

Bonbons. The consumption of sugar in Europe increases annually in much greater proportion than its population. In France it now amounts to fifteen pounds a year for each person, chiefly on account of the love of the Frenchman for sweets. The *Moment* says that, taking one year with another, not less than three million francs worth of sweets are annually sent to France. As the exports are under thirty millions, this leaves twenty-seven millions, or more than \$5,500,000 as the annual value of home-made sweets consumed by the French people. This may be added \$500,000 or \$1,000,000 worth of "cheap sweets," manufactured by steam and imported from England into France.

Change of Population. The census of the State of New York for 1865 discloses some curious facts upon this subject. The method of taking this census was different from all others in this respect, that it was taken by families. The census reported in 1855 a total of 786,331 families—196,802 families living in the habit of beginning their preparation for the year's consumption on the 31st of December—when almost as many bonbons are eaten in Paris as during the whole of the remaining 364 days—as early as the month of August. Now, however, when the process is far more simple and complex, and the demand is more than doubled, they commence preparing only some few weeks in advance. One grand reason for this is because bonbons belong to the category of perishable commodities. If one were only to forget to eat them for a few days, they would lose their flavor and their beauty. To preserve them they have to be shut up in airtight cases with a layer of chloride of calcium, which absorbs all moisture, at one end, and by this means they remain fresh for several weeks.

It is usually about the commencement of December that the great factor of bonbons in the Rue de la Paix, the successor of the famous Sirois—who abandoned confectionery to devote himself to the study of the sciences—Alphonse Karr forsook literature to become a "marched de bougoules"—fairly sets to work. His establishment, which ordinarily employs some 180 persons, then requires the services of more than double that number, the majority of whom are engaged in making bonbons by the million until the turn of the year. Most bonbons are made by hand; only those which are flat at the bottom are cast in moulds. In the hand-made bonbons the sugar-paste is formed by a stout piece of wire, one end of which is twisted and the other fixed into a wooden handle. With this the paste is taken out of the cauldron and worked into the desired form by rapid rotation, and the particular form, such as the one in imitation of various fruits, etc., models are carved in wood. A certain number of these, say from fifty to a hundred, are fixed on a narrow strip of wood, and connected by a cord, which, when drawn, stretches a series of large shallow drawers. As soon as these moulds become dry they are filled with liquid sugar already colored and flavored, after which the drawers are put on and turned twenty hours, when the bonbons are ready for use. Bonbons are composed of a mixture of some given liquor and liquid sugar, which is poured into moulds and then placed in a slow oven for the day. Long before they are removed, a hard crust has formed on the outside, while the inside remains in its original liquid state. Bonbons are crystallized by being plunged into a syrup heated to thirty-six degrees Reaumur. By the time they are dry the crystallization is complete and as a perfume is blown into the mixture, allowing the bonbons to be kept for a certain period, though their flavor deteriorates after a short time.

If the bonbons themselves are in some degree work of art, the bags, boxes, and boxes made to contain them are still more so. Many of these are reproductions of antique chefs d'œuvre, notably the beautiful basket of Anne of Austria preserved in the Museum of French Sovereigns; others of modern invention are replicas of the structure of the product, the Watteau, formed of fancy straw, satin, pearls, and flowers, the bottom of which was covered with a rich lace pocket-handkerchief, as though it were simply some graceful addition to the more or less simple lining, but this imitation chief costs a thousand francs or so, and thus we are enabled, when sending a lady seemingly only a few scraps of delicious bonbons, to make her a handsome present in the most delicate manner. Some of the most beautiful and rare sweets concealed under large bouquets of violets fringed with lace, or interspersed among roses repose on a bed of white satin embroidered with gold. The satin bags of brilliant colors are usually packed with glass or pearl beads, and fringed at their openings with the lining of tulle, to preserve the bonbons as far as practicable from humidity. This Mr. Reinhard, the inventor of the *bonbonniere* in satin bags thrust into slippers of gold and silver filagree of natural size.

