fine fabrics—some of them very beautiful; and it is not in human nature (with any sentiment in it, or any feeling for art) to contemplate their demolition with complacency. It is sometimes asked, too, whenever the question is raised, whether we are quite sure that the population will never return to London; but that contingency need not be regarded much, for though many churches have already been taken down of late, more remain than would be needed to accommodate five times the present population—which, meanwhile, is not increasing, but the contrary. The main difficulty is as to the maintenance or destruction of the churches as works of art and as landmarks of history; and no doubt it is a formidable one. Nevertheless, no sensible man can look at the table we print to-day without wondering whether some at least of these edifices might not be spared, and their ministrants and their incomes elsewhere employed.

CHEAP LOCAL TELEGRAMS.

The Governor General in Council is pleased to sanction, as an experimental measure, the introduction of branch telegraph offices at convenient points in towns and business centres, wherever, in the opinion of the local Governments, they are required. The extent of each town circuit to be limited to a radius of six miles from the Central Telegraph Office. The charge for messages within the radius to be four annas for six words, with address free, and free delivery within one mile.—*Times of India.*

THE FORT GUN was fired 5 minutes before 1 p.m. to-day.

THE SHIP "LIBURNIAN"—Galle, 20th July.—The wreck of the ship "Liburnian" was put up for sale to-day at Messrs. Clark, Spence & Co.'s office, the upset price being R5,000. There were no bidders, and eventually the sale was postponed to Saturday, the 30th inst.

AN OLD CEYLON PLANTER, Mr. E. Lempriere, has just passed through Galle en route to Labuan or Sarawak; there, we have no doubt, to engage in the development of a planting industry.

LECTURES FOR HINDUS ON CHRISTIANITY.—We have received a copy of a pamphlet entitled "Who is Christ? The Question Considered in Six Lectures, by the Rev. E. F. Willis, M. A., of the Oxford Mission, Calcutta." The first lecture is headed "The Christ of the Gospel a Historical Reality"; the second "Christ the Prophet of God"; the third "Christ the Worker of Miracles"; the fourth "Christ the Physician of the Soul"; the fifth "The Atoning Death of Christ"; and the last "The Resurrection of Christ." The lectures are addressed to the intelligent Hindus, and answer the arguments of such writers as Strauss, the author of "Supernatural Religion," &c. The lectures are admirable as a whole, the only points on which we disagree with Mr. Willis being where he brings forward baptismal regeneration and the real presence. Otherwise the book is excellent, and we hope it will be the means of much good among the Hindus.

A TELEPHONE EXCHANGE.—It is stated that endeavours are being made to institute a telephone exchange in Colombo on the principle of those already established in other Eastern towns. We are informed that Messrs. Smyth & Alison, on behalf of Mr. J. V. H. Owen, are making the attempt, which we hope will be successful. But did not Mr. E. B. Creasy try it a short time ago, and did not the Postmaster General and Director of Telegraphs state that he would not allow it and would get the Government to interfere if it were started? Is not the probable cost, as quoted by the morning paper (R15,000) to include the mills, under the mark? Did not Messrs. Alstons, Scott & Co.'s cost over R1,200? The Fort is, possibly, too small and the offices too close together for success. Some of the big merchants say the brokers are nuisance enough as it is now they have to walk round without having them connected by telephone! The Fort of Colombo is certainly a most convenient locality for business houses; but it is between the Fort and the coffee stores that a telephone is required and we suppose meant to be established if possible. We should not be behind Singapore and Bombay. One very good proposal is to connect Galle Face and Mount Lavinia Houses with the Fort: Messrs. Maitland and Bell should see to this.

THE COLOMBO HOUNDS will meet on Saturday at the Kotte tollbar.

CHURCH MISSIONARY SOCIETY.—A meeting in connection with this Society was held in the Central School, Galle, on Monday evening, the 18th inst. The chair was taken by Mr. L. Nell, and addresses were delivered by the Chairman, the Rev. J. D. Simmons of Jaffna, and the Rev. J. Alcock of Baddegama.

