Highest of all in Leavening Power.—Latest U. S. Gov't Report

# Royal Baking Powder

ABSOLUTELY PURE

## INTO DARKEST AFRICA.

**The Hazardous Venture of a Band of American Missionaries.**

The recent brutal butchery of Christians in China does not seem to deter other missionaries from seeking dangerous fields in uncivilized and semicivilized countries for the spread of the gospel. In spite of the dangers which await them a small party of religious workers, composing the African Inland mission, has just set out from Philadelphia for the region of the Sudan, the most dangerous mission field in the world.

REV. PETER C. SCOTT.

The party is under the leadership of the Rev. Peter Cameron Scott, an enthusiastic and determined young clergyman. He has spent seven of the 28 years of his life in Africa, two years of that time in the interior of the dark continent. Among those who will accompany him on his perilous mission is his sister, Miss Margaret Scott, who has recently returned from missionary work on the Kongo river. Before beginning their pilgrimage to darkest Africa they expressed the belief that they would be successful in overcoming the superstitions and bitter prejudices of the savages and were full of hope and courage.

It is the purpose of Mr. Scott and his associates to land at Mombasa, on the eastern coast of Africa, and proceed at once to Mount Kilima-Njaro, where a station will be established. From this point the missionaries will work northward along the mountains of the Sudan.

Little if any Christian missionary work has hitherto been done in this vast region of eastern Africa, where there are 90,000,000 people wholly without the teachings of the gospel. It is acknowledged to be the most perilous mission field in the world, both on account of the climate and the bitter hatred and hostility of the Moslems, who hold almost undisputed sway in that portion of the dark continent. Facing the dangers of disease, the savage natives and the bloodthirsty and marauding Arabs, this little band of Christian teachers carry their lives in their hands, and that some or all of them will be sacrificed on the altar of their devotion seems more than probable.

## HE REFUSED TO DRINK.

**Colonel Wilson Declined to Imbibe With the President of the United States.**

Colonel John M. Wilson of the engineer corps of the United States army is a familiar and popular figure in the military and social life of the national capital. By virtue of the retirement of General Henry L. Abbot under the age

COLONEL JOHN M. WILSON.

limit Colonel Wilson was recently transferred from Washington to the northeast division, which includes New York and New England.

Colonel Wilson has had the rather unique and, for an army officer, unusual experience of having refused to drink with two presidents of the United States. The first occasion was at the close of the long and fatiguing day of Cleveland's first inauguration, in conducting the details of which Colonel Wilson had an important part. When it was all over the president suggested that they take a "quiet little drink" together. A decanter of whisky was produced. With a moral courage not less conspicuous than had been his physical courage in the time of war the colonel firmly declined the invitation of the nation's chief executive, saying, "I cannot join you in a drink of whisky, for I have never drunk spirits and never mean to do so." The colonel therefore pledged the president's health in a glass of apollinaris. He had a similar experience on the occasion of Harrison's inauguration.

As before, the president, after congratulating him upon the successful management of the ceremonies, suggested that they take a drink together in honor of the occasion. Colonel Wilson again declined, and drank President Harrison's health in a glass of water.

Colonel Wilson has had a rather brilliant military career and combines in a high degree the distinguishing traits of a soldier and a gentleman. He was born in the District of Columbia, and is about 55 years of age. He entered West Point in 1855, being appointed from Washington territory, and graduated in 1860, joining the engineer corps, with which he has since been connected. He served with distinction all through the war of the rebellion and was successively promoted for gallant and meritorious service in the battle of Gaines Mill, Va., at Malvern Hill, during the campaign around Mobile, in the capture of Spanish Fort and at Fort Blakeley, Ala. His present rank is that of lieutenant colonel of engineers. During President Cleveland's two terms he has held the position of superintendent of public buildings and grounds at Washington. For four years he was superintendent of the United States Military academy at West Point.

## THE LATE MRS. ASTOR.

**Cut Off In the Flower of Her Youth, She Died In a Strange Land.**

Had Mrs. William Waldorf Astor lived and died in New York, her natural and proper home, her death would have been reckoned little short of a general calamity.

As her husband saw fit to expatriate himself and cultivate an indifference, if not a positive hostility, to everything American, except the huge income he derives from his native soil, Mrs. Astor's death will cause a slight sensation in England and a faraway feeling of regret in New York.

