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THE

TAYLORS' INSTRUCTOR,

OR, A

COMPREHENSIVE ANALYSIS,

OF THE

ELEMENTS OF CUTTING GARMENTS,

OF

EVERY KIND.



To which are added,

DIRECTIONS FOR CUTTING VARIOUS ARTICLES OF DRESS, FOR
BOTH SEXES, WITHOUT THE USUAL SEAMS, AND REGI-
MENTALS OF ALL DESCRIPTIONS ; WITH INSTRU-
CTIONS FOR MAKING UP WORK WITH
ACCURACY AND PRECISION.

ILLUSTRATED

WITH EIGHT APPROPRIATE ENGRAVINGS.

BY JAMES QUEEN & WILLIAM LAPSLEY.

PHILADELPHIA :

PRINTED FOR, AND SOLD BY, THE AUTHORS,

No. 53, SOUTH THIRD STREET.

.....
1809.

TT 520
Q72

DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA—TO WIT.

L. S.

BE IT REMEMBERED, that on the twentieth day of September, in the thirty fourth year of the Independence of the United States of America, A. D. 1809, JAMES QUEEN and WILLIAM LAPSLEY, of the said district, have deposited in this office, the title of a book, the right whereof they claim as proprietors, in the words following, to wit:—"THE TAYLOR'S INSTRUCTOR, or a comprehensive analysis of Cutting Garments of every kind; to which are added, directions for Cutting various articles of Dress for both sexes, without the usual seams, and Regimentals of all descriptions: with instructions for making up work with accuracy and precision. Illustrated with eight appropriate Engravings. By JAMES QUEEN and WILLIAM LAPSLEY."

In conformity to the Act of Congress of the United States, intituled, "An Act for the encouragement of learning, by securing the copies of Maps, Charts, and Books, to the authors and proprietors of such copies during the times therein mentioned." And also to the act, intituled "an act supplementary to an act, intituled, "an act for the encouragement of learning, by securing the copies of Maps, Charts, and Books, to the authors and proprietors of such copies during the time therein mentioned," and extending the benefits thereof to the arts of designing, engraving, and etching historical and other prints."

D. CALDWELL,

Clerk of the district of Pennsylvania.

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DEDICATION

TO the MASTER *TAYLORS*, JOURNEYMEN and AP-
PRENTICES, and the whole Body Corporate of the
Trade in the *United States*.

THE following work will no doubt, produce in your minds a degree of curiosity, as it is the first of the kind that has made its appearance in the United States, and we believe the second ever known in the English Language. The first was published in London, in the year 1796, and received the liberal patronage of the Trade in general, not only for its novelty, but for the interesting and useful instructions contained therein. The one following was more judiciously executed, being an improvement on the first, and exhibited one of the briefest compends of instruction, both in cutting and making up work of different kinds; so that from the Master Taylor, down to the youngest apprentice it proved interesting and useful.

WE propose to follow the London copy in its most prominent features, comprising what is really beneficial, in the present state of improvement at which the trade

DEDICATION.

has arrived. We sincerely wish we may be found clear in our communications in detail, as we are conscious of the motives which have induced us to dedicate a few leisure hours to oblige our fellow labourers in the profession. It has been our great aim to lead the ignorant and unexperienced, whose want of practice, as well as opportunity, could never enable them to compass the merits of the business.

That we have strictly adhered to this, every one will find, who will take the trouble to revise our labours, and study the maxims we have laid down. It is our sincere wish that the trade may be enlightened, and human nature receive its proper embellishment, by the improvement of graceful dress, and complete fitting. We sincerely hope we have given satisfaction, under which grateful sense, we humbly dedicate our endeavours to the trade, and mankind in general, wishing to be permitted to subscribe ourselves,

Gentlemen,

Your humble Servants,

THE AUTHORS.

PREFACE.



IT is impossible for us to conjecture, how critics and judges of literature may receive this work, as this is only the second piece of its kind that has made its appearance in print, and being but superficial judges of logical disquisitions and other embellishments of diction, we shall beg leave humbly to shield ourselves under the motive of good intent. Our chief business in this undertaking is to improve the Trade, remove the obstacles that may impede its progress, and establish a criterion to avoid error, and leave a lasting monitor to all succeeding generations.

