

FURNITURE.

FURNITURE and chair-making is in America what cotton manufacturing is in certain districts in England. The factories are upon an immense scale, equalling in size the Oxford Road Twist Mills, Manchester, or, in fact, any of the mills of Manchester or Preston, or Samuel Higginbotham and Sons' cotton mills at Glasgow (Scotland). Instead of employing girls, however, as in the cotton mills of Britain, all are men, mostly, who are employed in the furniture and chair factories in America, and chiefly Germans. In New York and Cincinnati alone, there are six or eight immense establishments in each, in "full blast," and whether it is turning a bed-post, or leg of a chair, carving out some exquisite scroll-work for some drawing-room piece of furniture, planing the rough lumber into the smooth table-top, or any of the other numerous matters connected with producing furniture, fit for either kitchen, bed-room, parlor or drawing-room—the saw, plane, turning lath, and mortising machine does all; consequently there is not the number of hands employed which one would expect to find in one of these large mills. The great wonder is, where all the furniture goes to. Some of these factories turn out nothing but chairs, and whilst you stand looking at their great proportions, out pops a chair, newly put together on the first floor, with rope attached, and finding its way outside by pulleys, to the top floor of the mill, to be there finished off; then another and another follow in quick succession. We do not think that any people in the world beat the Americans in the rich and handsome furniture they have in their houses. Mahogany is an every-day material in the better class of houses. The very doors in their lobbies and outside doors are characterized by great massiveness of expensive wood, with great expense bestowed upon carving the same, giving their door-way (with outer door open and inner one shut) a most palatial appearance with the handles, bell-pull, and name plate all silver gilt. Wild cherry and black walnut wood are generally used, although we have seen very little use made of the "black birch," (although an American wood,) so much used in Great Britain.

In connection with furniture making, we have noticed at several cities a new style of furniture, made exclusively for schools. The youngest to the oldest scholar sits in a seat—in some cases, by himself, or along with another—with a handsome little desk before him. All are fixed to the floor, so that all are obliged to keep their seats in their proper places, and there is no shaking of desks when writing, etc. We saw a school in operation, so fitted up, and could not help thinking it was a very great improvement on the old-fashioned system of forms and long desks. Places for holding books, pens, ink, etc., are fixed to the desks. Such furniture making is carried on as a separate business in several of the cities in the United States, and amongst others, at Buffalo, State of New York, by Messrs. Chase & Son, who have established an agency for its sale in Glasgow, where samples may be seen in the warehouse of Messrs. Wylie & Lochhead, Buchanan St.