

lumber so thoroughly that steam can not shrink it more, either in size or weight.

Common steaming, kyanizing, paynizing, and burnetizing, all season lumber, but swell it to its utmost capacity, and leave it wet and soaked. It would require more fire to dry this soaked lumber by the hot air process than to season and dry it from the green by the new mode. If the lumber is to be immediately shipped the difference in weight will be from 1,400 to 2,000 pounds per thousand feet board measure.

One month's stock of lumber for a manufacturer having a proper steam dryer, will give him better seasoned lumber than a four year's stock in the air, thus saving the interest on stock, storage, checks, splits, warps and decay, incident to open air drying. The interest at 10 per cent on lumber costing only 40 cents per M. will be \$16 while air drying for four years, and then that same lumber is not fit for good work unless kiln dried. It can be seasoned and dried by superheated steam, in a better manner than any other, at a cost of 50 cents to \$1 per M., according to the expense of fuel.—*Scientific American*.

OLD CLOTHES.

The streams of old clothes that hour by hour are seductively drained, either by floral exchange, attractive advertisement, or by the downright pestering of "Old Ikeys," culminate in the great old clothes mart in Houndsditch where Hebrews most do congregate. To the question of what now becomes of them, we might answer that the greater part of them are now about to set upon their travels, to enter new circles of society, and to see life both savage and civilized under a thousand new phases.

Those that are intended to remain in this country have to be tutored and transformed. The "clobberer," the "reviver," and the "translator" lay hands upon them. The duty of the "clobberer" is to patch, to sew up, and to restore as far as possible the garments to their pristine appearance; black cloth garments pass into the hands of the "revivers," who rejuvenate seedy black coats, and, for the moment, make them look as good as new. The "translator's" duty is of a higher order; his office is to transform one garment into another—the skirts of a cast-off coat being the least worn part of the garments make capital waistcoats and tunics for children, &c. Hats are revived in a still more wonderful manner, they are cut down to take out the grease marks, re-lined, and appear in the shops like new ones. The streets surrounding the old clothes' market are full of shops where these "clobbered" and "revived" goods are exposed for sale, and really a stranger to the trade would not know but that they were new goods. There is a department of the market also dedicated to old clothes, male and female, "clobbered" and revived. It is a touching sight to see the class of persons who frequent the men's market and turn over the seedy black garments, that are doing their best to put on a good appearance—the toilworn clerks, who for some social reason are expected to apparel themselves in black, and the equally careworn members of the clerical profession, chiefly

curates whose meagre stipends do not permit of the extravagance of new suits of clothes. The ladies' market is a vast wardrobe of silk dresses, but if we are to believe the saleswoman the matrons of England are more thrifty than we gave them credit for. "Servants come here to purchase, Sir! No, indeed, Sir, ladies worth hundreds of pounds," was the reply we got to our inquiries as to the class of purchasers.—Black cloth clothes that are too far gone to be "clobbered" and "revived" are always sent abroad to be cut up to make caps. France takes the best of these old clothes for this purpose. The linings are stripped out and in this condition they are admitted duty free as old rags. Russia and Poland, where caps seem to be universally worn by the working population, are content with still more threadbare garments to be cut up for this purpose. The great bulk of our cast-off clothes of all kinds, however, find their way to two markets,—Ireland and Holland. The old clothes' bags of the collectors may, in fact, be said to be emptied out in the land of Erin, as far as the ordinary order of clothes go, while to Holland only special articles of apparel are exported. Singularly enough, the destination of the red tunics of the whole British infantry is the chests of the sturdy Dutchman. There seems to be some popular belief or superstition in that waterlogged country that red cloth affords the best protection against rheumatism, consequently these jackets all find their way to the land of dykes. The sleeves are cut off, and they are made to button in a double-breasted fashion; thus remodelled they are worn next to the skin like a flannel waistcoat by all careful Dutchmen among the labouring classes. The Irish chiefly favour corduroys, and we suspect the worn-out legs of British pantaloons of this material are cut off and converted into breeches for Pat.—Where he gets those wonderful swallowed-tailed coats with brass buttons is a puzzle to all dealers; it is very certain they do not come from this side of the Channel, and it is equally clear they are remnants of costume two generations back. Our readers will perhaps have noticed the special avidity the dealers in old clothes evince for all kinds of regimentals, full dress liveries, Volunteers' uniforms, beadles' coats, &c. Anything especially splendid in this line is marked by the collectors as a sportsman marks any rare and brilliantly plumaged bird, and ultimately it is sure to be bagged by them. These are the great prizes of the profession—and their barbaric splendours are destined for a special market—the South Coast of Africa, where nature puts on her most gorgeous apparel, and the great ones of the land are determined to have something to match. Travellers often tell us of the marvellous appearance of the chiefs of these parts when in full mufti, but we scarcely expected to find our old clothes dealers the regular *costumiers* of these sable dignitaries, transmitting regimentals, liveries and cocked hats, as regularly to them as a London tailor sends his clothes to his country customers. It is just possible that the Lord Mayors for these last dozen years would be able to recognize their own splendid liveries on the backs of these potentates if they could ever be got together for any purpose whatever. We ourselves saw an assortment of well preserved liveries of the heir to the proudest throne