

The introduction of soda ash, and the centralising of business in large concerns, has wonderfully cheapened the cost of bleaching. Not very many years ago, a piece of light yard-wide linen would cost the merchant 3*d.* per yard to bleach, which is now done for 1½*d.*, and in one-third the time.

It cannot be said that the apparently high price of linen, as compared with cotton, is attributable to the bleaching expense. In order to show the difference between the bleaching of cottons and that of linens, the following table of operations is extracted from a memorandum book by a working man :

COTTONS.

	Minutes.	Days.
1. Lime boil for twelve hours..... wash	40	1
2. Sour in muriatic acid for ten hours..... "	40	1
3. Boil in lye for eight hours, 2 degs..... "	20	1
4. Boil in lye for eight hours, 1½ degs. "	30	1
5. Dip for twelve hours in alkaline, 40 to 1 strength. "	30	1
6. Sour for twelve hours in vitriol, 2 degs. "	35	1

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If the above process does not make them white, give another light dip, and sour.

LINENS.

For bleaching one parcel of light linens, say 150 double pieces:

	Minutes.	Days.
1. Steep for twenty-four hours wash	15	2
2. Boil for seven hours in lye and rosin, 2½ degs. ... "	15	1
3. Boil for nine hours in lye, 2½ degs. "	30	1
4. Grass for three days "		3
5. Boil for ten hours in lye, 3 degs..... "	30	1
6. Grass for three days "		3
7. Boil for eight hours in lye, 3 degs. "	30	1
8. Grass for three days "		3
9. Rough sour for ten hours in vitriol, 2 degs..... "	40	1
10. Scald for four hours in weak lye "	30	1
11. Grass for two days "		2
12. Dip for ten hours in alkaline, 40 to 1 strength ... "	30	1
13. Sour for twelve hours in vitriol, 1½ degrees..... "	45	1
14. Scald for four hours in lye and soap..... "	20	1
15. Rub with brown soap "	35	1
16. Grass for two days "		2
17. Dip for ten hours in alkaline, 30 to 1 strength.... "	20	1
18. Sour for twelve hours in vitriol, 1 deg. "	45	1
19. Scald for three hours in soap and lye..... "	30	1
20. Dip for ten hours in alkaline, 45 to 1 strength ... "	20	1
21. Sour for twelve hours in vitriol. 1 deg..... "	45	1
22. Rub with soap "	20	1

Time taken..... 31

The goods should now be white and ready for beetling.

Ireland possesses the best climate in the world for linen bleaching; and it is this local advantage—this gift of nature—that has gradually given to her, and secures to her still, so high a position in this branch of commercial industry.

A large quantity of low-priced linen is exported brown, as received from the looms; another class is slightly tinged yellow by steeping in dilute muriate of tin and catechu, and then finished or glazed by the beetling process already described. The former are technically called "rough browns," and are used for blouses. The latter, styled "hollands," are much used for window blinds. Drab color is produced by using fustic, after what is called