HAT, a covering for the head, worn by the men throughout the western part of Europe.

Hats are chiefly made of hair, wool, &c. worked, filled, and fashioned to the figure of the head.

Hats are said to have been first seen about the year 1400, at which time they became of use for country wear, riding, &c. F. Daniel relates, that when Charles II. made his public entry into Rouen, in 1449, he had on a hat lined with red velvet, and furnished with a plume, or tuft of feathers: he adds, that it is from this entry, or at least under this reign, that the use of hats and caps is to be dated, which henceforward began to take place of the chapereons and hoods that had been worn before. In process of time, from the laity, the clergy also took this part of the habit, but it was looked on as a great abuse, and several regulations were published, forbidding any priest, or religious person, to appear abroad in a hat without coronets, and enjoining them to keep to the use of chapereons, made of black cloth, with decent coronets; if they were poor, they were at least to have coronets fastened to their hats, and this upon penalty of suspension and excommunication. Indeed, the use of hats is said to have been of a longer standing among the ecclesiastics of Britain, by two hundred years, and especially among the canons; but these were not of a kind of caps, and from hence arose the square caps worn in colleges, &c.

Lohinian observes, that a bishop of Dol, in the twelfth century, zealous for good order, allowed the canons alone to wear such hats; enjoining, that if any other person come with them to church, divine service should immediately be suspended. Tom. i. p. 845.

Hats make a very considerable article in commerce; the finest, and those most valued, are made of pure hair of an amphibious animal, called the caffor or beaver, frequent in Canada, and other provinces of North America. See Beaver.

Hats. Manner of making.—Hats, we have observed, are made either of wool, or hair of divers animals, particularly of the caffor, hare, rabbit, camel, &c. The process is much the same in all; for which reason we shall content ourselves to instance in that of caffors.

The skin of this animal is covered with two kinds of hair: the one long, stiff, glossy, and pretty thin felt; this is what renders the skin, or fur, of so much value: the other is short, thick, and soft, which alone is used in hats.

To tear off one of these kinds of hair, and cut the other, the hatters, or rather the women employed for that purpose, make use of two knives, a large one, like a saw-maker's knife, for the long hair; and a smaller, not unlike a penknife, wherewith they shave, or scrape off, the shorter hair.

When the hair is off, they mix the stuff to one-third of dry caffor putting two-thirds of old coat, i. e. of hair which has been worn some time by the fayers, and card the whole with cards, like those used in the woollen manufacture, only finer: this done, they weigh it, and take more or less, according to the size or thickness of the hat intended. The stuff is now laid on the hurdle, which is a square table, parallel to the horizon, having longitudinal chinks cut through it; on this hurdle, with an instrument called a bow, much like that of a violin, but larger, whose string is worked with a little bow-dick, and that made to play on the furs, they fly and mix together, the dust and fluff at the same time passing through the chinks; this they reckon one of the most difficult operations in the whole, on account of the justness required in the hand to make the stuff fall precisely together, and that it may be every where of the same thickness. In lieu of a bow, some hatters make use of a sieve, or leaf of hair, through which they pass the stuff.

After this manner they form the core, or two capsules, of an oval form, ending in an arc, or ridge at top; and with what stuff remains, they supply and strengthen them in places where they happen to be flenderer than ordinary; though it is to be remembered, that they designedly make them thicker in the brim, near the crown, than towards the circumference, or in the crown itself.

The capsules thus finished, they go on to harden them into clover and more confident flakes by pressing down a hardening skin or leather thereon; this done, they are carried to the bafon, which is a fort of bench with an iron plate fitted therein, and a little fire underneath it; upon which laying one of the hardened capsules, sprinkled over with water, and a fort of mould being applied thereon, the heat of the fire, with the water and pressing, imbues the matter into a solid hairy fort of fluff, or felt; after which, turning up the edges all round the mould, they lay it by, and thus proceed to the other; this finished, the two next are joined together, so as to meet in an angle at the top, and only form one conical cap, after the manner of a manica Hippocratis, or flannel bag.

The hat thus bafoned, they remove it to a large kind of receiver or trough, resembling a mill-stone, going hopping or narrowing down from the edge or rim, to the bottom, which is a copper kettle, filled with water and ground kept hot for that purpose. On the défent or hopping flaps, called the plank, the bafoned hat, being first dipped in the kettle, is laid, and here they proceed to work it, by rolling and unrolling it again and again, one part after another, first with the hand, and then with a little wooden roller, taking care to dip it from time to time, till at length, by this fine work, with the last roll, and after that, the hat is done, and well worthy of the pains bestowed on it. The material value of a hat is determined by the number of skins it contains, but the price depends upon the fineness of the hair.
HATS.

ing and thickening it four or five hours, it is reduced to the extent or dimensions of the hat intended. To secure the hands from being injured by this frequent rolling, &c. they usually guard them with a fort of thick gloves.

The hat thus wrought, they proceed to give it the proper form, which is done by laying the conical cap on a wooden block, of the intended size of the crown of the hat, and thus tying it round with a packthread, called a commander, after which, with a piece of iron or copper bent for that purpose, and called a lampen, they gradually heat or drive down the commander all round, till it has reached the bottom of the block, and thus is the crown formed; what remains at bottom, below the string, being the brim.

The hat being now set to dry, they proceed to finge it, by holding it over a flame of straw, or the like; then it is powdered, or rubbed over with pumices, to take off the foreign keep; then rubbed over with oiled skin to lay the keep a little finer; and lastly, carded with a fine card to make the fine cotton, with which the hat is afterwards to appear.