It has been by the dint of great application and much practice that we have arrived at so much knowledge in the business, which we mean to define to the Trade in the following sheets; that as every effect has its primeval cause, we shall point out such certain rules, which, if properly attended to, will prevent error in the application, and the learner will undoubtedly gain credit by fitting his customers well. It has long been the disgrace of the Taylors in America, a country which

courts and invites all mechanics to come and partake of the blessings she bestows ; where the Arts and Sciences are so liberally encouraged, and the only picture of freedom dwells ; that they have been so sparing in this particular, when formed into Societies. Seeing how other Trades are diffusing and promulgating their knowledge to the rising generations, that Clothing the human body, should remain a secret as to certainty, we are lost in astonishment, and indeed, when we discern the many figures of cutting on gentlemen's backs, as we pass along the Streets, it appears evident by the distortion and Cutting of the Garments, that the whole is erroneous and entirely without design. There are many who work by patterns, and this method of working, we are afraid, is too much followed by the Trade. There is one maxim with us, working by lengths and following nature in every existing circumstance. In which case, patterns can be of but little use to any but Slop makers, where they may have them from the smallest size to the largest Figure, upon proportionable scales. But where Nature has sported a little with the formation of a figure, a person would look quite awkward in one of those slop made coats.

To arrive at certainty, is the perfection of Art, which we hope clearly to elucidate to the satisfaction of the Trade ; therefore, we trust, no practitioner will think his time and labours lost by endeavouring to acquire a knowledge of the principles and maxims in

the following sheets; for there is no situation more awkward than that of a TAYLOR, who has cut and mutilated his own or his employer's Cloth, which will frequently be the case when a man has nothing to depend upon but the poor resource of chance or hope, that his Clothes will fit; much depends on practice, although you have now the theory before you, which we shall clearly detail in every particular circumstance.

TAYLOR'S INSTRUCTOR.

INTRODUCTION.

ONE of the first things to be acquired, in order to the improvement of arts, and the enlarging of our ideas, is for a time to step out of the beaten way of common practice ; and by a prudent reserve and charitable modesty, make such strict and judicious enquiries into the matter you would investigate, before you make any anti-conclusions to the theme in question. We are not unapprised of the objections which may be made to the bold assertion of arriving at the *Ne plus ultra*, in any art.

Science is the knowledge of things, with their causes, and the way to arrive at it, is by consequence and deduction. We must confess, our best knowledge is sometimes imperfect and fallacious ; after all our confidence, it is possible, things may be otherwise. This must be the case, when demonstrations are raised from false principles ; but when genuine effects, produced by natural rudiments, and proportionate systems appear from efficient causes, and when the object is within the

boundaries of our own intellects, we must pronounce the axiom incontrovertible. Upon these principles, we build our superstructure—these are the criteria of our propositions; and we hope the trade will assent to them as soon as they compass their meaning, and conclude the system true. The positive assertions of hypotheses, we own, may be alledged to be full of difficulty and doubt, especially in so abstruse and complex an Art, as the variegated maxims of cutting clothes, when the least error of appropriating or uniting the most trifling separation of any of the parts, would overturn the boasted system; this we may admit; but this could not happen where the practice is coincident with the theory; and both unite to display their reasonable efforts together. It is enough for us, in our theory, to know, that we possess such principles of Art, sanctioned by long experience; which we hope clearly to define, both by precept and example, and which the trade must assent to, when there is not the most distant shadow of occasion to doubt the truth of either.

WE hope our maxims will be universal; that every one may know and practice them, if they will give themselves time for application, and move modestly on till they arrive at the beautiful Temple of certainty, where their business will be concurred, as soon as premised, and executed with pleasure, ease, and satisfaction. Not subject to the opinions, whims, fancies, and foolish humours of mistaken men; but

certainly all the world over avowed by positive conclusion, clearly and distinctly perceived by every artist in the trade, and that they are pre-eminently established. If we may not be thought too sanguine in the cause we have espoused, we think we may say with truth, that a treatise of this kind has long been wanted. Why nobody has explored the unbeaten path, to its full extent, we are at a loss to say, for certainly if it were ever known, the possessor of the art suffered the secret to die with him; for nothing that we have seen has the least resemblance of that which we mean to impart to the trade.

THAT all the world may be improved, and human nature receive its pristine grace and elegance, is the principal object of our ambition; and by administering to the general good, and conferring an obligation upon industrious individuals, our ultimate end will be answered.

OF FASHION.

