Plait. 1. Braid.
2. A flat fold in a garment, as on a shirt-bosom.
3. Straw-plait is made in various ways, and after
a variety of patterns, known by the name of the place
whence it is brought, as Leghorn, Tuscan, Dunsta-
ble; or by the number of strands, as seven, double-
seven; or by other characteristics, as split, wandyle,
open, etc.
The straws are carefully selected, cut into equal
lengths, bleached by exposure to sulphur fumes,
split lengthwise, and plaited together, according to
the taste and the market.
The Leghorn, for instance, is a 13 plait, 6 straws
being turned to the left and 7 to the right, so as to
cross each other at right angles; the outer one of
the seven is turned down, under two, over two; and
under two; the outer straw on the other side, which
now has seven, is next turned down, passing below,
above, and below, in the same manner.
Straw is split by a wire which has a series of
sharp edges equal in number to the number of splits
into which it is desired to divide the straw. The
slips are softened in water to render them pliable in
plaiting. The plait is flattened between wooden
rollers.