Things thus far advanced, the hat is set upon its block, and tied about with a packthread as before, to be dyed. The dyer's copper is usually very large, holding about twelve dozen of hats. The dye, or tincture, is made of logwood, verdigris, copperas, and alder-bark; to which some galls and galls are added. In the manufacture of La Cote d'Or, says citizen Chaufrer, (Journal Polytechnique, t. p. 160, & c.) the nut-gall is not used, and oak-bark has been substituted with advantage.

Here the hat is kept boiling for about three quarters of an hour; then taken out and set to cool, and then returned to the dye, and this for ten or twelve times successively. For the method of drying hats, see Drying of Hats.

The dye being complete, the hat is returned to the hatter, who proceeds to dry it, by hanging it in the top or roof of a forge or oven, at the bottom of which is a charcoal fire; when dry, it is to be diffused, which is done with melted glue or gum fennel, applied thereto by first smearing it, and beating it over with a brush, and then rubbing it with the hands. The next thing is to fimb the hat on the fimbando, which is a little heart or fire-plate, raising three feet high with an iron plate laid over it exactly covering the heart; on this plate they spread cloths, which being sprinkled over with water to secure the hat from burning, the hat is placed on it downwards thereupon; when moderately hot, the workman strikes gently on the brim, and the flat of his hand, to make the joints incorporate and bind so as not to appear; turning it from time to time, this way and that way, and at last overturning and setting it in the crown.

When fimbred sufficiently and dried, they put it again on the block, and iron it on a table or board for the purpose, called the flout-board; then perform, with a fort of iron like those commonly used in working linen, and heated like them, when being rubbed over and over each part of the hot, with the assistance of the brush, smoothen and give it a gloss, which is the last operation; nothing now remaining but to clip the edges even with scissors, and few a lining to the crown.

The several operations employed in hat-making, are separately described under the articles Filling, Filling, and Drying, to which the reader is referred. The last operation, says Chaufrer, (ubi supra,) consists in lining the inner surface of the crown, as well as of the brim of the hat, with a glutinous substance, which in drying gives firmness to the work, and prefers its form. The usual composition is made of gum arabic, common gum, and Flanders glue, which are dissolved together in a sufficient quantity of water, and brought to the requisite thickness by boiling. This preparation, simple and easy as it appears, is not indifferent with regard to the beauty and duration of the work. If it be too tenacious, it renders the flout dry and brittle, and after some months a fit, a kind of greyish incrustation is formed on the surface, which alters the texture. It appeared to me, (says Chaufrer,) that this effect was caused by the gum arabic which is added to the glue. I therefore sought among the plants of our own country for a simple preparation, which might be substituted instead of these natural and friable gums. The mucilaginous principle abounds in a great number of plants, and may be easily extracted by evaporation; and a gum may even be formed by evaporation, which prefers its suppleness and flexibility. These considerations induced me to recommend, instead of the usual preparation, a solution of glue in a decoction loaded with the mucilage of linseed oil. This preparation has been long used with economy in the manufactory, and with advantage in the excellence of the work. Since this time citizen Margueron having communicated to me his observations on the mucilage which may be extracted from the leaves of the inferior d'Inde, and having ascertained how great a portion of mucous and adhesive matter these leaves afford, especially when the foliation is in its vigour; a strong decoction of these leaves has been used with much success to make the preparation with glue." Our author adds, that there are many other native plants which would be equally proper to afford Manitou gumes, and of which the use would be very advantageous.

Hats, Lasts relating to. By 24 Geo. III. c. 51, all retailers of hats, commonly called felt or wool, stuff or beaver hats, or any leather or japanned hats, shall take out a licence from the flout-offices, for which shall be paid within the hills, 40s., elsewhere 51.; which licence shall be renewed annually, ten days before the end of the year. If any retailer shall sell any felt hats without a licence, he shall forfeit 50l.; and every person who shall sell any felt quantity than one dozen of hats at one time to any one person, shall be deemed a retailer. Such person shall put over his door, or in the front of his house or shop, the words "dealer in hats by retail," on pain of forfeiting 40s.; and if an unlicensed peron put up these words, he shall forfeit 50l. For every hat sold by a licenced retailer he shall be paid the following duty: 4l., if not exceeding the value of 45s. 4d.; above 45s. and not exceeding 7l. 6d.; from 7l. 7s. 6d. to 12l. 17s. 6d. and above 12l. 17s. 6d. By 36 Geo. III. c. 125, all hats, previous to the delivery of them, shall be stamped on the lining; however, any licenced dealer may sell to any other of the name description any unlmpanied hats. The penalty for selling unlmpanied hats is 10l.; and for fixing fluted linings after they have been used, there is a penalty of 10l. and the same penalty also for receiving on sale, or wearing hats unlmpanied. Counterfeiting or forging of flams is a capital felony. By 43 Geo. III. c. 68, for every hat, as above described, imported, shall be paid a duty of 1l. 11s., and on exportation shall be allowed a drawback of 10l. 6s. For the encouragement of the hat-manufacture, it is enacted by 24 Geo. III. c. 21, that no bare or cobby flams shall be exported on the penalty of 50l. and forfeiture of the furms; and affilling bare forfeit 40l. Drying such flams incurs a forfeiture of the name, and of 20l. For the encouragement of the hat-manufacture, all goats' hair or Turkey goats' wool may be imported duty free.
H A T

Hat is also figuratively used for the dignity of a cardinal, or a promotion to that dignity. In this sense they say, to expect a hat; to claim, or have pretension to the hat, &c.

Pope Innocent IV. first made the hat the symbol or cognizance of the cardinals; enjoining them to wear a red hat, at all ceremonies and processions, as a token of being ready to spill their blood for Jesus Christ. See Cardinal.