

ported from South America is valued at £500,000. The East India company have offered £6000 for its introduction into their territories.

Long after the introduction of cochineal into England, it gave but a dull kind of crimson, till a chemist named Kuster, about the sixteenth century, discovered the use of the solution of tin, and the means of preparing, with it and cochineal, a durable and beautiful scarlet.

LONDON.—Two centuries and a-half ago, Charing-cross, was within bow-shot of the open country, all the way to Hampstead and Highgate. North of the cross there were only a few houses in front of the Mews, where the king's falcons were kept. The Haymarket was a country road, with hedges on each side, running between pastures. St. Martin's-lane was bounded on the west side by the high walls of the Mews, and on the other side, by a house, and by old St. Martin's Church, where the present Church stands. From these buildings it was a quiet country lane, leading to St. Giles', then a pleasant village, situated among fine trees. Holborn was a mere road between open meadow land, with a green hedge on the north side. In the Strand, opposite to St. Martin's-lane, stood the hospital and gardens of St. Mary Rouncival, a religious establishment founded and endowed by William Earl of Pembroke, in the reign of Henry III. In the middle of the road leading to the Abbey, and opposite to Charing-cross, stood a hermitage and chapel dedicated to St. Catherine.—*The Penny Magazine*

EUROPEAN POPULATION.

A German periodical (*Hesperus*) contains some very fanciful speculations on the causes which affect population, from which we have selected the following particulars:—The increase and decrease of marriages in a country are naturally influenced by great events, such as peace and war, public prosperity and public calamities, famine and disease; but here we are told, that political *feelings* exercise an influence: thus, in Prussia, the number of marriages was greatly increased after the expulsion of the French. During the years 1817, 1818, and 1819, when the political prospects of that country were in their zenith, 1 person was married in 98; in the subsequent years the numbers again fell to 1 in 108, 1 in 111, and 1 in 118.

In France from the year 1815 to 1822, the number of marriages was much less than before the revolution, although the population was greater by several millions. After 1817, the number of annual marriages increased by about 8000, and continued stationary at that rate till 1821; but, in 1822, after the evacuation of the country by foreign troops, the number quickly rose by 26,000, and, in the ensuing year, even by 40,000. But it again declined during the obnoxious administration of Villele, and again increased after the overthrow of his ministry. Even in Russia, from 70 to 80,000 couples less than usual were married in 1812.

The proportion of deaths among children under 5 years, is also remarkable, as it seems to keep pace with the degree of education and comfort of the inhabitants. It is smallest in the large towns;