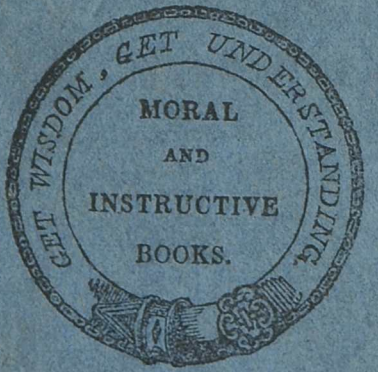
ACCOUNT OF TRADES,

PART I.

WESTLEY AND DAVIS'S

SERIES OF



FOR THE YOUNG.

LONDON:
FREDERICK WESTLEY & A. H. DAVIS,
Stationers' Court & Ave Maria Lane.
PRICE ONE PENNY.

ACCOUNT

OF

TRADES.

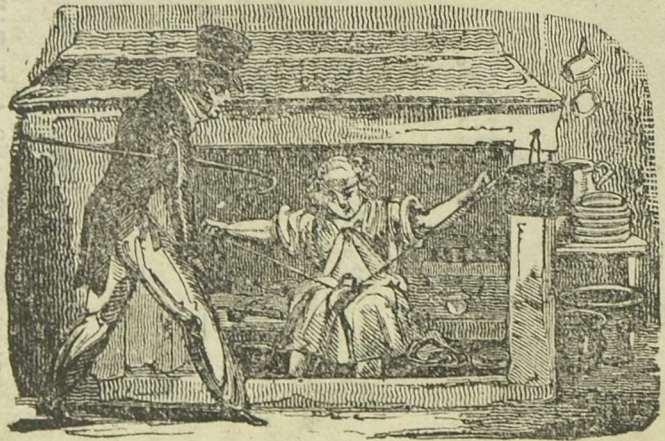
PART I.

LONDON:

FREDERICK WESTLEY AND A. H. DAVIS:

STATIONERS' COURT & AVE MARIA LANE.

1827



ACCOUNT

OF

TRADES.

I.—SHOEMAKER.

SHOES are very comfortable articles, especially in the cold seasons of the year; yet there are many people in Scotland, and in other parts of the world, who do not very often wear any.

Some kind of covering for the feet, however, seems to have been common from a very early period of the world; as we read in the Book of Exodus, that Moses was charged on a particular occasion, to put his shoes from off his feet.

Shoes, in the present day, are principally made with leather, which is procured from the skins of animals. These are hardened and fitted for the purpose by the tanner.

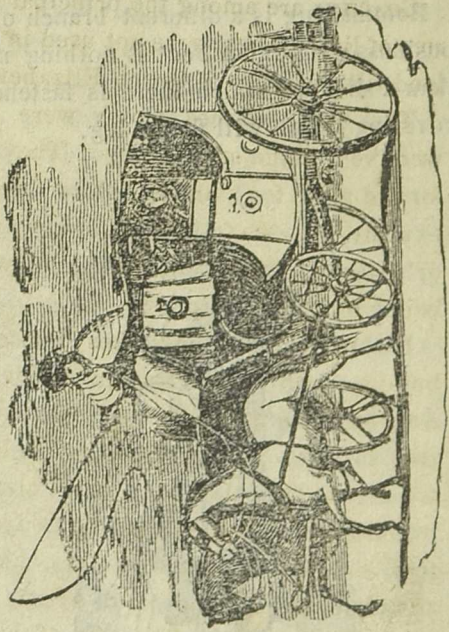
When a man wishes to make a pair of shoes, he measures the foot with a rule; he then finds a last, or a piece of wood of the same shape as the foot, only a little longer. The lasts are formed of two pieces, so that, should they not be big enough, a bit or two of leather may be put between them, so as more readily to adjust them to the exact measure.

Then the master cuts out from different skins the various pieces which compose the upper part, and the sole of the shoe.