WHEN the boundaries of an art are properly defined, we proceed to *improve* and garnish the fancy with every grace that is excellent in that art; we conclude that science is confirmed of the truth which enlivens the imagination. And we modestly look for incidents to furnish the mind with what is most congenial to the subject, for an embellishment of *Taste*, *Fashion*, and *Elegance*. In this the eye has its correspondence with all that is neat and beautiful; it acquires a kind of habitual nicety, and answers every genuine impression which results from ocular demonstrations. The eye will soon discriminate between the elegant *Contour* and dress of a complete gentleman, and the extravagant whimsies of a City fop. These are great considerations in the articles of dress; the former being the result of grace, sensibility, and refined experience; the latter, the extravagance of folly, under the sanction of the whim of Fashion. Yet we would have all our brothers of the trade to understand us aright, in this great particular; although we may, in these sheets, have occasion to criminate the luxury of the whim, to show what

is opposite to grace and elegance, we by no means discountenance the votaries of Fashion; for we are well convinced of its use and benefits. The novelty of fashion is the nursery of trade, the propagator of the arts, and the field of employment to many. Our fancies are constantly amused by the brilliancy of every newly engendered improvement, and our minds become respondent to every change. In this gradation, our understandings are passive, till we arrive at the very summit of excess, and having there regaled ourselves upon the very top, and *Apex* of our fancies, we grow tired of the sameness of the scene, 'till the fluctuating goddess takes a retrospective view of the variegated steps by which she ascended; she then modestly returns to the medium from which we started, nearly by the same progression, and when we are seated there, and in possession of all the proportions of Symmetry that can give graceful effect to drapery, we are still unsatisfied; the mind is not at ease; still fancy leads us by the same meanders till we are seduced to the opposite extreme.

THUS are the arts encouraged, trade supported, and mankind made happy by their industry, and endeavours for the benefit of society and the general good. So much advantage does trade derive from fashion; but we must have the reader understand, that though this fickle goddess is so beneficial and necessary, she by no means holds an arbitrary station in our Theory, for it is of but little consequence to a complete Taylor, what the fashions are; his business is to fit the body,

so that no constriction or unnatural compression may be felt in any part ; that freedom without restraint, and liberty without redundancy, may be the source and theme of his practice. It matters not whether broad or narrow backs are the rage of fashion, stand-up, or fall-down collars, short or long waists, or whatever turn the cut of the skirts may take, the ultimate end is to cut and fit well ; taking care to harmonise the whim, by assimilating the parts with prudence and care, having the following maxim in view, *That the very pride of Elegance, is collective neatness.*

NEVER strive to hurry on excesses, let them move gradually as custom sanctions the prevalence ; and remember that all fashions are graceful upon well turned figures ; for observe, when coats with broad backs, long skirts, and heavy sleeves, are the *ton*, how preposterous it would be to go to the very extreme with a light small figure ; such a person, under such a circumstance, must be almost immersed in cloth. On the other extreme, how truly ridiculous did a heavy athletic man look, a few years ago, with a back to his coat not more than three inches broad, without front or skirt to cover his body or breech. So much we mean as a hint to the learner, that he may devise a happy medium on every occasion, and never exceed the dictates of reason.

IF your employer should be an over-strenuous advocate for the reigning fashion of the times, endeavour

to point out the happy medium you would aim at, and show him what is repugnant to elegance and gracefulness; if rational, it may perhaps excite him to moderation, which, when properly understood, will reflect great credit, both upon your wisdom and his practice.

NOTWITHSTANDING what we have urged here, as a bar to excesses, we must allow that fashion, in many cases, is very captivating; for things that are new, raise a kind of pleasure in the fancy, surprise as it were, the imagination, and gratify the curiosity with things it did not possess before. If it were not for the unstable fluctuation of fashions, people would be too familiar with one set of objects, and wearied out with the dull repetition of the same thing. Therefore we must allow, whatever is new, or uncommon, adds to the pleasurable variety of human taste. It serves as a kind of refreshment—yet we must return to our former opinion, that nothing strikes so forcibly upon the mind, as beauty and perfection. That is the feat of satisfaction; when we once attain that, the imagination is at rest, and the faculties are in their meridian of enjoyment, beholding the picture of ease, united with simplicity in elegance and splendor.

SECTION I.



CHAP. I.

DISSERTATION ON COATS.

