



BROWN AND POLSON'S PATENT CORN FLOUR MANUFACTORY, PAISLEY.—WASHING PROCESS.

only lately that Corn Flour—now so universally well known, and so thoroughly appreciated—has been brought under public notice; and even now, although its excellence is admitted, very little is generally known of the process to which the maize is subjected before the corn flour is produced.

It may not be uninteresting to glance at this process, which we find in full operation at an establishment in Paisley, where Messrs. Brown and Polson conduct the manufacture of their Corn Flour by a process patented for the United Kingdom and France.

First of all, it is imported from the Black Sea, as on the shores of the Euxine it grows in very fine condition; some of the very best cargoes are received from the south of France, where it is now grown in considerable quantity. On its arrival at the manufactory it is steeped in water, and is thus cleansed from all outward impurities, and softened and prepared for the subsequent separation of the amylaceous matter. Still moist, it is then placed in large hoppers, and conducted to the grindstones, which are worked by steam power, and rapidly reduce the grain to a thick pulp—husk, gluten, and amylaceous matter mingled together in a semi-liquid mass. The next process separates the amylaceous matter from the other portions of the maize, and is effected by placing the pulpy matter on an inclined plane, arranged along the upper part of the building, and during its slow descent the liquid portion of the pulp, containing gluten, &c., is carried off through long pipes into cisterns below, while the amylaceous matter—or pure farina—settles at the bottom of the inclined plane. It is subsequently washed and re-washed in pure water, being deposited in vats for that purpose; and finally, freed from every impurity, is placed in frames, dried at a low temperature, and is duly made up into marketable packages.

The remaining portions of the maize, after the extraction of the amylaceous matter, is dried and ground, and sold as gluten.

The peculiar advantages offered to the public by Brown and Polson's preparation of Indian corn, are of a nature to recommend it to general use. The pure farina, free from all other matter, is readily prepared as food, and is easily digested

We have thus, in the patent corn flour, a better adaptation of Cobbett's suggestion than he himself suggested. Here, in Great Britain, maize will not flourish. Agricultural science has not yet overcome the difficulty of dealing with distinctive characteristics of foreign vegetation; we may do that in time, but the problem is not yet solved. Still, the maize becomes a favourite article of diet; not in its rough, crude form—in which state it is not very inviting—but prepared by a process which has proved eminently successful, which utilises even the refuse, and gives an excellent article of light diet, preferred to the very best arrowroot used in puddings, blanch-mange, &c., and of such delicacy as to make it in daily request for children and invalids.

ENGLISH WATERING-PLACES.

RYDE, ISLE OF WIGHT.

AMONG the most attractive places to the English tourist the Isle of Wight occupies a foremost position. The extreme beauty and amazing variety of its scenery, the mild and salubrious character of its climate, and the facilities for reaching it afforded by rail and boat, annually induce crowds of pleasure seekers to visit it during the season, and to return home with a firm resolve of renewing the intimacy at the earliest opportunity. The range of chalk cliffs—extending across the island—clothed with grass, and dotted with sheep; the precipitous cliffs on the coast, where the sea-fowl resort, and Nature has formed deep caverns and frightful chasms; the bold and rugged front offered by the rocks to the waves breaking in yeasty foam at their base; the woods, and hills, and dales of the interior of the country, so singularly diversified, and so rich in all that contributes to the charm of pastoral scenery; indeed, the whole of the island presents so many features of interest, and so much that is calculated to delight the occasional visitor and to satisfy the permanent resident, that it is fully entitled to all the praise bestowed on it, since it was first called *Vectis* by the Romans.