Mamie Paul was scarcely fitted to be the wife of the cold, proud, sensitive man who was head of the greatest family and fortune in American.

She was an extremely simple and unaffected girl, who cared as little as possible for pomp and ceremony and still less for gewgaws and jewels.

She would have made an admirable wife for a business man of moderate means and would have adorned a cottage with more grace and interest than she displayed in presiding over the splendors of Cliveden.

She was forced by her husband into a foolish quarrel with the other branch of the Astor family, and after that was just as willing to live abroad as among her own kinsfolk.

Her married life could not have been a disappointment, though, for she had four charming children and was a most loving and devoted mother.

Cut off in the flower of her youth and beauty and dying in a strange land, her short career may serve as a lesson on the mutability of fate to those young women who cried their eyes out with envy and disappointment when her engagement to Willie Astor was announced.

The Astor family certainly deserves all the commiseration it should receive, for it has been getting some pretty hard and undeserved knocks of late.—Cholly Knickerbocker in New York Recorder.

## WOMEN IN BRITISH POLITICS.

**They Are Conducting a Three Cornered Campaign For the Premiership.**

The influence of women in the high places of British politics has not been conspicuous in this generation. This fact adds interest to the particularly warm feminine campaign which has been waged ever since Tory minds became convinced of the probability of an early return of the Conservative party to power. The prize which the fair disputants are struggling for is no less than the premiership of England. Three of the most brilliant women in Great Britain are the leaders of rival hosts which within the higher circles of Tory society are keenly pressing the claims of their respective champions.

These ladies are the Duchess of Devonshire, the Marchioness of Salisbury Miss Balfour. It is not an exaggeration to say that the ambition for the party's leadership of the three men whose names these ladies bear has been allowed to rest in their hands as far as seeking support within the party is concerned. It is no vulgar political canvass, but rivalry none the less genuine and important. Those who know the three women credit the Duchess of Devonshire with greater skill and cleverness in political affairs than her husband or indeed most of the other party leaders, but most people agree that her present task is beyond her powers.

The situation most favors Miss Balfour. The ardor with which she is championing her brother's cause is exciting a good deal of admiration, albeit she succeeded somewhat in offending her aunt, the Marchioness of Salisbury, by the warmth of her advocacy. It must be admitted that Mr. Balfour's following within the party is now considerably stronger than Lord Salisbury's.—London Letter.

**Perfect House Unearthed Near Pompeii.**

A valuable discovery has been made at Pianella-Setteimini, near Pompeii, on the property of a certain Vincent de Prosco. A house has been unearthed which was covered at the time the city was buried, and it is said to be in a more perfect condition than any building yet discovered. It contains several large apartments and three bathrooms, with the basins in sculptured marble, and with leaden pipes ornamented with bronze faucets. The three rooms correspond, says a writer in describing the discovery, to the "calidarium, tepidarium and frigidarium which were always to be found in ancient houses of the first class. In consequence of the eruption of Vesuvius in A. D. 79 the Pompeiian houses brought to light heretofore have been roofless almost without exception. Fortunately, however, that on the property of M. de Prosco is perfect, and archæologists are happy over the fact. The roof measures almost 44 feet in length."—Rome Letter.

**Number of Postage Stamps Used.**

Two hundred million 2 cent postage stamps that are reported as worthless by postmasters throughout the country have been called in by the postmaster general and will be destroyed. Although 200,000,000 seems to be an enormous number, it is really trifling compared with the number of stamps used by the American people each year and would last less than 20 days. It requires about 12,000,000 stamps a day to conduct the correspondence of our population, or a total of 4,380,000,000 for the year. There is not as much letter writing these times as there was when the country was more prosperous, but a decided increase has been noticeable during the last two months. The weight of the mails is an accurate barometer of business affairs.—Indianapolis Sentinel.

**Got Their Itemised Statement.**

A bill nine feet long was presented to the Montgomery (Pa.) county commissioners at their last meeting. The amount was $2,288.86 for repairs to a county bridge in Skippack. A previous bill had been rendered "in the lump," and a request was made for an itemised statement, with the result noted.