Destroying Napoleonic Romances. M. Lanfray's "History of Napoleon" has reached its third volume. The Paris correspondent of the London Times says:—

If there ever was an author who applied himself to his work as sincerely in exposing the official fabrications, the fables and legends, the insinuations, involuntary or premeditated, of the enthusiastic admirers or the blind flatterers of the Imperial epoch, who set himself more earnestly to destroy the legends with which the crowd have invested the great warrior—who is at once the severe historian of Napoleon and the severe critic of his historians, beginning and ending with the most celebrated of all, M. de Lamartine, and ending with the most recent, far as it has yet gone, the refutation of some of the more brilliant portions of that of his predecessor; and, unlike M. Tiers, he is never so dazzled by the genius of his hero as to be blind to his misdeeds, or out of admiration for their results to praise the means which he employed to attain it. Whether M. Lanfray is destined to supersede all other histories I cannot say, but that he loves liberty and hates despotism, and, above all, military despotism, there is no doubt.

Foreign Miscellany. —The veteran *Gazette de France*, about to attain its 238th year, opens a subscription for a monument to Berryer. —Mr. William Carleton, the Irish novelist, is in a very precarious state of health. His recovery is not expected. —At the recent banquet given by the Duke of Norfolk on his coming of age, a ton and a half of family plate appeared on the table. —The celebrated Spanish torero, Cuchares, has lately died in Havana, leaving a fortune of about \$300,000, which he literally gained by his sword. —In 1868 the vineyards of France covered 2,500,000 acres of ground, yielding an annual crop of \$300,000,000. Only 300,000 acres were employed to attain it. Whether M. Lanfray is destined to supersede all other histories I cannot say, but that he loves liberty and hates despotism, and, above all, military despotism, there is no doubt.

Shipping. LORILLARD'S STEAMSHIP LINE FOR NEW YORK. Sailing Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays at noon. The winter rates at which freight is not taken is 20 cents per 100 pounds, gross, cents per foot, or 2 cents per gallon, ship's option. The Line is now prepared to contract for spring rates lower than by any other route, commencing on March 15, 1869. Advances charges made at office on freight. Freight received at all times on covered wharf.

FOR LIVERPOOL AND QUEENS TOWN. The Liverpool and Queenstown Mail Steamship Line are appointed to sail as follows: CITY OF LONDON, Saturday, January 30, at 1 P. M. for Liverpool, and on Saturday, February 6, CITY OF OAK, Tuesday, February 9, at 1 P. M. for Liverpool. CITY OF PARIS, on JERSEY LINE, Saturday, Feb. 13, at 1 P. M. for Liverpool, and on Saturday, Feb. 20, at 1 P. M. for Liverpool. The Liverpool and Queenstown Mail Steamship Line are appointed to sail as follows: CITY OF LONDON, Saturday, January 30, at 1 P. M. for Liverpool, and on Saturday, February 6, CITY OF OAK, Tuesday, February 9, at 1 P. M. for Liverpool. CITY OF PARIS, on JERSEY LINE, Saturday, Feb. 13, at 1 P. M. for Liverpool, and on Saturday, Feb. 20, at 1 P. M. for Liverpool.

ONLY DIRECT LINE TO FRANCE. THE GENERAL TRANSPORTATION COMPANY'S MAIL STEAMSHIP SERVICE BETWEEN NEW YORK AND LONDON. The splendid new steamer of the Liverpool route for the Continent will sail from New York for Liverpool on Saturday, Feb. 13, at 1 P. M. For Liverpool, on Saturday, Feb. 20, at 1 P. M. For London, on Saturday, Feb. 27, at 1 P. M. For Paris, on Saturday, March 6, at 1 P. M. For Calcutta, on Saturday, March 13, at 1 P. M. For Bombay, on Saturday, March 20, at 1 P. M. For Madras, on Saturday, March 27, at 1 P. M. For Singapore, on Saturday, April 3, at 1 P. M. For Java, on Saturday, April 10, at 1 P. M. For Batavia, on Saturday, April 17, at 1 P. M. For Sumatra, on Saturday, April 24, at 1 P. M. For Australia, on Saturday, May 1, at 1 P. M. For New Zealand, on Saturday, May 8, at 1 P. M. For the Cape of Good Hope, on Saturday, May 15, at 1 P. M. For the East Indies, on Saturday, May 22, at 1 P. M. For the Straits Settlements, on Saturday, May 29, at 1 P. M. 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