The Isle of Wight has for some years past en-

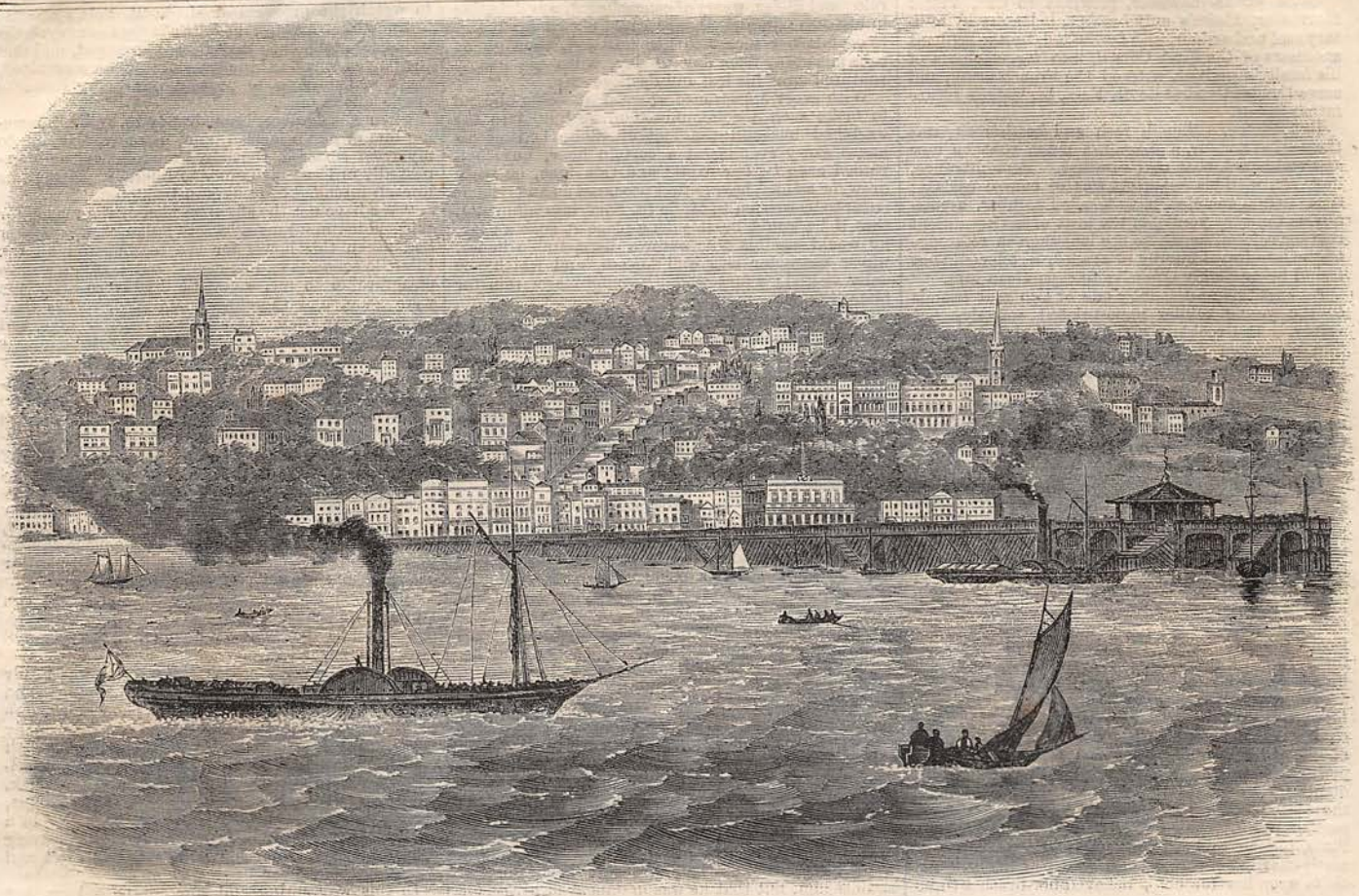
joyed the patronage of royalty, and in these days of cheap excursions there are few who have not seen the national standard waving from the turret of Osborne House. This favourite residence of Her Majesty is beautifully situated in the neighbourhood of East Cowes. The park which surrounds the mansion is well timbered, and adjoins eastward the grounds of Norris Castle, where her Majesty, before her accession to the throne, resided for some time with the Duchess of Kent. The views from Osborne are extensive and of varied beauty; the house is built in the Italian style, and is surrounded by magnificent terrace walks. The property was purchased for her Majesty in 1844. Since then the place has been considerably altered and enlarged.

Another point of interest in the Isle of Wight is Carisbrooke Castle.* Within its walls King Charles I. was confined for thirteen months previous to his being delivered up to the Parliamentary forces; here, also, some of his children were detained as prisoners, and his eldest daughter died here at the age of fifteen. A melancholy interest is thus associated with this ancient fortress, which still continues to be the residence and head-quarters of the Governor of the Isle of Wight.

Very interesting also to a large class of visitors to the island are the scenes of Legh Richmond's labours at Yaverland and Brading. The name of this excellent man is associated in the minds of all with the tracts named the "Dairyman's Daughter," "The Negro Servant," and "The Young Cottager." The narratives are true, and took place in the island. The cottage of the dairyman is situated on Hale Common, and the grave of his daughter is in Arretton churchyard. Little Jane's cottage is still to be seen in the town of Brading, and a tombstone marks her grave in the churchyard of that place.

Ryde, the town and seaport represented in our illustration, is on the north side of the island, and from the sea offers a peculiarly handsome appearance. A steep acclivity rising from the sea, backed by bold hills, is covered with gar-

* For a description of this castle, see FAMILY PAPER, Vol. I., N. S., p. 221.