WE will commence our work by proceeding to set forth the modes and maxims for most effectually initiating and completing our students, in the principal part of their business, which is in the measuring, cutting, and making of a coat. In this lays the energy of his pursuit, which, when once thoroughly possessed of, he may with great satisfaction, congratulate himself with the sentiment of being entirely at home. On the mastery of this great qualification, which has baffled the efforts of all preceding generations, until the revolution of Crowns, and new created systems moderanised our habits and dresses, to the present mode. On the proficiency of this Scientific art, depends the elements of other arts; for while human nature is dependant upon dress, for the grace and embellishment, which it bestows upon the well turned features; the complete Taylor will always hold a state of pre-eminence in

equipping and finishing the exterior drefs of a fine Gentleman ; for nothing can be more convincing, or more fully illuftrate this hypothefis, than an obfervation of any of our plays, where the gentleman puts off his real character, by affuming the garb of ruficity. This will in a great meafure fhew the neceffity of judgment in cutting, when the effect of elegance depends fo much upon the Taylor's Shears.

WE do not mean by this, to infringe upon the diftinguifhing duties of either the dancing or fencing mafter ; we wifh only to illuftrate our own particular walks ; to fhew the merits of the art, and what attainments are requifite to compafs the matter, for the improvement of our ftudents and the general good.

By ftrictly following the dictates of our theory, we hope we fhall be able to give fuch formidable reafons as will prevent, in future, the neceffity of one mafter Taylor's begging the affiftance of another to cut out his cloth. This, we believe to be a common practice in the trade, by fome men, who have been in the bufinefs, and habit of cutting for many years. What a depravity of genius, at an era when every art is ftriving with a vivid force for maftery !

THE Taylor, whose sprightly walk in life is to give grace to drapery, sits down in the forlorn hope of struggling through, without ever enquiring farther than the maxims of his father, or what his master always did before him. Such poverty of genius has always inhabited the minds of the Taylors; or they would never have continued so long in such egregious errors; which have been handed down from father to son, or from master to apprentice, without application or enquiries. Like the bell-weather of a flock (if we may be allowed the expression,) running over a fence, and all the rest following after.

It is a great truth, that many master Taylors have had clothes thrown upon their hands, to a considerable amount, besides what they may have disposed of by alterations and mutilations to less figures, that have made choice of the same fashion and colours.

SUCH circumstances as these must ever happen, while people are content to remain in ignorance. To be uninformed may be the lot of many, whose inexperience has not furnished them with opportunities to compass the matter in question. True genius is not the lot of every one, yet almost every man is sufficiently enabled by application and perseverance in certain rudiments to acquire such a knowledge in any common manufacturing business, as will clearly answer the practice of it.

LEAVE but the road of uncertainty, make one bold effort in the path of science, and by diligent and progressive steps, no doubt, you will reach the port proposed, which is the sincere desire of the authors of these sheets.

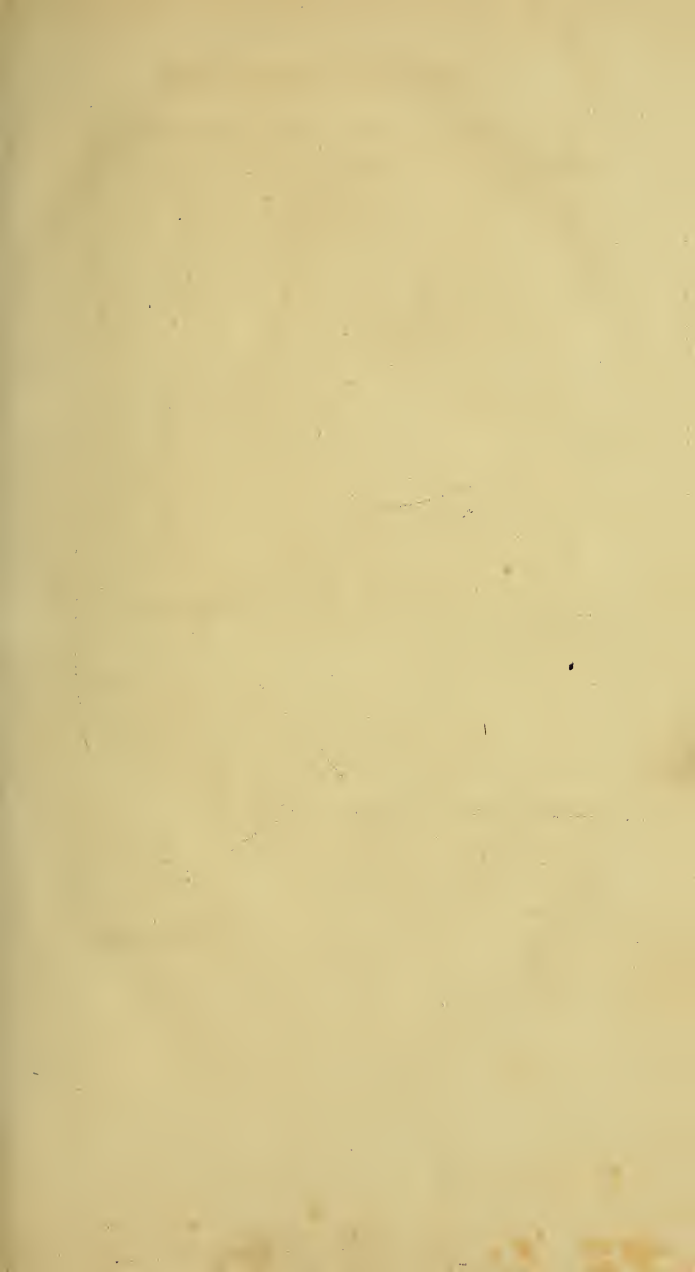
CHAP. II.

