

CLEANING SILK.—I use potato-water for all colours and kinds, but I was taught to grate them into cold spring water, say a large potato to every quart of water, of which five or six will do for a couple of dresses. If for very light silk, pare the potatoes; if any way dark, merely wash them clean. The pan of water must not be stirred in the least for forty-eight hours; then, very slowly and steadily, pour off the clear liquor, but not a particle of the sediment, into an open vessel—a bath, or such like—dip the pieces of silk into this liquid up and down a few times, without the least creasing them; then wipe them on a flat table with a clean towel, first one side, then the other. It is good to hang each one as dipped upon a line to allow the drops to drain off a little before wiping. Have a damp cloth to cover them in till all is done; then iron one way, on the soiled side. It astonishes one to see how stiff and nice a dress looks done in this manner. Any material, silk, woollen, mourning cottons, &c., may be so cleansed. For many years back I have never turned a dress without it.