RYDE, ISLE OF WIGHT.

dens, and plantations, and well-built houses, the white frontages of the latter contrasting with the variegated foliage of the former, rising in successive rows on the ascent from the water. Nature has been bountiful to this part of the coast, and Art has harmoniously worked with Nature to make the place attractive to the numerous visitors who flock thither during the summer. Less than a century ago the town did not contain above thirty houses, and was inhabited only by a poor, scanty, fishing population; but, like so many other localities on our coasts, it has, within the last few years, risen into importance, and with broad streets, handsome shops, convenient hotels, and elegant villas, has attained the dignity of a watering-place. The gardens, shrubberies, trees, and well-cultivated ground by which the town is surrounded, largely contribute to its singularly beautiful aspect. Too many of our watering-places look like one side of a London street built on the sands to face the sea, but this is not the case with Ryde; trees grow luxuriantly almost to the water's edge, and the gardens bloom with flowers that seem to belong to the sunny clime of Italy.

Years ago, when fishers' huts occupied the site of lordly villas, Ryde was only accessible at high tide, an "impassable gulf of deep mud, which could neither be traversed by walking nor swimming," extending before the town for a considerable distance. This mud-gulf has been gradually covered with fine sand, for which geologists are puzzled to account; and a pier, projecting more than two thousand feet into the sea, has rendered landing practicable, irrespective of the tide. Additions and improvements are being made to this well-constructed and very useful pier, and some entirely new works are in course of erection.

The public buildings of Ryde include a Town Hall, with a ball-room sixty feet long; an arcade, built by Westmacott; club-houses, literary institutions, &c. It has three churches, and several dissenting chapels. It has a noble esplanade, and, to the east of the town, a park, which promises, in course of time, to be a great additional attraction. All the usual amusements of a watering-place are to be found at Ryde—which holds its annual regatta in

the autumn—and the country about the old town abounds with interesting scenes for excursions.

Ryde occupies no very important place in history, and, except that it was burnt by the French some five centuries ago, and that, aroused to vigilance by this affront, it kept a good watch for Gallic marauders ever after, there is nothing to be related. There is, however, an event of melancholy interest associated with the place, which cannot but recur to the mind of the visitor. Here, on the esplanade, were, for many years, certain grass mounds, marking the graves of the unfortunate crew of the Royal George. For weeks after that terrible disaster, the fishermen who cast their nets on the coast brought up the bodies of the dead, and in Christian charity laid them to sleep in their common grave. The story of the melancholy accident—unequalled in our annals except by the wreck of the Royal Charter—has been recorded by the poet Cowper in the following beautiful lines:—

"Toll for the brave!
The brave that are no more!
All sunk beneath the wave,
Fast by their native shore.
"Eight hundred of the brave,
Whose courage well was tried,
Had made the vessel heel,
And laid her on her side.
"A land-breeze shook the shrouds,
And she was overset;
Down went the Royal George,
With all her crew complete.
"Toll for the brave!
Brave Kempenfeldt is gone;
His last sea-fight is fought,
His work of glory done.
"It was not in the battle:
No tempest gave the shock;
She sprang no fatal leak;
She ran upon no rock.
"His sword was in his sheath,
His fingers held the pen,
When Kempenfeldt went down
With twice four hundred men."

The Royal George, notwithstanding all the exertions which were made to raise her, for a long period resisted every effort. The most successful experiment was made by Colonel Pasley in 1839, when a great portion of the vessel was removed.

THE AUTOBIOGRAPHY OF AN HEIRESS;

OR,

The Old Feud.

BY THE AUTHOR OF "FRENCH HAY," ETC.

CHAPTER LVI.

Fixed was her look, and stern her air;
Back from her shoulders streamed her hair
Her figure seemed to rise more high;
Her voice Despair's wild energy
Had given a tone of prophecy.

MARRION.

'Tis an old tale, and often told;
But did my fate and wish agree,
Ne'er had been told in story old,
Of maiden true betrayed for gold,
Who loved or was avenged like me.

IBID.

It appeared that, according to the fashion of the time and country, the young Marquis de St. Foix had been betrothed in boyhood to Eloise Morrissier, daughter of one of the staunch Bourbonnites, who perished for his loyalty upon the scaffold during the Reign of Terror. As was too common in those terrible times, the property of the murdered royalist was seized upon, his wife, with her son and infant daughter, obliged to fly for their lives, and afterwards subsist as well as they could, upon the proceeds of such valuables as they had been able to secrete and carry away.

To dowry Eloise, therefore, according to the former agreement entered into by the parents of both parties, was impossible, and the gentleman might, consequently, have followed the example too frequently set in such cases, and have declined to perform his contract; but, besides that he had seen and loved his fiancée, the noble-hearted youth felt that he would be dishonoured in his own sight for ever, if he suffered a question of money to induce him to break an engagement, upon the faith of which he had hitherto acted.

Contrary, therefore, to the wishes of his father, who, unlike the generality of men of his ancient descent and rank, was a warm Bonapartist, Ernest de St. Foix married his betrothed at the appointed time.