## JOHN BURNS AND AMERICA.

**While the Englishman Says Some Savage Things His Criticisms Are Mainly Just.**

Mr. John Burns, the labor man, after his visit to Chicago, called that big monstrosity a pocket edition of hell. He has said many other savage things about this country. The Chicago remark seems to be rather severe on a locality that Burns has never seen, but his other uncomplimentary remarks are mainly true. He says there is nothing in London as villainous as our tenement houses. That is quite accurate. The thing for us to do is to change the tenement house system, not to advise Burns to go home and go to work. He says our officials are in many cases dishonest rascals and also bloodsuckers. Nobody doubts that now, not even the men who have made money by fighting for rottenness in this town.

He criticises Mr. Cornelius Vanderbilt's big house on Fifth avenue. His criticism is as just as anything outside of the Ten Commandments. The house looks like a big hotel, and a badly designed hotel at that. It also looks a little like a pretentious almshouse. It is not as bad as the Huntington house on the other side of the street, for this reason—nothing could be as bad as the Huntington house. He says in excellent epigrammatic fashion: "Schools splendid, libraries excellent, jails too good, roads bad, streets worse, drainage the same, art museums good for the age of the country, corporations exacting, tyrannical and extravagant, railway traveling palacial for the rich and better than any I have ever seen for the poor."

What is there false about that? We ought to be glad to have Burns come here and tell us the truth, and we ought to try to keep him. He is more pleasing than the fool Englishman of society who comes here, eats the terrapin of the fool American of society and then goes back to blackguard his fool American brother in a book.—Arthur Brisbane in New York World.

## GLADSTONE'S LITTLE JOKE.

**The Reproduction of an Old Magazine Article Sets the Critics Agog.**

Mr. Gladstone has played unconsciously a capital little joke upon his critics, literary and political, and is said to be enjoying it as much as anybody. Fifteen years ago he wrote for a now defunct magazine an article entitled "The Evangelical Movement; Its Parentage, Progress and Issue." This was recently unearthed by the editor of the present Evangelical Magazine, who, with the author's permission, republished it in the December number. The critics, with one accord, treated the article as new and praised or sneered according to their political beliefs, which is quite a common way of writing literary criticisms here. The Liberals, of course, found in the article proof that Mr. Gladstone's intellect had improved, like good wine, with age, and the Tories, with equal certainty, detected signs of mental decay. The Radicals, too, drew comfort from it as showing that the Grand Old Man in his retirement was more eager than ever to sever the connection between church and state, while the Whig churchmen discovered in this remarkable article abundant arguments in favor of the maintenance of the union between the state and church.

As a matter of fact, the Grand Old Man now writes little, although he is bombarded with applications from editors in all parts of the world. He is likely to write still less for the outside world if it be true, as rumored, that he has commenced dictating his memoirs to his wife. The greater part of every day is still devoted to reading theological works from his already famous library, and collectors will learn with interest that he makes copious marginal notes upon every book which passes through his hands.—Exchange.

**Slates Banished From Boston Schools.**

The reasons assigned by the school committee for the discontinuance of slates, slate pencils and sponges in the public schools and the substitution of paper, lead pencils and rubber erasers in their places are as follows:

First.—A light gray mark upon a slightly darker gray surface is more or less indistinct and trying to the eyesight.

Second.—The resistance of the hard pencil upon the hard slate is trying to the muscles, and the resistance to which the muscles are thus trained must be overcome when beginning to write with pencil or pen upon paper.

Third.—The use of slates, slate pencils and sponges is a very uncleanly custom and leads to and establishes very uncleanly habits.—Boston Herald.

**A Brilliant Scheme.**

A brilliant scheme was adopted the other day by a theatrical company which found itself stranded at Dayton, O., and its next engagement at Cleveland. A plan was made for the arrest of one of the members of the company on the charge of opening a letter belonging to another member. The accused was taken before the United States commissioner at Cleveland, where the other members of the company were subpœnaed as witnesses. They of course secured his acquittal and also their fees, amounting to $6.25 apiece. It was the most profitable engagement they have played this season, but the commissioner is willing to bet that they can't play it on him again.—Troy Times.

