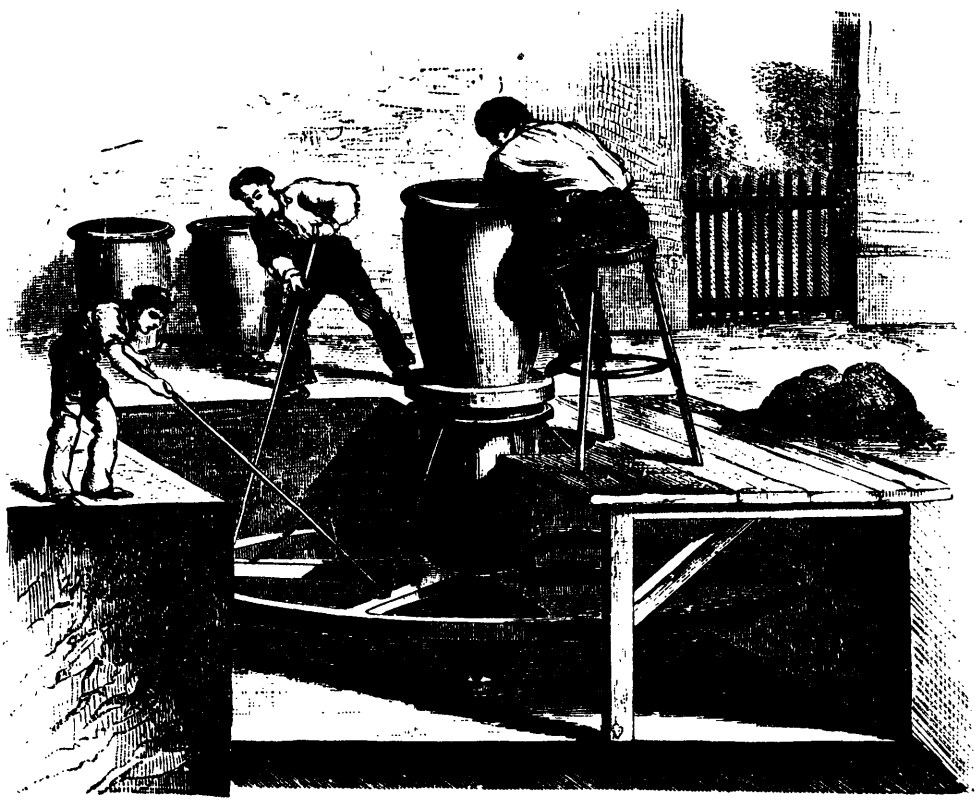

FAIENCE AND ITS MANUFACTURE, No. 1.

NOTES ON FAIENCE AND ITS MANUFACTURE.

The word "faience" is now generally used to designate that class of earthenware which, consisting of an interior body of white or colored clay, is externally covered with an opaque enamel, the base of which is formed of oxide of lead and tin. The art of enameling was introduced into Europe by the Arabs in the eighth century, subsequent to the invasion and subjugation of Spain. While enamel was at first used only to decorate pottery; it was gradually applied as an impermeable covering to replace the old primitive glazing. From Spain this art soon found its way into Italy, where goods enameled in this manner were called "majolica," from the island from which the first goods of this character had been imported. The largest majolica works in Italy were situated at Faenza, a small city near the river Po. A potter employed in that town, toward the end of the thirteenth century emigrated to France, and founded there the first majolica works, at Nevers. From the maker's native place these goods received in France the name "faience," which has since been universally adopted.

The faience industry soon became very important throughout France; this was especially due to various improved processes and apparatus invented by Bernard Palissy, of Saintes. The goods produced by him at the latter place were highly esteemed for their artistic merits, and are even to-day eagerly sought for by antiquarians. In Italy the ornaments were generally formed by hand, while Palisay used moulds of plaster of Paris and wood for that purpose. In this way he was enabled to furnish an unlimited number of copies of the same design at a lower price than his opponents, and he soon controlled the entire market. His eminent success induced King François I. to establish a faience factory at Rouen, and it was at that place that this branch of industry subsequently attained its highest development. Nicholas Poirel and one Poterat were the first private persons to which royal letters of permission were granted to engage in faiencery, in 1644 and 1673 respectively; in course of time that favor was conferred upon many others, and in the eighteenth century thousands of men and women were employed in the numerous workshops of that place. Rouen ware was very heavy but tasteful, blue being the predominating color, and employed in all shades. Few other colors were used.

From France faience was gradually introduced into Germany and England. Nuremberg potters were especially renowned for their productions, and for nearly a century the faience of Hirschvogel and his sons, the principal manufacturers of that city, was exported to foreign countries all over the world. In England, Wedgwood, by his many improvements, his skill and energy, elevated the faience industry to the rank of one of the prime factors of English wealth.

In commerce there are distinguished two classes of faience principally, the "common" and the "fine." Common faience is again divided into the "brown" and the "white." For making brown faience the following mixture is generally used:

Clay	30 parts.
Green marl	36 "
White calcareous marl	12 "
Sand or quartz, containing a little clay	22 "
	100

White faience is composed as follows:

Clay	8 parts.
Green marl	36 "
White calcareous marl	28 "
Impure (aluminous) sand	28 "
	100