

our day, of the progress which has been made in manufacturing industry: it has altered its former stationary and mechanical condition, and assumed a higher character. The power and affluence of any country depends not only on its natural advantages, but on the degree of skill and ingenuity with which the industrious classes make use of these advantages. In all such practical undertakings, the science of nature is the surest guide: it has removed from our race

the primeval curse of working by the sweat of our brow, and it has subjected the powers of nature to the yoke, and compelled them to become our willing helpers. Man has been released from those laborious occupations, which are now effected by water, steam, wind, or machinery, that he may apply his powers to other purposes.

The present work indicates how many of the arts of life are carried out on chemical principles, and how further improvements are only to be looked for in that direction.

In the chapter on the manufacture of gas, the detail and cost of the gas derived from resin, coal, and other sources are fully given matters which must now prove highly interesting to citizens of New York, who are threatened to be heavily taxed for bad light.

The manufacture of soda is perhaps one of the most interesting improvements of our day—not long since the ashes of sea plants afforded all the soda ash of commerce. One step further in advance was made when the salsoda was planted by the sea side, reaped, and burned for its ash. But to the genius of Napoleon and the science of Le Blanc is the world indebted for the present process, which not only vastly cheapens the article, but has opened up new manufactures. It is now made from common salt, by depriving it of one of its elements, chlorine, and replacing it with another, carbonic acid. To accomplish this, in one of the stages of manufacture it has to be treated with oil of vitriol—this necessity has vastly increased of late years the manufacture of this acid, which, though sold at 3 cents a pound, requires to be boiled in vessels of platinum costing 15,000 dollars each. The chlorine is not allowed to go to waste, but is converted into muriatic acid and bleaching powder, both of which are extensively used.

The manufacture of soap and candles, the heating and ventilation of buildings, lamps, the manufacture of glass and alum, the art of pottery, brickmaking, limestones, gypsum, are treated of in detail, and illustrated in full with two hundred and fourteen engravings on wood, constituting, upon the

whole, a beautiful book of reference study, and highly valuable to those engaged in any business or manufacture treated in these pages.

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