

DRYING WOOD.—Every one who uses a wood stove, has discovered that there is a great difference between the value of wood that is well or poorly dried. The following may be given as a scale of the different modes of drying, the best being named first :

1. Kiln-dried.
2. Seasoned several years in a dry ventilated building.
3. Sheltered a year under a good roof.
4. Corded up in open ground.
5. Corded up in the woods and shaded.
6. Partly seasoned, soured by fermentation or water soaked.

Most kinds of wood cut in winter, and left in large logs in the woods, become more or less soured and injured. If wood could be cut and split in summer, when the weather would dry it rapidly, the wood would be greatly increased in value ; but as this is usually impracticable, the next best is to cut and split it in winter as fine as will be required, and then cord it up in a wood-house, well sheltered from rains, but admitting the free circulation of the air.

RULES FOR BUSINESS.

HOW TO SUCCEED IN BUSINESS.—Ricardo's rules were :

1. Cut short your losses.
2. Let your profits run on.

In order to this, one must have *experience*—and to avoid a too costly experience, begin small. Feel your way. Bonaparte had a quick and powerful mind ; we may learn from him, observing to do good with our knowledge, instead of evil as he did. When in Egypt, he and many of his officers were riding out in a dark evening on the sea beach, where it was very wide. Suddenly the tide came in rapidly, and the water grew every moment deeper where their horses stood ; they could not see which way was dry land, they became alarmed and bewildered, and destruction threatened them. Bonaparte seemed never to fail for an expedient. He ordered all to form a circle, with horses' heads outwards. They did so. He now ordered all to ride ahead ; if any found the water growing deeper, they were to turn about ; if any found it growing shallower, they were to ride on, and all the rest to follow. This brought them to dry land. It is so with business. Proceed cautiously in different directions ; if failure result, wheel about ; if success attends, go ahead. This is the way to carry out Ricardo's rules, " Cut short your losses—let your profit run on."

ANOTHER REQUISITE FOR SUCCESS.—*Principle*—stern, unflinching principle, is the best foundation for successful business. Those who have it not, can hardly carry out on all occasions the great law for comfortable, safe and prosperous progress through the world, namely, "Honesty is the best policy." A careful estimate has been made that on an average every dollar which a man makes by cheating, he loses at least twenty, and some say at least a hundred dollars, by the bad name which he sooner or later surely builds up for himself. If detected in fraud, his course is at once arrested ; if not detected, he goes on till some gross commission either sends him to prison, or imparts such an odor to his character that every man of integrity shuns him. We have known men of very moderate talents appointed to important and lucrative trusts, on account of their known faithfulness and honesty, when much "smarter" men of doubtful character, could get no employment.