

trouble, received a third of the earnings, the remaining two-thirds going to the journeymen. This system was possible so long as the demand was small; but when in 1872 a large demand for a special make of ribbons sprang up the supply of labour was insufficient to cope with it, and the undertakers had to employ half-pay apprentices as weavers, while the manufacturers (merchants) began to outbid each other for hands. Quarrels commenced, with the result that the manufacturers began to use machinery and left the buying to London and Manchester merchants.

## DYEING.

Respecting the dyeing branch of the city's trade, the number of hands employed, as stated above, is about 2,500. The quantity of silk dyed was—

In 1824 .....	413,000 lb.
„ 1830 .....	537,000 lb.
„ 1831 .....	508,000 lb.
„ 1890 .....	9,000 to 10,000 lb. weekly.

From this it would appear that the dyeing branch has not suffered so much during the past half century, but it is not, of course, so much dependent upon silk as formerly. The trade during the past four or five years has been good, and hands are not so difficult to obtain as was the case a short time ago. The local water is satisfactory, and the dyers of the city aver that they can turn out coloured silks as well as anyone in the world. "Macclesfield," I was informed by one gentleman, "could not get a pound out of Coventry." The chief tussah dye works south of Macclesfield are at Coventry; and dress silks are a speciality of the firm engaged in this branch. The silk dyers proper do not care to dye cotton. Journeymen dyers, and "helping hands" are employed, the latter not being allowed to undertake the work of the former. A journeyman must have passed his apprenticeship. Speaking generally, the dyeing and finishing of organzines and trams is all that could be desired, and outsiders admit that in many respects the quality is equal to that of the Continent, while Coventry men themselves refuse to admit that they are in any way inferior. The dyeing of spun silks is spoken of as not equal to that of the Continent, Mr. Wardle being the authority for this statement, which I do not care to make on my own for fear of offending some enthusiastic Warwickshire friends. There is not much black dyeing done in the city. The period during which the Coventry dyeing trade was the most active would probably be from 1856 to 1859, and during the Franco-German war.

(To be continued.)

## Foreign Correspondence.

### TEXTILE MATTERS IN THE UNITED STATES.

NEW YORK, MAY 30TH.

Scotch zephyrs, the demand for which was referred to in a recent letter of mine, still go well. Cheviots and coloured cashmeres are also in steady request, plaids and stripes being the favourite effects. Black mohairs keep well to the front, and it has been observed that coloured makes have been enquired for more freely. Camels' hair mixtures meet with a satisfactory amount of support. French and German novelties in shirtings are rather weak as far as prices are concerned. The following interesting letter from Messrs. Smyth and Co., of Balbriggan, has been addressed to the editor of the *Dry Goods Economist*:

We notice in your issue of May 2nd an article about Balbriggan hosiery, saying that the Balbriggan manu-

facturers were taking action to prevent the name Balbriggan being applied to goods not made in that town. On the same day (May 2nd) the *Draper's Record* (a London trade journal) contained an article on the same subject, and we take the liberty of forwarding you the number for your perusal. We notice in the next column of your paper (page 24, second column) an advertisement of the Ypsilanti "Balbriggan" underwear. We would call your attention to the fact that this is a gross injustice to us Balbriggan manufacturers, as these people are merely trading upon the name Balbriggan, which has been made famous by our hard work for over 100 years, during which time we have made nothing but the very finest and highest class hosiery. If the "Ypsilanti" underwear is really good why not sell it under that name? But it is certainly not legitimate trading to endeavour to make the public believe that it is real Balbriggan made. We trust you will see your way to prevent the further advertisement of such goods as Balbriggan. The Mercantile Marks Act, which has recently been passed, enables us to prevent this being done in this country, but of course it has no power in America. We can only trust to your sense of right. We noticed that just after the passing of the Mercantile Marks Act you wrote an article complimenting the Balbriggan hosiers upon our success, and we hope you will consider this letter of sufficient interest to insert it in your valuable paper.—SMYTH AND Co., Limited.

LEWIS WHYTE, Secretary.

I daresay Englishmen have heard in an indefinite sort of way that the small remnant of the Indian race now remaining in the United States is fed and clothed to a considerable extent by the Government. There is a good deal of competition in the dry goods trade for the securing of the clothing contracts, as the orders are extensive. On Thursday the Commissioners awarded the contracts for the supply of the Indian service during the new fiscal year. The goods are delivered packed in quantities and sizes as required. Following are the explanations of sizes:—Men's coats, 38-inch breast; men's vests, 38-inch breast; men's pants, 34-33; men's shirts, 16-inch neck; boys' coats, 16 age; boys' vests, 16 age; boys' pants, 16 age; boys' shirts, 14 1-2 inch in neck; children's suits (jackets and pants), 8 age.

Gentlemen of the Hebrew race decidedly form the majority of the successful tenderers, but this circumstance must not be regarded as indicative of the fact that they are in possession of what in American political argot is known as a "pull." The explanation is that the ready-made clothing industry of the United States is largely in the hands of Jews. Hence such frequently recurring names as Solomon, Moses, Isaac, Emmanuel, Israel, Abraham, and others suggestive of the land of Canaan in the list of awards which now lies before me. I append a few items shewing the prices paid for some of the principal articles supplied to Uncle Sam's *protégés*. The material is, of course, of a common quality, and the prices are for large quantities:

Blouses, lined, heavy, 34 to 46, Kentucky, jeans, dark colours, 9s. 6d.

