

the iron liquor, i. e., acetate of iron. For black this acetate is used diluted, to stand 5° of Twaddel's hydrometer, then dry the cloth, wash and plunge in a logwood bath. For slate color, divi divi, or shellac, after the iron liquor.

DYEING AND PRINTING.

The dyeing or printing of linens is, to use the words of Dr. Ure. "A Chemical Art." A very important part of the process is the correct application of the mordants, or, as he explains, "the substances which are used, previously applied to piece goods, in order that they may afterwards take a required tinge or dye." Of course, if the mordants be applied over the whole cloth, and it afterwards is plunged into the dye, an even color will result; while, if the mordant is only applied to portions of the cloth, an uneven color or pattern will come out.

The latter operation is called "printing;" the former simply "dyeing." The printing of cotton cloth or calico has been so well described by Dr. Ure and other eminent chemists, that it is needless to enter into any general account of this chemical art.

There is one advantage the linen fabric has over cotton that it is worth while to mention, for the information of the gentler sex, some of whom have met with such frightful accidents from their muslin dresses taking fire. The flax fabric is safe, comparatively, being very slow to ignite.

Yet, it is singular to find that nearly all the linens printed in Ireland are for the foreign trade, scarcely a piece for home consumption. On the European continent, in the United States, in Mexico and the West Indies, these goods are greatly in favor.

DIFFERENT METHODS OF PREPARING FLAX FOR MARKET.

In Belgium, as already stated, there are two methods of preparing flax for market. The one is practised in the West Flanders and in the French Flanders, and is called the Courtrai system, or white steeping and bleaching. This system might be well adapted to this country, as it can be carried on on a large scale much better than the Blue system. But it requires more capital on the part of the manufacturer, as the flax is not ready for market before it is two years old; it can only be practised, however, where there is the convenience of good running water.

The Blue system is practised in different parts of Belgium, there being no difficulty under this method of finding steeping-places. The flax is manufactured and brought to market the same year that it is grown.

The following statement shows the average value, in sterling, of flax in Belgium, in its green state, and also when manufactured for market:

VALUE OF AN ACRE OF FLAX IN THE BLUE DISTRICTS, IN ITS GREEN STATE, WHEN READY TO PULL.

	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.
One English acre, fair quality	12	0	0			
Seed	2	0	0			
				14	0	0

EXPENSES OF GROWING AN ACRE OF FLAX IN THE BLUE DISTRICTS.

	£	s.	d.
Rent and taxes of one acre	1	15	0
Ploughing and sowing	1	0	0
Seed	1	5	0
Manure	1	10	0
Weeding	0	10	0
			6 0 0

Leaving profit to the grower..... £3 0 0