

consistence to any ever before manufactured in England. This new pottery was composed of clay obtained from Devonshire and Dorsetshire, mixed with ground flint, and coated with a vitreous glaze. He called it *Queen's Ware*, in honour of the youthful consort of George III., to whom he presented a service of it, and who became its patroness. By his own taste and that of his partner, a classical elegance was given to this manufacture, which not only rendered it the most beautiful of potteries, but furnished models for a variety of articles in other materials, so as to exert a considerable influence over the national taste. The demand for the Staffordshire ware increased proportionally, and rendered it an important branch of commerce, both domestic and foreign, and tables in the remotest parts of Europe were in time furnished with elegant services of queen's ware, of great variety of designs. By varying and repeating his experiments in regard to this pottery, Mr. Wedgwood discovered modes of making other kinds of fine ware or porcelain, equally elegant and useful. Of these the most important were the following:—1. A species resembling porphyry, Egyptian pebble, and other beautiful stones of the silicious and crystalline kind. 2. *Jasper*, a white porcelain rivaling the productions of antiquity, which soon became known throughout Europe: it possessed properties similar to the stone of the same name, susceptible of a high polish, resisting all the acids, and bearing without injury a very strong fire; together with the singular property of receiving from metallic calces the same colours which those calces impart to glass or enamels in fusion; a distinction possessed by no porcelain of ancient or modern composition. 3. *Basalt*, a black porcelain biscuit,* which, like the preceding, bore a strong similarity to the natural stone, could receive a polish, resist acids, and bear a very strong fire. 4. White porcelain biscuit, of a smooth wax-like appearance, of properties similar to basalt. 5. *Bamboo*, a cane-coloured substance, resembling in its characteristics the kind last described. 6. A porcelain biscuit, almost as hard as sardonyx; a property, which, with its impenetrability by acids and every known liquid, makes it peculiarly well adapted for the formation of mortars and other chemical vessels.

In some particular instances, Mr. Wedgwood executed works rivaling the highest productions of art. An antique vase, of about ten inches in height, with white figures raised on a dark ground, and of the most admirable composition and workmanship, which had been found in the sixteenth century near Rome and was supposed to be the cinereal urn of the Emperor Severus, had found its way through the celebrated Barberini cabinet to the museum of the Duchess of Portland, at whose death, we may mention, it was sold to the Duke of Marlborough for nine hundred and eighty guineas. Mr. Wedgwood applied his ingenuity to the production of an exact imitation of this antique, and succeeded so well that the Duchess purchased it at one thousand guineas, being more than what the original eventually realized in an open sale. This work of art has since been known by the name of the Portland vase. Our artist subsequently obtained subscriptions of fifty pounds each for fifty similar vases, forming an aggregate sum of £2500; but so expensive was the process (five hundred guineas being paid to the modeller alone), that Mr. Wedgwood was a loser by the speculation. He also obtained a particular celebrity by the execution of several cameos, a kind of art which no English potter had formerly thought of attempting. One of these represented a slave in chains, with the inscription, "Am not I a man, and a brother?"

* Biscuit is the original potters' term for ware between the firing and the glazing, and has naturally come to be used for species like the above which do not require a vitreous coating.

being intended as an appeal to public feeling against the slave-trade. Of this he distributed several hundred copies gratuitously. Another consisted of a figure of Hope, attended by Peace, Art, and Labour, composed of clay from Botany Bay, to which colony he sent many of them, to show the inhabitants what the materials of their country could produce, and to stimulate their industry. It may be also stated that Mr. Wedgwood made great improvements in the potter's lathe, and in the machinery for reducing the clay to powder and for separating the grosser parts from the fine.

Nor is Mr. Wedgwood known only for the improvement in his own art. His studies embraced chemistry and general science, and the world was indebted to him for the invention of a pyrometer, or measurer of great degrees of heat, which, though now superseded by instruments of greater accuracy, displayed a great degree of ingenuity. He had observed that alumina, one of the chief substances employed in his manufacture, became diminished in weight and bulk in proportion to the degree of heat to which it was exposed. There being then no available means of measuring those degrees of heat which exceeded the range of the mercurial thermometer, he applied himself to the construction of an instrument consisting of pieces of clay of determinate sizes, and a graduated apparatus for measuring their bulk with accuracy. One of the pieces was exposed to the heat, and the temperature was judged of by the contraction. An account of the instrument, and of his experiments connected with it, was presented by him, in 1782, to the Royal Society, of which (as well as of the Antiquarian Society) he was a member. His pyrometer, however, has latterly fallen into disuse, in consequence of the extreme difficulty of procuring pieces of clay of uniform composition, and from its having been found that time has an influence on the contraction of the clay pieces, the longer continuance of a low degree of heat producing the same contraction as a higher degree of heat continued for a shorter time.

As a proper consequence of talent exerted on useful and grateful objects, Mr. Wedgwood soon realized an ample fortune, part of which he spent in the erection of a mansion at no great distance from his manufactory, which he named *Etruria*, in allusion to the distinction of that part of ancient Italy in the fabrication of earthenware. He had also the satisfaction of witnessing a prodigious increase in the population and wealth of the district he inhabited, of a great share of which he was the author. The *Potteries*, as the district is now called, embracing an area of eight miles by six, even some years ago, contained fourteen manufacturing towns, and 30,000 inhabitants, being the most populous part of the British empire. The ideas of Mr. Wedgwood being all of a liberal character, he became the active promoter of every improvement that he thought would tend to the benefit of the country. By his means good roads were constructed throughout the district and he had a principal share in the measures for carrying through Parliament the Act for the Grand Trunk Canal, connecting the Trent and the Mersey, in opposition to a powerful landed interest, which at that time had not freed itself from a narrow jealousy of commerce.

In private life Mr. Wedgwood was as estimable as in his public character. The qualities of his mind were so remarkably well combined and balanced, that no one seemed to predominate in any great degree over the rest, unless perhaps we are to except the singular power which he possessed, and which had been one of the sources of his success—the invaluable power of concentrating his attention, and keeping it steadily fixed, on one object of pursuit. To uncommon firmness of mind, and independence of spirit, he joined unwearied be-

nevolence, and the elegance of manners, courtesy and deference, which suited the elevated society with which he was conversant, and the celebrity and consequence he had attained. In his dealings he was not only strictly correct, but refined and delicate. He so far overcame the disadvantages of the want of education, as to speak and write his native language with purity and precision, and to display a well furnished & cultivated mind. He died greatly lamented, at his house of *Etruria*, in January 1795, leaving two sons, who carried on his business with talent, and to an extent worthy of their descent. — *Chambers' Edinburgh Journal*.

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