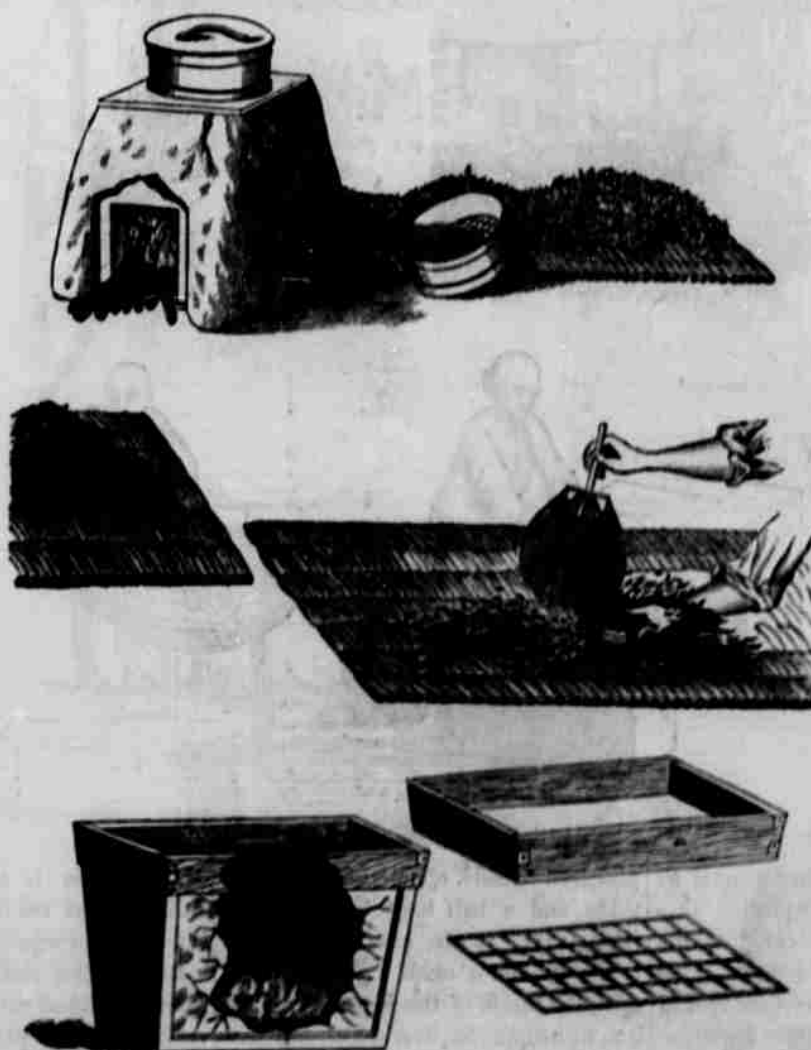




TEA LEAVES, SHOWING SHRINKAGE IN CURING.

squares 4x4 feet. By April or May when the plants will be about 12 inches high they should be carefully moved from the frame with a ball of earth attached so as not to expose the roots to the sun, and one planted in each corner of the check, using for the purpose an ordinary garden trowel. In the early stage of the growth of the plant shading with pine branches will be found advantageous. After the first year the plant supplies its own shade. During the first two years little or no cultivation except to keep down the weeds, is necessary; when the plants are two years old they should be pruned down to 18 inches. Picking can commence after the third year when the



STEAM BATHING AND COOLING TEA LEAVES.

plant will be about four feet high. In Japan the harvest usually begins in April, after heavy rains when the shrub shoots forth leaves vigorously and abundantly, and continues through May and June; but the late leaves are larger and do not make as fine a grade of tea as those first gathered. In Japan only the first three leaves of every stalk or stem (see left hand corner head of page) are taken, in India they take six. The bud before it is developed into a leaf after curing appears in the tea like a grain of silver, owing to the white hairy cover and from that receives the name Pekoe (white hair). The first two leaves after the bud makes the broken Pekoe; the