

Felt.

THE art of felting was discovered by St. Clement, the fourth bishop of Rome, and St. Clement is now recognized as the patron saint of hatters, and in Catholic countries an annual festival is held in his honor. When St. Clement was fleeing from his persecutors, his feet becoming blistered, he placed wool between them and his sandals, in order to obtain relief. The wool, by perspiration, motion, and pressure, assumed a solid form, and hence the invention. Felt hats were invented about the commencement of the fifteen century, in Paris, by a Swiss, but they did not become fashionable until Charles the Seventh wore one on the occasion of his triumphant entry into Rouen, in 1493. Their manufacture was commenced in England during the reign of Henry the Eighth, by Dutchmen and Spaniards.