How to measure a thin gentleman for a single breasted Coat.

Plate I. Figure 1, 2, 3, 4.

PREVIOUS to our beginning this business, it may not be amiss to warn our student of the great necessity there is of his being very particular, in learning from his customer the precise length he chuses to wear his coat, how nearly he would wish to conform with the ruling fashion, and how much of the ruling fashion he would wish to imbibe, with other particulars respecting buttons, pockets, &c. for it is notorious that many garments have been returned upon the Taylor's hands, by gentlemen, who even had left them to the Taylor's own taste. The ideas of men are very different, especially in dress; for what is agreeable to some is disgusting to others; therefore the safest and most certain mode of giving satisfaction, is by a few questions touching the above particular, and then proceed to measure.

FIRST, take the length from letter *a* at the top of the shoulder of the back down to the waist, in plate I, Fig. 2, and then continue it to the bottom of the skirts



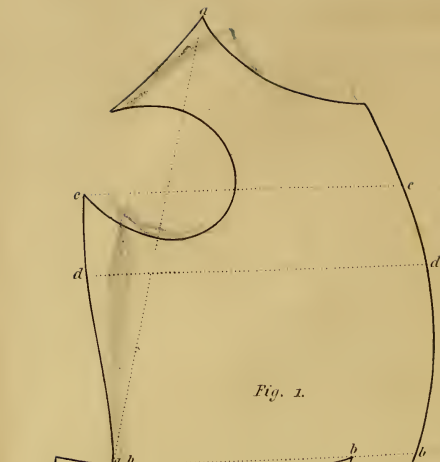


Fig. 1.



Fig. 2.

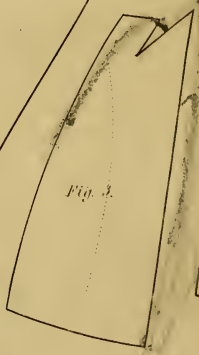
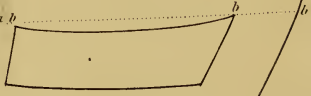


Fig. 3.

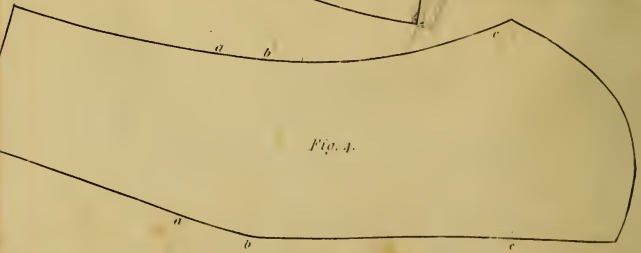


Fig. 4.

for the length ; then from the back-seam, half across the back from letter *c* to letter *b* next to the elbow at letter *b* and down to the hand, for the length of the sleeve ; afterwards around the arm at letter *c* ; then below the elbow at *b b* and around the hand, if you think proper, observe that the gentleman whom you measure holds his arm level with the shoulder, for holding it too high would make the sleeve too long ; and too low, too short. Then measure round the breast as high as possible ; next below at the belly, and also at the hip ; then measure from the scye half across the breast, which will be as much as we conceive necessary ; only with this remark, when you measure for the length of the back, mind that you nicely hit upon that mode, that most strikes your employer's fancy ; for by doing this, you will facilitate his wishes, which may give a pleasing sanction to all the rest.

