

The finest of these, when free from iron, is suited for the manufacture of the best quality of queensware or crockery.

The next in fineness of grain is suited for gray-stoneware, for which these clays are unrivaled. The coarser of them are best adapted to the manufacture of fire bricks before noticed.

The manufacture of common red potters' ware was prosecuted at an early period of our history. The next step in advance was the gray-stoneware so largely made in Baltimore.

A difficulty in connection with the common red ware, consists in the fact that the glazing contains oxide of lead, so that it is unsafe to use it for any culinary operations in which vinegar, fruits, or any acids are used.

The glazing of the gray-stoneware is composed of silicate of soda, produced from common salt, the soda of which in the kilns forms an insoluble silicate of soda by combining with the silica of the clay.

For queensware the finest clays, free from iron, are used. The manufacture of this ware has been prosecuted for some years in New Jersey, and more recently in Baltimore by Mr. Bennet, who manufactures it in considerable variety. He also makes a fine quality of fancy stoneware at such prices as to compete favorably with the English manufacturer, upon whom we were so long dependent.

As Mr. Bennet has not yet met with a bed of clay in this vicinity suited for the production of the pure white queensware, he has usually manufactured ware of various shades of light blue, pearl color, grey, yellow and variegated brown.

These articles are in use in every family, whilst most persons in purchasing them suppose they are paying to the English manufacturer.

The same clay formation, as in our lower beds, extend into New Jersey, and are made available on an extensive scale. They have developed beds of *fine* clay which burn perfectly white, and which furnish the material for six factories at which white queensware is made.

The patterns of the better kind made in Baltimore are very neat, many of the articles being ornamented with figures in relief. No attempts have been made to produce the more costly ware, ornamented with colored designs, or painted, as it is termed by the trade. In this, as in other costly ware, our manufacturers cannot yet compete with those in Europe.

Should it happen, however, that a considerable increase of duties be levied, or our trade with Europe be interrupted by war, the finer ware would soon be made, and the country would not suffer for want of crockery, as was the case during the war with England, nearly forty years ago.