

JOHNSON'S DYE WORKS.

It has been said that it takes many years to build up the reputation of a concern and as many years to destroy it. The dye works now conducted by Henry G. Johnson at Montville have for years stood at the head in this country for making dyes for manufacturing purposes. Established in 1834 by the late William G. Johnson, whose portrait will doubtless be readily recognized by many of the older citizens, from that time to the present the aim of the management has been to improve the quality of the goods made. The cost of obtaining dye

woods has since gradually advanced until nearly doubled, new machinery has superseded the old, but each day and each year the untarnished name of this concern grows with the steady increase of the business. These works, the customers of which comprise manufacturers of goods in all parts of the union, were purchased from the estate of his father by Henry C. Johnson in January, 1892. The business was from the start to 1871 conducted by the late William G. Johnson, from that period until 1886 by his sons, Edwin C. and Charles S. Johnson, and were again taken up by the founder, who in his old age conducted the business until his death in 1892. Since taken in hand by the present proprietor, who has become well known to the trade, vast improvements have been added to the mill in the way of machinery for increasing its capacity. Several new stills of 60 pound pressure, three copper mixers, a mammoth copper condensing can and other additions, representing outlays of several thousand dollars, have been made. The plant at the present time, with these marked and important improvements, is equal if not superior in regard to its equipment to any in the country. The works are located at Montville, where excellent water power is furnished by the Oxoboxo river. A canal about a half mile in length extends from the works to the wharf on the Thames river, through which the logs used for making the dye are transported by means of scows. These dye woods are obtained principally from the island of Hayti, including Port de Paix, Saint Marcs and Gonaives. The wood, which was once plentiful, from its scarcity and large export duty is now much more costly than ten years ago. Large quantities are purchased at a time, and in cargo lots of 400 tons are consigned direct from those foreign ports to Johnson's wharf at Montville. This dye mill uses up from 15,000 to 25,000 tons yearly. The wood is chipped, ground and bolted, being first put into powerful cutting machines run by 80 horse water power. After passing through the different tanks and cylinders, many of the

processes requiring the transferring of the material from one cylinder or tank to the other by means of a vacuum pump, it is distilled, reduced and refined. After going through the mills a more or less number of times to get the required degrees, it is ready to be packed and shipped. The output is now about 100 barrels per week, the works bringing to this locality the credit for turning out the best standard of dyes used. Eighteen hands are given employment and from necessity a large capital is required, the value of the wood piled up at the works often times being as high as \$60,000. The goods made consist of fast black, brown and blue dyes in solid and liquid form, a specialty being made of the black. Aside from the two water wheels the plant is provided with a 60 horse power boiler. The property surrounding the mill owned by Mr. Johnson is most picturesque and contains about 40 acres.

Near the works and situated on the brow of a hill which gives a commanding view of the river scenery, which from its rare beauty is celebrated, is the residence of this well known manufacturer. Within a few feet is a valuable spring, which provides an unceasing flow of pure and cool water. The model stables contain some excellent thoroughbred horses and the grounds about are perfectly kept. Mr. Johnson, whose whole souled hospitality is well known, is a valued citizen whose wealth and influence are felt for the good of the community in which he resides.