

## A SCOTCH PAPER INDUSTRY.

AN INTERESTING DESCRIPTION OF THE WORKS OF ALEXANDER PRIE &amp; SONS.

IN a neat book illustrating the city of Aberdeen, Scotland, appears the following article showing in detail the extent of the famous works of Alexander Prie & Sons, paper manufacturers, who have mills at Stoneywood, Woodside, and Aberdeen. This book says :

"It is curious to note how Scottish inventive genius seems to attach itself to those industries in which success appears the most difficult, and to take a pride in proving itself equal to the accomplishment of that in which so many others have failed. In this we have the key note of the Scottish character, and some explanation of the success which Scotsmen achieve in every quarter of the globe. We have this quality admirably exemplified in the career of the world-renowned house of Messrs. Alexander Prie & Sons, of Aberdeen, who have achieved the most signal success in an industry in which it is notoriously difficult of achievement, and this at a time when the paper-making trade was in its infancy in this country. We find the

tory and warehouse in Aberdeen itself. The firm have also London office and warehouses, previously referred to, as well as warehouses and agencies in the chief cities throughout the world. Altogether the firm employ upwards of 3,000 hands. In spite of a disastrous flood, which in 1829 carried away the first paper-making machine erected by the late Mr. Alexander Prie, the works have continued to grow at Stoneywood, and are still extending, although at present they comprise twenty large buildings, covering an area of 35 acres, most of which are built of granite. At Woodside, some 400 women are employed. At the present time from 12,000 to 14,000 tons of raw material are consumed per annum. A striking contrast this to the 600 or 700 tons of forty years ago ! The Stoneywood Works are situated, as we have said, on the banks of the Don, but we are happy to say that, owing to the excellent precautions adopted by the firm, they do not pollute the pristine purity of that beautiful river. The works are surmounted by three fine chimney



STONEYWOOD WORKS. (Average of 35 imperial acres.)

earliest mill for the manufacture of paper to have been established in Scotland in 1605, and it was only fifty years later that the famous Aberdeen house commenced operations. The career of the firm might therefore be taken as illustrative of the history of paper making in Scotland—now among the most important of the industries of the northern kingdom. During the long period of a century and a half the firm has met and surmounted all the difficulties met with from the transition, in the beginning of the present century, to machine made papers down to the restrictions imposed by our own Government on the use of paper, which were abolished 35 years ago (1859). From a beginning in a small mill with five vats, the firm of Alexander Prie & Sons has grown until it comprises three large manufacturing establishments, in addition to two in London, at Farringdon Street and Goswell Road. The first and largest of these, situated on the River Don, on the site of the original mill, are the Stoneywood Works, at Auchmill, some five or six miles north of Aberdeen; the second are the mills, also on the Don, at Woodside, a village between Auchmill and the "Granite City," now incorporated in the latter, and the third is their fac-

stacks, measuring 208, 203, and 140 feet, respectively, in height, and by two of smaller size. Power is derived from twenty large boilers, measuring 30 feet by 7.6 feet, and supplying more than 30 steam engines of a great variety of sizes, which are scattered throughout the various buildings. The furnaces consume about 400 tons of coal weekly. Besides the power thus generated, three turbine water-wheels of 1,200 horse-power, besides other water wheels supplied by the Don, have been added during late years. We may here remark that the works are entirely self-contained. They have their own gas works, which, in winter, produce 30,000 cubic feet of gas every 24 hours. Near the river are also two large filter beds, one of which is kept constantly filled from the river by means of a large centrifugal pump, delivering about 360,000 gallons per hour; in addition, there is an enormous reservoir for storage of water covering some five acres, and having a capacity of 25,000,000 gallons. This water is filtered before being used for washing or pulping. Then there are engineers' and carpenters' shops, equipped with the most improved machinery for wood and iron work; also a brass foundry, in which is cast the large amount of brass wor-