**To Abolish Toasts.**

A report for which some people in all civilized countries have been longing for years has at last come from—of all places in the world—Hungary. It is an agitation against after dinner speechmaking. The Pesther Lloyd publishes in facsimile an invitation to dinner which bears a note to the effect that guests are desired to use their influence toward abolishing all toasts. It appears, however, that such is the force of habit that one of the company got up in the middle of the repast to propose a toast, "To the genial idea of our Amphytrion."

**A Mine.**

The poor young man was trying to win the rich young woman.

"Be mine," he implored.

"What kind of mine?" she responded; "gold mine?"—Detroit Free Press.

A cultivated reader of history is domesticated in all families. He dines with Pericles and sups with Titian.—Willmott.

The annual rainfall in the Atlantic states is 36 inches; in the southern, 55; in the western, 26; in the Pacific, 62.

# OUR AMERICAN SUGAR

## It Should Be Used in Preference to China's Product.

### ENCOURAGE HOME INDUSTRIES

**Every American Should Demand the Native Product and See That He Gets It.**

It is a singular thing that, while the inhabitants of the United States are a most prosperous people and consume more of both the necessities and luxuries of life, generally speaking, they are behind the English in the consumption of sugar.

In 1890-91 the sugar used in the United Kingdom was an amount equal to 781 1-2 pounds per capita, while the figures show an average consumption in the United States of only 591 1-2 pounds per capita.

What the reasons are for this great difference have puzzled many persons, and we must look carefully for them if we are to find the causes.

American workmen receive more pay than the laborers of any other country, and as a rule have the money to obtain for their table everything wanted. It seems fair to assume that the older the country and civilization the more carefully are the questions of household economy and hygiene studied, and if this is true why can we not argue from the premise stated that we have failed to a great degree in discovering the wholesomeness and the economy of using large amounts of sugar?

Looking at this question from the national side we see some reasons why we should be heavy consumers of sweets and again we see that we are obliged to buy most of the sugar we use from other countries, and we owe it to ourselves to carefully consider what we as individuals can do to stimulate the sugar producing and sugar manufacturing and sugar consuming industries of our country.

The United States sent out of the country in 1893 the enormous sum of $116,000,000 for sugar, and this amount if it could only have been retained at home would have done much to make this country prosperous and would have been a great help during the awful panic of the last two years. The policy of the United States has been very clearly determined to be of protection to home industry and home manufactures, and whether we consider the recent tariff laws as wise or unwise the fact remains that they are unpopular and do not fill the bill.

The question of protection is popular and if the voice of the people is the voice of wisdom we may all be pardoned for the maintenance of those opinions which will help to shape the domestic and foreign policies of the United States for the ensuing generation.

If it were necessary that we should buy a staple like sugar abroad in order that we might sell our surplus of other products we might perhaps as well buy sugar as anything else, but this is not the case. We can sell our products at the world's price, and that is what we do always when we export; if we can take back coin instead of other products that under the right conditions we can raise at home we are so much the better off and the imports of money will assist us in maintaining our currency without having to pay such prices for our credit as we have recently paid.

Again we come to the question of practical importance: How can you as a citizen do anything to promote the objects the country desires to obtain?

In the first place, what kind of sugar do you consume yourself?

Charity and wisdom begin, or should begin, at home.

If you buy sugar, do you ever inquire as to whether you are getting that of domestic production or manufacture? If you do not you have neglected your duty as an American citizen and you should remove the beam of carelessness from your own eye before you censure your representatives and senators for overlooking some things that might promote the welfare of your country.

It is true that we not only import immense quantities of raw sugar but on the Pacific coast a pernicious trade has recently sprung up in the manufactured sugar of China, many retail grocers handling it surreptitiously.

Think of it, in a section of the United States as sparsely capitalized as the West coast, actually sending its money to a notoriously cheap labor country for an article of household consumption which is refined and produced at home.

Of what use are such legislative enactments as the Chinese exclusion act if our people, the very ones who were most clamorous for the prevention of the competition of cheap labor, are going to suffer their hard earned coin to be sent to China for sugar refined there?

The idea that the price of sugar is kept at its present low figures on the Pacific coast by the importation of Hong Kong sugar is an erroneous one, for whenever the American refineries advance the Chinese importers have invariably followed. If American granulated sugar was selling at say nine cents today the price of foreign would be about the same. The truth is that supply and demand makes the world's market on sugar as it does on wheat and other great staples, and when the New York and London markets advance or decline the price of all sugars, either American or Chinese, is immediately affected.

