

PAPER AND INK.

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MOURNING NOTE PAPER.

IT has more than once been asked, "When did the use of black-bordered paper come into vogue? The question is not altogether easy to answer. A narrow black border to note paper is called by stationers an "Italian border;" and this would seem to suggest that the fashion was brought to England from Italy. There is ample evidence to show that mourning paper was in familiar use in England at the time when Mann wrote (1745), and for many years before that date. The writer of a number of the *Connoisseur*, one of the most interesting of the periodical papers that followed in the wake of the *Spectator*, makes fun of the dismal mourning customs that were then prevalent. "But what I most of all admire," he continues, "is the ingenious contrivance by which persons spread the tidings of the death of their relations to the most distant parts, by means of black-edged paper and black sealing-wax." The writer hints that merry tales and amorous *billets doux* might more often be found conveyed under these dismal passports than doleful lamentations or reflections on mortality. He supposes that originally black-edged paper was intended, like gilt paper, for the use of the polite world only. But the fashions of the quality were aped by those beneath them in the social scale, and so the moralist was not surprised to be told by a stationer near the Exchange

that he not only sold a great quantity of mourning paper to the citizens, but he had lately blacked the edges of their shop-books for several tradesmen!

DEFENDER COVER PAPERS.

THE cover of PAPER AND INK on this issue is from our stock of Defender Cover Papers an ad. of which appears elsewhere on these pages. Our object in using this cover is for the purpose of showing the effect that can be obtained by a little careful thought. The dies used had been cast aside as useless metal and as all printing establishments have more or less old metal lying around, we have endeavored to show our customers how much that has been discarded can be turned to good effect when used in conjunction with Defender Cover Paper.

CHEAP WATERPROOFING.

AS a "tip by the way" to those who may wish to avail themselves of the information, a cheap waterproof wrapping paper may be made by coating the paper on one side with any of the waterproof shoe blackings now on the market. For a great variety of uses the material will prove perfectly satisfactory. It is, of course, not offered as a waterproof paper in the scientific sense of that term, but for commoner uses.