

Some houses, which a few years ago were doing a large business, now require an effort to keep their various establishments going. One firm has been so severely affected that it has had to dispense with about a dozen hands, a few of them having been in their employment for many years. In other textile industries the competition is now excessively keen, and owing to the higher wages in this country, the home manufacturers are distinctly handicapped. There are a number of disputes as to wages going on just now in various linen districts of Scotland. Strikes have occurred at Alyth and Blairgowrie. Business in the Ayrshire lace trade is still very depressed. The tariff difficulty has rather spoiled the American trade, while the cold, dull weather has seriously affected the home demand. Prices are very low, and hardly remunerative. Tweed manufacturers in the south of Scotland are complaining bitterly of the want of orders. It is no easy matter to keep the looms at work, as repeat orders are scarce. The prospects for next season are, however, considered encouraging, the first samples being well taken up. Spinners are now very quiet.

BELFAST.—The action of the banks will, of course, have supreme influence in promoting or in preventing the precipitation of a crisis upon the linen trade, in which it is now evident that numerous firms must together either stand or fall. The withdrawal of support, or any panic-stricken decision to at once impose undue limitation upon credit, may in the present critical juncture inflict upon the community consequences so serious that it will take many years of improved trade and a generous policy to foster and restore to a condition of prosperity. The depression which for the last year or two has so generally prevailed has not been without its effect upon the Irish linen trade. Especially in the case of those who cater for the American market has the pressure been severe. In many instances large stocks are held which at present cannot be realized, and capital has in this way been locked up which within the coming half-year will be again in circulation. Within the past week two other firms have failed, but in each case from reasons outside the influence of the Belfast disasters. Messrs Jonathan Pike and Son, Buckgrove, Dungannon, and Messrs. Stevenson and Boyd, of Moygashel, have, it is understood, sought the protection of the court, pending an arrangement with their creditors. Lately business has been much interfered with, both on home and shipping accounts, and the slight improvement in American inquiry has subsided on account of the prolonged uncertainty of the settlement of the tariffs, regarding which no reliable information seems to be obtainable. Some suggest the possibility of the Bill passing this month, while others hold the opinion it will be shelved till a later period.

LYONS.—The silk goods market is quiet, says the *Dry Goods Economist*. The spring season has closed without leaving much to remember it by in the shape of fall orders placed in advance, the still existing uncertainty as regards future fashion being too great to encourage buyers in placing large orders for goods, while, on the other hand, the course of the raw silk market and the declining level of prices also act unfavorably on the advance order business. Although, however, the general market is slow and shows much room for improvement, there has been some business done for fall, and the presence of buyers from the United States has been felt. In some lines the looms are better employed now than towards the close of the spring season, when the spring goods that were being delivered found no substitutes on the looms. Handkerchiefs have done fairly, but more on orders for special lines. Tie silks are rather quiet. Business in ribbons is gradually declining. Something is being done in moiré ribbons on reassortment. Plain satin and failles change hands in small lots. Check effects in ribbons also find buyers. In plain velvets the demand is small and fall orders are late in coming, so that as the opinion exists that velvets will do well later, many of the manufacturers have to work for stock in order to meet the demand that is expected to develop.

CREFELD.—Both England and the United States, who are the largest purchasers of Crefeld goods, seem to have been holding back. These orders may come yet but the time is fast approaching when they could no longer be placed, as deliveries could not be

made in time. In no branch of the Crefeld industry do conditions of full employment prevail. Tie and umbrella silks have reached their dull season and the looms are engaged in filling old orders, not much activity prevailing either in plain or fancy articles. In ribbons, manufacturing activity is only fair. In dress silks and trimmings hardly one third of the looms that should now be in full work are running. What the industry is most suffering from is the absence of business for export, the smallness of which in the first half of 1893 has been almost unprecedented. To the smallness of the business done for export in goods for the spring is to be added the smallness of the orders that have been placed for fall.

ZURICH.—The market is quiet, but not absolutely dead, and while for ready delivery business has decreased, something is being done for fall. Buyers from America and England have visited this market, while some business has also been done for Germany. Stocks of colored surahs and merveilleux are being reduced, and some lots of cheap grades of these have been disposed of, but at low figures. The demand for check effects in taffetas and surahs has declined, but some novelties in stripe effects have done well. Moiré finds some buyers, but the demand is limited to colored moiré Française, which is expected to have a good run in the fall. The fancy effects in moiré, on the other hand, are quietly disappearing. Moiré Pékins have been ordered for fall. A good demand is reported for Chiné effects in taffeta and small effects on taffeta grounds.

CALCUTTA.—In ordinary jute there appears to be no demand, nor is there anything offering. For mixing there is still a local inquiry for good native marks, but there is barely anything offering beyond what is known as "better than ordinary," and for which sellers ask a good deal better than ordinary rates. A sale is reported of upwards of 1000 bales of this class at Rs. 13 12, but other stuff is offering at Rs. 13 0 to 12 8. In bagging a further small lot of Davids was sold at Rs. 19 12, and buyers might go on to a small extent for butts of this mark, but we have evidently seen the last of them for this season. In jute fabrics the market has kept very steady during the last week reported. Export business has not shown much life, and whatever transactions are reported are mostly supposed to be covering old sales. The rise in exchange has stopped any inquiry for the present. Country trade, as well as Burmah and the Straits, are still showing no signs of coming out as operators, although a fair line of B twills is reported for August-December delivery on account of speculators. For the Colonies more sacks are reported to have been done. Hessians are steady, and a considerable business has been done in cloth, as well as in wheats and cotton packs. We close rather quieter all round.

#### THE DYEING OF JUTE.

Jute is, perhaps, the easiest of all the vegetable fibres to dye, says the *Manufacturers' Gazette*. The chemical composition of the fibre is such that many coloring matters, especially the so-called substantive and basic colors, have a direct affinity for it, and all that is necessary is that the jute be immersed in a plain, or at most a saline, solution of these dyes to thoroughly dye the fibre. The shades and tints are, however, not so brilliant in appearance as those which may be obtained from the same coloring matters on cotton, but good, full, solid-looking shades are readily obtained. Unlike cotton, jute may be also dyed with many of the azo colors by simply adding a little acid to the dye bath, or in some cases a little alum. In the latter case, the addition is made with the object of producing an alumina color lake with the dyestuff, and this becomes firmly fixed on the fibre. Some of the mordant dyes can also be applied.

It will possibly be more convenient to jute dyers if the subject be dealt with according to the colors, reds, yellows, blues, blacks, greens, etc., and not according to the properties of the dyestuffs which may be used. Care will be taken to point out the principles which underlie the applications of each class or kind of dyestuff, and the best methods of dyeing described in all cases. The treatment of the subject is rendered much easier to the author by the fact that he is able to illustrate these articles with a more extensive series of dyed patterns.