THE LIEUT. GOVERNOR'S VISIT TO THE SOUTH: Galle 20th July.—The Lieut. Governor visited the Gaol and Civil Hospital yesterday. He also inspected the trace of the new road shortly to be opened in the Fort leading from Lighthouse Street to the new entrance. His Excellency and party left this afternoon at 4 p.m. for Weligama.

THE COMET.—The comet, recently observed in South America and the Cape, has been during the past week clearly visible in the northern sky. The unwonted visitor has naturally excited general attention. Although brilliant, its tail is estimated to measure only a few hundred thousand miles in length, while the tail of the great comet of 1843 extended through a length of two hundred million miles. The present will be known to posterity as "Comet B, 1881."—*Graphic.*

THE CONJUNCTION OF PLANETS.—"S." writes from Panadura:—"I see in your issue of the 9th inst., that a correspondent wants to know when the last conjunction of four planets occurred, which I cannot exactly say unless I refer to some old Nautical Almanacs. I think the present conjunction is not only of the four planets he names, but six, with Uranus and Neptune too, for, if I am not mistaken, those two are also in the sign of Aries just now. And I also think, Venus. Although she appears to be in close proximity with the rest, she has already passed on to the next sign, Taurus."

UNCLAIMED LETTERS AND PAPERS LYING IN THE GENERAL POST OFFICE AT COLOMBO.—Clarence, Hon. L. B. 1 letter 7 papers, Churchward, 1 letter, Davids, Monsieur 1 paper, Dannald, J. 1 paper, Forbes, J. D. 1 letter, Godman, F. D. 10 letters and 9 papers, Garom, G. 1 letter, Gun, Mrs. Geo. 1 paper, Gun, D. A. 1 letter, Hushie, Dr. L. 1 letter, Harcourt, Capt. S. F. 61st Regt. 3 letters, Hughes, R. J. 2 letters, Mair, Rev. H. 1 letter, Pyper, C. B. 1 letter 23 papers, Peak, L. 12 letters, 51 papers Patterson, C. A. 2 letters 3 papers, Ra-sley, J. 1 card, Sampson, F. S. 1 letter, Sinclair, James 2 letters, Scott, C. J. 1 letter, Stephen, H. M. 4 papers, Spooner, C. B. 4 letters, Shute, W. 4 letters, Sim, C. J. 1 letter, Schrottky 1 letter.

GOVERNORSHIP OF MADRAS.—Mr. Grant Duff, Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies, has accepted the Governorship of Madras, vacant by the death of Mr. Adam. On Mr. Duff's appointment Mr. Craig Sellar (who is the author of the article on the late Mr. Adam in the current number of *Fraser's Magazine*) offered himself as a candidate in the Liberal interest for the Elgin Boroughs. In the address which he has issued he attributes the troubles of the present Government to the legacy of troubles derived from its predecessor. It is said that Mr. Evelyn Ashley may succeed to the Under-Secretaryship made vacant by Mr. Grant Duff's new appointment.—*Graphic.*

M. VOULLON, the popular manager of the *Comptoir d'Escompte de Paris*, leaves Bombay to-day to undertake the management of the new National Bank of Hayti. During the four years he has spent in Bombay M. Vouillon has considerably increased the reputation of the French Bank, and at the time of the banking panic, caused by the failure of the City of Glasgow Bank, he was able, by liberal advances, to considerably add to its clientele, and to acquire a hold on the native community the Bank has never since lost. His popularity with all the various native communities of Bombay is a good augury of successful management at Hayti, where also the commercial population is of very varied nationality. M. Vouillon took a leading part in the social life of Bombay, and to Madame Vouillon the inhabitants of Malabar Hill owe that popular institution, the Children's Gymkhana.—*Times of India.*