

**Cotton-izing Fiber.** A process of disintegrating fiber, adopted with flax, hemp, jute, cane, etc., so as to reduce them to a short staple resembling cotton, which can be worked on cotton-machinery.

P. CLAUSSEN's patent, 1851, No. 8134, describes a process for reducing vegetable fiber to a condition for being spun or felted, by saturating it with a solution of carbonate of soda and potash, and then to a solution of sulphuric acid, so as to generate carbonic-acid gas within the cellular structure, and thus tear it to pieces and dissolve the mucilaginous matters. See FLAX-COTTON.

LYMAN's patent, August 3, 1858, is for what is called the "fiber-gun." Wool, flax, hemp, jute, cane, etc., are confined in a cylinder, and charged with steam at a very high pressure. By a sudden movement, the material is released and explodes into a chamber, the violent expansion rupturing the cells and reducing the material to a disintegrated condition.

There are many modifications of the alkali and acid treatment, and of the resulting washing, bleaching, and drying processes, by which mucilage, color, and silex are removed.