

the paper market. Besides, as rags are likely to fall in price, owing to the extensive supply resulting from this new element, the world of writers and readers would seem to have a brighter future before it than the boldest fancy would have imagined a short time ago. This is not the first time that paper has been manufactured from the blade of Indian Corn; but, strange to say, the art was lost, and required to be discovered anew. As early as the seventeenth century, an Indian corn paper manufactory was in full operation in the town of Rievi, in Italy, and enjoyed a world-wide reputation at the time; but with the death of its proprietor the secret seemed to have lapsed into oblivion. Attempts subsequently made to continue the manufacture were baffled by the difficulty of removing the flint and resinous and glutinous matter contained in the blade. The recovery of the process has at last been effected and is due to the cleverness of one Her Moritz Diamant, a Jewish writing-master in Austria, and a trial of his method on a grand scale, which was made at the Imperial manufactory at Schlogelmuhle, near Glognitz (Lower Austria), has completely demonstrated the certainty of the invention. Although the machinery, arranged as it was for the manufacture of rag-paper, could not of course fully answer the requirements of Her Diamant, the results of the essay were wonderfully favourable. The article produced was of a purity of texture and whiteness of colour that left nothing to be desired; and this is all the more valuable from the difficulty usually experienced in the removal of impurities from rags. The proprietor of the invention is Count Carl Octavio Zu Lippe Weissenfeld, and several experiments give the following results:—

‘1. It is not only possible to produce every variety of paper from the blades of Indian corn, but the product is equal and in some respects even superior, to the article manufactured from rags.

‘2. The paper requires very little size to render it fit for writing purposes, as the pulp naturally contains a large proportion of that necessary ingredient, which can at the same time be easily eliminated if desirable.

‘3. The bleaching is effected by an extraordinary rapid and facile process, and, indeed, for the common light-coloured packing paper the process becomes entirely unnecessary.

‘4. The Indian corn paper possesses greater strength and tenacity than rag paper, without the drawback of brittleness so conspicuous in the common straw products.