AFTER you have taken and marked all your measures, be sure you keep them distinct, that two alike may not clash, in one place, and by a kind of confusion, frustrate your intentions. As for your manner of marking, use that method which is most familiar to you ; and before you leave the gentleman, set down his particular directions in your order-book, that when you have cut, finished, and sent the clothes home, should any dislike

arise, you can have recourse to your minutes taken from your customer's own mouth, which, if you have justly followed, will hold you blameless. A little caution of this kind, you will find, will prevent both anxiety and doubt, and will reflect praise on your prudence, and in the end gain both credit and respect.

CHAP. III.

Of the rules and maxims of cutting and completely making a Coat.

AS we write for the inexperienced and uninformed, it may not be amiss for us to define, and lay down a certain rule, that may be a lasting standard for all such as are unacquainted with the real quantity of cloth, necessary to make a coat; take the following method.

MEASURE, by your yard-stick, the length of your coat, as you have taken it from your measure, to which add the length of your sleeve; these two, added together, will be the precise quantity requisite, and no less will do with any propriety.

WHEN the cloth is laid before you, do not omit having recourse to the plate of the analysis of coats, and pay particular respect to the separated parts, the different modes and turnings, that they effect, for until these are made (as it were) coincident with your own ideas, the maxims we lay down, we are fearful will only serve to confuse, without answering the great end we

wish to obtain, by our labours. After you have sufficiently digested the plates, and your cloth being laid before you, mark down the back seam as the plate directs, and strike the shape of the back upon the cloth, having the same proportions as the small scale upon the plate; and take care, that it answers to your measure, in every part. Take a large back hollowing; for this will make your back-skirts lap over well, and not part behind; as is too often the case to the abuse of decency. Be a little particular, in the length of your back scye; should you make it long, see that the shoulder seam be very high, and in order to prove that, when you lay your measure from *a* to *b* on plate II, then move the measure from *a* to *a* on the shoulder, at the end of the measure for the shoulder seam, afterwards strike the mark of the back scye at the end of the measure, according to the plate, as low as you perceive it necessary; but be particular in forming the top of your back, and cut it narrower at the shoulder than at the bottom of the back scye.

THIS maxim will make your sleeve, when all is united and put together, come up well on the shoulder, from which effect you will learn, that if your back is broad, your forepart must be broad also; in which case the sleeves cannot come up to the place they should be at; for both the back and forepart will prevent it, but by cutting the back and forepart a little away and add-

ing so much to the sleeve, you may command the sleeve-seam at the shoulder top as much over the rounding of the bone as you please ; but more of this hereafter.

IN order to finish the back, down from the back scye to the hip, strike the back side-seam as smart and neat as you can, by inspection of the plate, and in the back seam be sure you do not begin to allow until you come to the appropriate place in plate I fig. 2, for should you do this, you will disorder the economy and fitting of the whole coat ; for by hollowing the back too much under the shoulder, you will force it to kick up and hang loose at the hip, which is a very great error. To find the true length of the waist, it must be cut from the back-slit (or what is called the tack over) longer, by three inches, than the skirt. Another, and more certain rule is, to make your waist of the same length as your measure from the middle of the back to the elbow, if the fashion should create a broader mode of making the backs at the hip, than at present, and our student should not have considered this, till practice has availed him of the methods more prompt to his purpose, let him mark out his more narrow back, that he has been used to with all its leading features, and add to the side-seam as much as is required ;—but remember, that whatever is added to the back, must be taken from the forepart, and this will answer his purpose.

Observe well the cut and *contour* of the plate, mind the prominency and round of the breast; for on this will depend the graceful appearance and elegance of the cut, which is so requisite to display the beauty and perfection of human nature. To make the forepart answer to the back, lay it upon the forepart, and extend your measure across from letter *d* to letter *d*, and laying one half of your back to the extent of your measure, mark the width of the forepart at the side-seam, with a proper allowance for outlet, and also leave room before for paring and making up the edge, with allowance for the projections at the end of the button holes; then across for the belly, and make it somewhat less in proportion to the measure, as smartness and neatness may require, and mark your skirt agreeable to the plate, and the same length as the back skirt make the forepart skirt.

