vat, while before they sank to the bottom. The next process is to place them in another vat of soda, to neutralize any remaining acid; and this being effected, they are transferred to the bleaching-water of the fourth vat, composed of a solution of chloride of lime and sulphate of magnesia, thus forming a hyper-chlorite of magnesia. In this preparation they remain for two hours, during which they are perfectly bleached, requiring only to be transferred to a bath of diluted sulphuric-acid, and then to pure water. The fibres, on being withdrawn from the vats, are dried by atmospheric or steam-heat, or hot air. They are then taken to a machine similar to that used in chaff-cutting, where they are cut into lengths adapted for spinning or cotton machinery.

"To specify all the advantages secured by these processes would far exceed our limits. It must, therefore, suffice to observe that the following are a few out of many:—Any cloth made from flax cotton-yarn may be readily printed, dyed, and bleached by the ordinary cotton processes. The flax fibre, from its milling properties, is capable of being made into common felt hats with or without an admixture of wool. Cloth in which flax is mixed with wool is reduced in price from twenty-five to thirty per cent. Flax may be spun with silk on the existing silk machinery; and any useless flax can be converted into a first-rate article for the paper-maker."

Is it not to be regretted that this process is not more extensively employed?

UB Braunschweig http://www.digibib.tu-bs.de/?perid=00031385&imgid=00000183.jpg