To render the leather more hard and durable, the workman beats it on a large stone with his hammer. He then sews the different parts together with a strong thread, which is covered with as much wax as it will take, to prevent the wet from rotting it. To the end of this thread

he fastens a bristle, by which he readily pulls it through the holes which he has previously made with an awl.

Bootmaking is a different branch of the business; though a boot is nothing more than a shoe, to which there is fastened a covering which will fit the leg.



II.—THE COACHMAKER.

COACHES are among the principal luxuries of life. They were not used in England till the reign of Queen Elizabeth.

The first coaches which were made were very large and clumsy. They were formed more for state and show, than for expedition in travelling: the Lord Mayor's coach, in London, though very fine, is one of this description.

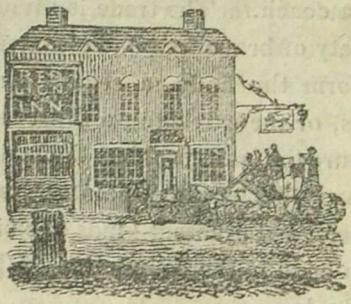
No individual undertakes himself to build a coach. The trade is divided into a variety of branches. One class of workmen form the body, a second make the wheels, or the carriage; a third class manufacture the springs; then the body-painters, and the heraldry-painters, and the trimmers, and different kinds of smiths, all have a hand in the completion of this useful vehicle.

In coaches there are four wheels, a perch, four or more springs and two axle-trees.

The perch holds the two ends of the machine together.

Ash timber is usually employed in the body of coaches; but the pannels are formed of mahogany. The top is covered with leather, very highly varnished.

The inside of the carriage is commonly fitted up according to the taste of the gentleman for whom it is built. It is generally stuffed with horse-hair, and lined with fine leather, or velvet, or woollen cloth, or silk, as the owner thinks proper.



III.—THE LACE MAKER.

Every little girl knows what lace is, but all do not know how it is made. It appears that lace, such as is now in use, was first made by the Germans. In our own country, in the summer months the cottagers may be seen sitting at their doors, with their pillow and bobbins, manufacturing this article. It is made of thread or cotton, wound on little ivory or bone bobbins; the pattern is drawn on parchment, picked with pin-holes, and then put on the cushion. All the ends of the thread are fastened together; then the maker twists them over and under each other round the pins, and thus the lace is produced.

IV.—THE GARDENER.

This is a very pleasant and a very healthy and useful occupation.

The gardener makes himself well acquainted with the different kinds of trees, and plants, and flowers, which he has to cultivate, so that he may know where to plant, and how to treat them.

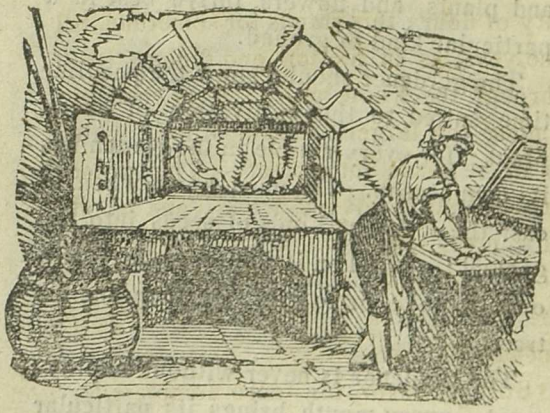
Nor must he neglect to study the nature of the soil, as there are usually several kinds in each garden; and most herbs,

and plants, and flowers, thrive best in a particular kind of ground.

The gardener should know the peculiar time suited to the cultivation of every plant; for every article in the garden has its own season. He must know when to cast the different kinds of seeds into the ground; and when it is proper to plant, or to remove, or to graft, or to prune his trees.

The gardener is never without employment; every month brings its particular duties. He has always something to do with his spade, or knife, or rake, or hoe, or watering pot.

