cylinders; all of which, by pressing out the moisture of the pulp, bring its particles more closely together, and thus tend to give it the requisite degree of firmness and cohesion; the last pair being heated sufficiently to dry the paper during its passage between them.

Such are the numerous and elaborate processes, by which a heap of sordid rags is converted into the beautiful material of which we have been speaking. And if, to the accumulated processes to which each rag is submitted during its fabrication into paper, be added its previous history, as the cultivation and subsequent dressing of the flax of which it was made, the formation of the fibre of the flax into thread, the weaving of the thread into linen, and, in the majority of instances, the dyeing of the linen; if all these points be collectively considered, what food for a reflecting mind does not the minutest particle of the resulting paper afford !

Many plants are capable of yielding a colouring matter, which by chemical means may be readily made to combine with various substances, as linen, woollen, silk, and leather. This property, which sometimes resides in the stem and branches, sometimes in the leaves and flowers, may be classed among those properties of plants, which, if we consider the actual state of society in all the civilised parts of the world,