

‘ 5. No machinery being required in the manufacture of this paper for the purpose of tearing up the raw material and reducing it to pulp, the expense, both in point of power and time, is far less than is necessary for the production of rag paper.

‘ Count Lippe having put himself in communication with the Austrian Government, an Imperial manufactory for Indian corn paper (*maishalm papier*, as the inventor calls it) is now in course of construction at Pesth, the capital of the greatest Indian corn growing country in Europe. Another manufactory is already in full operation in Switzerland; and preparations are being made on the coast of the Mediterranean for the production and exportation on a large scale of the pulp of this new material.’ ”

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*The ancient vegetation of North America.*—The following general results are selected from an excellent article in Silliman, by Dr. J. S. Newberry:

1st. The flora of the Devonian and Carboniferous epochs in America, was, in all its general aspects similar to that of the Old World, which has been so fully described; most of the genera, and a larger number of species than at any subsequent period having been common to the two sides of the Atlantic. The relative number of identical species has, however, it seems to me, been somewhat overrated. In many of the species, regarded as the same in Europe and America, the American plants present prevalent or constant characters which may serve to distinguish them. These differences, though frequently remarked by writers, have not been thought to have a specific value; yet it is quite certain that they are as tangible and important as those which now separate many American and European species of recent plants and recent or fossil animals. I have a conviction that the progress of science will considerably diminish the proportion of identical species; a closer scrutiny and more extensive comparison of specimens resulting in the discovery of constant, though inconspicuous characters, which shall be ultimately conceded to be specific.

It is true, also, that in molluscan palæontology, recent geology, and botany the number of species common to the two continents has been considerably reduced of late years; a large number of American representatives of European species, at first considered identical for their striking and obvious coincidences, having, on closer study afforded constant though less conspicuous differences.