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als, together with medals struck in England, during their late war with us, of all of which copies can be taken.

2. BEAD MANUFACTORY AT VENICE.

Venice! How much like the impressions of a fair vision are my recollections of that city and of the week I spent in it. *Dreamy* is the term for it, for its crowded yet noiseless thoroughfares, the constant gliding of gondolas, its rich palaces, its dungeons, and even its history, are in character more like the fancy of a dreamer than a sober reality. It was a fiesta when I arrived there, and the three large banners were waving in the piazza of St. Mark's; while close by it a temporary bridge of boats, some hundreds of yards in length, was filled with crowds in gay dresses hurrying to or from the church whose saint claimed the day. I recollect also particularly, one evening, I was seated under the high arcade that lines three sides of the piazza of St. Mark's; the gay shops and coffee houses were brilliantly illuminated, the piazza was filled with company; in the centre a band of forty musicians were performing; I had an ice-cream before me and the last number of Galligani in my hand and I thought the situation as luxurious an one as I had ever occupied. Among the objects that help to make up the splendor of this piazza, probably the most magnificent in the world, the bead shops, first attract the stranger's attention; I was so much interested by them that I determined to visit the Island of Murano where the beads are made, and, as the process was new to me, a notice of it may also be gratifying to some of your readers. Suppose Dr. T., then and myself reclining upon the soft cushions of a gondola, the blinds of its pretty little chamber drawn so as to admit just the requisite degree of light and air, and gliding along the canals with a kind of rocking motion, sufficient only to let us know that we were moving. We stopped a few minutes to examine the church of St. John, on one way, and soon after found ourselves at the skirts of the city and before and on each side of us a wide expanse of water, dotted in all directions with villages and groves rising apparently from the waves. Among them and distant about a mile and a half, we distinguished the village of Murano, covering an island of that name, or rather islands, for like all others here, it is cut up in all directions by canals. The bead manufactories occupy a range of houses immediately on the left as we entered; that for mirrors is within an enclosure on the right: but as we were not there on one of the days in which it is in operation we did not visit

ing, in fact the establishment has fallen very much into decay. The great manufactories however presented a busy scene. In the first to which they conducted us we found a large reverberatory furnace in the centre, with a basin of liquid vitreous matter. A workman put in the end of an iron rod and whirling it slowly around, until a sufficient quantity of matter had attached itself, he withdrew the rod and formed the mass into a rude hollow cone about six inches in diameter, the apex being attached to his rod. Another workman had been doing the same thing at an adjacent opening, and the bases of the two cones being now brought together and united, a quantity of air was thus inclosed. As soon as the junction was perfected, they carried the mass to one side of the chamber and here strips of wood were laid cross-wise along a passage and each one holding his rod in hand they began to walk rapidly in opposite directions. As they did so, the glass drew out and in less than a minute we had a tube of uniform bore and about one hundred and fifty feet in length. This one was of about the thickness of a quill; for the smallest beads they increase the pace to a pretty rapid trot. When a sufficient number of these tubes are formed, they are broken into lengths of about twenty seven inches, and are then carried to an adjoining building called the assorting house. Here they are assorted, the workman being able from the feeling only, to arrange them in different boxes according to their thicknesses and colors. From this house they are now carried to another where the laborers are mostly women and boys. Each one is seated in front of a kind of little anvil, having in the right hand a thin plate of steel, nearly triangular in shape and with a blunt edge: in the left he takes as many of the tubes as will form a single layer between the thumb and fore finger, and advancing their ends against a measure on the anvil, by a dexterous use of the steel, breaks off from each tube a piece of sufficient length for a bead. The bits fall into a box and are about twice as long as the thickness of the bead, (if a common one) is intended to be.

The next operation I thought the most interesting one. The boxes are carried into a large chamber with a furnace in the center of it. A substance which I took to be ashes is moistened and made into a paste, and the bits of tubes are worked about in it until the holes are completely filled; they are then put into a sheet iron cylinder about eighteen inches in length and a foot in width, with an iron handle to it, and about twice as much sand being added, the cylinder is thrust into the furnace and subjected to a rotatory motion. In a

short time, the glass becomes soft and yielding: the paste in the holes keeps the bits from being compressed, and from an elongated they assume a spherical shape: when this is done, the paste is worked out by the sand, and the latter penetrating into the holes, the hard, sharp edges are rounded and smoothed, and the heads are soon brought to the shape in which we see them in the market. When cooled, the sand is sifted from them, and after being rubbed in a cloth for the purpose of brightening them, they are fit for use.

The quantity manufactured is very great. They are worked up into ladies' bags, sashes, watch guards, shawls, and even caps, &c. and as these are tastefully displayed, a bead shop along the piazza of St. Mark's is a very pretty object.

3. SPECTACLE GLASSES.

Going along an obscure street one day, my attention was attracted by some curious fixtures in a shop, and on going in, I found they were preparing spectacle glasses. One set of the apparatus may be taken as a specimen of all. It consisted of a hemisphere of stiff putty, with another concave one of lead to fit on to it: the latter having its surface sprinkled with emery or some such article. The glasses having been first cut of the proper shape, and having had their sharp edges taken off, were pressed into the surface of the putty, and the leaden hemisphere was made by the hand to move rapidly over, both vertically and horizontally. In a short time, they were worked down so as to form a part of the smooth surface of the hemisphere: and the other side having undergone the same operation, the process was completed. Their convexity was thus, of course, uniform, a primary object in glasses of this kind. For concave glasses, the hemispheres were simply reversed.

4. PAPYRUS.

Inclosed you will find a small sheet of papyrus, manufactured from plants growing in the neighborhood of Syracuse, in Sicily. One of my first excursions, among the numerous interesting objects that lie about this city, was to the papyrus region; and on the whole, I was highly gratified.

The harbor of Syracuse is large, and its upper end is lined with low marshy lands. Among these, winds a small river, or what we should call a very small creek; and on the banks of this, about two miles from its mouth, the papyrus commences. We had been for-