Ask your dealer for American made sugar and do not be afraid to ask him if he handles the China goods, and if he does read him a lecture on his politics and morals, and you will have fulfilled part of your duty as a citizen. Many leading stores now display signs, "We Handle the American Refined Sugars Only."

From a hygienic standpoint it should be remembered cholera is now raging in the Orient. San Francisco's board of health has determined to take every precaution to prevent the disease from obtaining a foot-hold in this city, and to that end Chinatown will be subjected to a rigid examination. The physicians composing the board consider that if by any chance cholera should gain a foothold in this city it would make its appearance in the Chinese quarter, where the crowded condition of the narrow streets and the illy-ventilated houses have provided a material breeding place for the plague.

All the sugar that comes to the Northwest is from Hong Kong, an infected port, and is handled by coolies there probably close to cholera patients. A well-known manufacturer and agent in the Orient says:

"Every package of merchandise, sugar, silk, etc., should be thoroughly fumigated and the cholera germs, if any, thus eradicated. Think of Americas using sugars and silks handled and worked upon by natives who receive 12 cents a day for their labor and live in squalor and dirt with pestilence and disease raging near by."

The sugar business of this country is largely in the hands of a great combination, but the reason for this is that the policy of our legislators has been so parsimonious that instead of building up the small factories for the manufacture of beet sugar, the bounty has been withdrawn and our people have been discouraged in working up the industry.

Time will come when in every state there will be refineries and no section of the world can produce better beets than Oregon and Washington. If, therefore, you wish to live to see the dawn of that day when the millions spent for sugar will be kept at home begin as you are now advised to do and buy American sugar and encourage those who are waiting for the proper opening to appear when they can engage in the production and manufacture of domestic sugar.

**A Sparrow Chorister.**

The Free Parish church congregation had rather an amusing experience one Sunday. A little sparrow, evidently tired of the warring of the elements outside the kirk, thought it would pay a visit inside and did so, not by the orthodox manner, coming through the door and leaving a donation in the plate, but through the window, thereby dodging the elders' eagle eyes. Just as it arrived and had started a cheery chirruping the choir rose up and burst into the well known hymn, "Return, O Wanderer, to Thy Home." The visitor, however, did not take the hint, but remained to the end of the service and assisted the choir at intervals.—Rothesay (Scotland) Chronicle.

**A SYNDICATE OF MONSTERS.**

Here are the names of the abominable trio that compose it, hated and abhorred by man and womankind—dyspepsia, biliousness and constipation. What is the most successful way to attack and squelch these united monsters? Take Hostetter's Stomach Bitters, and they will pull up stakes and make tracks for parts unknown, leaving no trace behind. The Bitters also exterminates malaria, rheumatic and kidney trouble and nervous ailments.

"I wish I had a place in your heart," said the summer young man. "Yes?" said the summer girl. "Yes, indeed. It is so delightfully cold."

WOMEN'S FACES—like flowers, fade and wither with time; the bloom of the rose is only known to the healthy woman's cheeks. The nervous strain caused by the ailments and pains peculiar to the sex, and the labor and worry of rearing a family, can often be traced by the lines in the woman's face. Dull eyes, the sallow or wrinkled face and those "feelings of weakness" have their rise in the derangements and irregularities peculiar to women. The functional derangements, painful disorders, and chronic weaknesses of women, can be cured with Dr. Pierce's Favorite Prescription. For the young girl just entering womanhood, for the mother and those about to become mothers, and later in "the change of life," the "Prescription" is just what they need; it aids nature in preparing the system for these events. It's a medicine prescribed for thirty years, by Dr. R. V. Pierce, chief consulting physician to the Invalids' Hotel and Surgical Institute, at Buffalo, N. Y.

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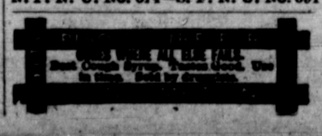



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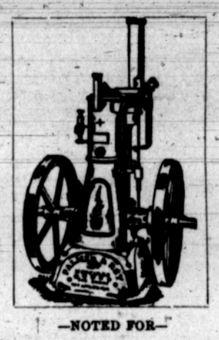

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