Blouses, brown, duck, lined, 34 to 46, 6s. 3d.

Blouses, brown, duck, unlined, 34 to 46. 4s. 1d.

Coats, s. b. sack, men's assorted sizes, 38 to 46, satin or Kentucky jeans, jeans, dark colours—jeans at 5s. 9d., and satinets at 9s. 8d.

Coats, s. b. sack, men's brown duck, lined, assorted sizes, 38 to 46, 9s. 4d.

Coats, s. b. sack, men's brown, duck, unlined, assorted sizes, 38 to 46, 5s. 8d.

Coats, s. b. sack, dark blue cloth, men's, assorted sizes, for police uniform, officers', 34s.

Coats, s. b. sack, dark-blue kersey, men's assorted sizes, for police uniforms, privates, 25s.

Overalls, brown, duck, boys', 10 to 18 years, 2s. 3d.

Overalls, brown, duck, men's, 3s. 1d.

Overcoats, d. b., sack, boys', 10 to 18 years, satin or Kentucky, jeans, dark colours, lined, heavy, 13s. 9d.

Overcoats, d. b. sack, boys', brown duck, lined, 10 to 18 years.

Overcoats, d. b. sack, boys', brown duck, unlined, 10 to 18 years, 7s. 6d.

Amongst other articles sold were men's red flannel shirts at 4s. 6d. each, with metal buttons thrown in; unlined brown duck small boys' suits, consisting of jackets and pants, at 6s. 3d. the suit; cassimere suits (coats, pants and vests) for youths of 19, 25s.; and woven cheviot men's shirts, 1s. 9d. It seems strange that the children of Israel should be supplying the red men of the West with his clothing in this way.

They make a good profit out of it, too, for the prices named, considering the quality of the material used, cannot be regarded as low compared with the cost of cheap English goods.

The Wilkes-Barre Lace Manufacturing Company have sold their production during the spring season, and they are adding new machinery for the production of low and medium priced goods. Their selling agents here shew a range of 150 patterns.

Mr. John Barry, of John Barry, Ostlere and Co., Kirkcaldy, Scotland, has been in the market.

Messrs. Smith and Kaufman, of West 123rd-street, this city, are running a plush plant of 40 looms, which were brought from Bradford, Yorks.

The market for printing cloths is without new feature in the absence of movement or change in prices. For 60 x 64's sellers still quote 2 15-16c. less one per cent., and for 56 x 60's 2 1-2c. per yard.

## Designing.

### NEW DESIGNS.

#### COTTON TROUSERING.

In plain weave, 3 in a heald, one heald per dent, 96 ends on one inch, of 24's for warp, two picks, in a shed of 8's weft, 32 picks per inch. Pattern of warp: 12 dark brown, 3 light lavender, 3 light buff for 4 repeats, 6 black, 2 lavender, 1 orange, twisted together 4 turns in one inch, 3 black, 3 light lavender, 3 light buff; complete pattern 72 ends, and repeat from 12 of black. Weft pattern: 60 black, 1 of steel blue, and 1 of orange, loose twist 2 turns to the inch. Varieties: brown for black, white for light buff, orange and white twist warp and weft; also dark buff in warp and weft for black, having light lavender, white, and black and orange twist warp and weft.

#### SUGGESTIONS FROM *LES TISSUS*.

In a recent number of this journal the attention of our readers was directed to the fact that although colour played a most important part in textile design, yet much more effective results were obtainable with colour and weave in unison, than with colour alone. A glance at the recent issues of *Les Tissus* amply verifies this statement—beautiful colour effects, beautiful weave effects; yet it is observable that the beauty of each individual pattern depends upon the harmony between colour and weave, and, as we have previously pointed out, the knowledge required for the proper arrangement of such combinations is most difficult to acquire.

We propose then to give a few of the more important weaves to be found in *Les Tissus*, at the same time calling attention to their characteristic features and suggesting applications in colour, sett, etc.

*Design A* is a check effect produced by surrounding the two-and-two twill with a fancy weave of a crape-like structure. This effect will be found most suitable for modifying such colourings as are usually applied to a twilled cloth, forming a neat yet decided stripe or check, which may, if desirable, be rendered more intricate by introducing other checks by means of hopsack. The following is an effective method of treatment:—

Warp.  
16 threads 2/36's dark worsted,  
8 " " " and silk twist,  
15's reed 4's.

Weft.  
Same as warp; 60 picks per inch.

*Designs B* and *C* in combination make an effective pattern if care be taken not to overpower the weave effect by too strong colouring. Fine yarns and a close sett are requisite. It seems probable that 10-end sateen makes will come more and more into use, since they furnish, in many cases, a more even surface than do the sateens on a smaller number of shafts. The following is a good sett for a stout, well-balanced cloth:—