He has to take care of the hot-house, the conservatory and the green-house: and, to present on the table of his master, or in the public market, and each in its season, all the different kinds of fruits, and flowers, and vegetables, and herbs, which the climate, or which his utmost ingenuity and labour can produce.



V.—THE BAKER.

Bread is often called, and with propriety, the staff of life. All persons, however peculiar their taste may be in other respects, like bread, and no one ever grows tired of it,—the old man is as fond of it now as he was when he was a child.

Bread, as every one knows, is made of flour. The process of making it is very simple. The baker mingles a little yeast,

salt, and warm water, with a small quantity of flour; this stands for sometime, till the yeast is in motion, and diffuses itself through the whole of it. It is then put among the larger quantity of meal which is to be made into bread. The proper proportion of salt and water (and which, of course, depends on the quantity of flour) is now added, and the whole, when the leaven has fully penetrated it, is kneaded into dough.

Still, however, for more complete fermentation, it lies in the trough for about an hour, when it is made into loaves, and put into the oven to be baked.

Loaves are of various sizes, and of two kinds; those of the best quality are marked with a large W for *Wheaten;* and the common bread has an H on it, which means *Household.* Should the baker neglect to mark his bread with these letters, he is exposed to a fine.

Bread varies its value, according to the prices of corn and flour

VI.—PIN MAKING.

A pin, as every one knows, is a very useful article. It is made of brass wire.

Pins are formed of various sizes, which are distinguished by numbers from three to twenty. Black pins are also made for the use of persons who are in mourning.

As many as twenty-five people are employed in making every pin; so that we cannot speak with correctness of the pin-

maker, but of the pin-makers. A single person would make but very few in a day, but the number I have mentioned will produce a great many thousand.

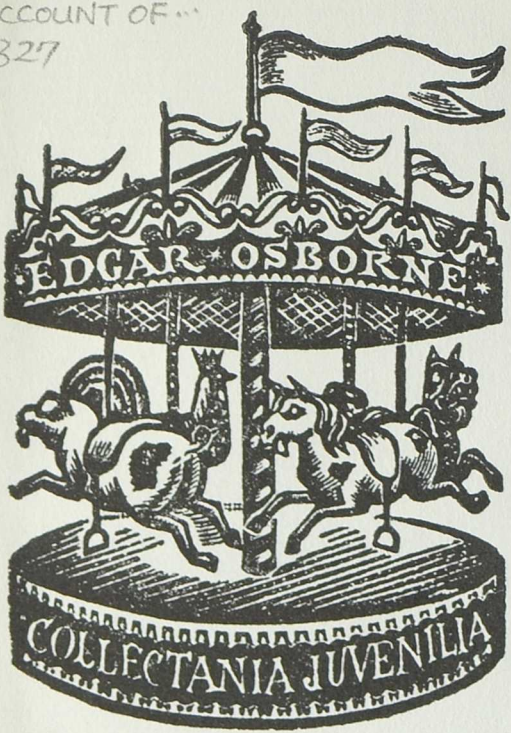
To make pins, a suitable wire must be first chosen. Should it be too thick, as is sometimes the case, it is drawn with great swiftness, through a hole smaller than its own thickness, in a piece of iron, by one wheel from another. Then, as its shape is round, it is taken to another apartment where it is stretched very tight till it becomes straight. Then it is cut into different lengths of two or three yards, and afterwards into pieces sufficient to make six pins.

These pieces are pointed at a grindstone; when one end is sharpened, enough is cut off to make one pin; and so the same process is continued till the six are cut apart.

The formation of the head, which is called, *Head Spinning*, is very curious. It is done on a kind of spinning-wheel. One

piece of wire is spun round another, in a surprising manner; to be understood perfectly, it must be seen. The heads are then cut with shears, and put into a furnace to be softened.

Pins are generally finished by children, who with a lathe and hammer fix on the heads, which they do very expeditiously. They are coloured and made bright by a solution of tin, and the leys of wine.



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