NOTWITHSTANDING we have said so much about the cutting, measuring, and making of a coat, yet we have a few most essential points further to propound to our pupil, which he will find worth serious consideration, and relative to his purpose, as they are the very leading features which symmetry has prescribed to facilitate and harmonise the whole.

IN the first place, we must inform him that however essential every component part is to the unity of the thing intended, yet there are a few prevailing causes which give energy to the theme, and which cannot be

dispensed with, if the coat is designed to fit neat, because it must be clever in every part. Observe the following rule, that it is a maxim in our profession, that the top of the coat commands the bottom ; for instance, should you want to find where the square must be marked, this must be done by laying your measure on a yardstick or any thing you have that is long enough, first at the shoulder point at *a* and at letter *a* at the hip, and carry it down the skirt to the bottom ; and where it falls at the extreme end of the skirt, there you must mark your place for your square.

WHEN you plait up your coat, you must mind that the forepart plaits are exactly in the line from the top of the shoulder to the hip. From hence we infer, that the shoulder point always rules your square, and always will, let the rage of fashion be ever so preposterous. Notwithstanding any alteration, as long or short waists, narrow or broad backs, this rule is still just, and cannot be dispensed with, in any elegant coat whatever. The next real point, to complete the cutting, consists in the symmetry of the forepart, which is perfectly described in plate I. fig. 1, which leaves a just proportion, and must be the same in proportion and similitude, when marked and cut upon your cloth ; and be sure that you note the following maxim ; that is, to lay a line from the hip to the shoulder point, at the gorget ; we mean the point at *a* and at *a* at the hip ; for be assured,

that, if these three leading points are not in a direct line, it will baffle your most strenuous exertions ever to make the coat fit. This maxim we do affirm to be indispensable ; and, though but little known by the trade, we give it as its choicest criterion, and of much more value to our pupil than any rule in the whole branch of the business. After your forepart is fashioned in the manner we have mentioned, and those other rules strictly adhered to, you must be careful that your back and forepart are both of the same length, and in order to ascertain this matter truly, lay your back and forepart together at the hip, and hold them fast, and also lay hold of the corner of the back at the top of the neck, or shoulder seam, and try how high you can make it reach without straining, and then strike your shoulder across for your forepart shoulder seam ; that point of the back that is the shoulder point at the gorge must fall just in the middle of the shoulder seam. This will always be a judicious guide for all thin people. When the foreparts and backs are in this train, be assured, that the very power of distortion is destroyed, your practice being commensurate with symmetry ; and error is totally divested of its power.

Now, that we have taken so much pains to show how effect is to be given to drapery, and the body graced by the influence of the forepart, we do not establish this as an invariable rule to suit the fancy of all ;

some customers, remarkable for gravity, would rather think this mode of cutting an imperfection, than a pleasing and useful maxim; therefore allowance must be made for circumstances, as well as the age, and avocation of different people. Clothes that would grace the first officer of a regiment, would be very unfuitable for the back of a porter. Observe the requisites of fitting the body, and you may follow the whim and sport of fashion to every extreme. The ornament of lapells, or other modes of making, will never impede the system of which we treat, if you only follow the dictates of our theory; for be assured, that good fitting is the ornament of fashion, and gives a most graceful lustre to every thing attending it.

WITH respect to the sleeves, we must still urge the necessity of strictly attending to the cut and manner of the plate. Take care you do not hollow your foreseam, otherwise than as we direct. Cut the sleeve all down the foreseam in the manner of fig. 4, plate I, a little hollow from the top to the bend of the arm; very full and nearely streight; and then, from the hollow down to the hand, according to the example of the letters in the plate; full, and to fall off agreeably; this will prevent the cocking up, so much complained of. Though this mode of practice may differ from your own, and create a surprize at the novelty of the method, you may rest assured it is a paradox not more strange than true.

IN order more fully to demonstrate this matter to our learner, we would have him turn his thoughts to the patent sleeves, which are made without seams, either before or behind ; and which are known to fit neater and much better than those that are made with the usual seams. For further instructions on this subject, see plate II, fig. 4. Have an eye to the men's sewing of the sleeve, which must be held on from *c* to *a*, in order to form an elbow, observe that they lock in the inside at the top four inches down, and take it in full an inch less than the outside ; this maxim will compel it to fit the scye, and not appear too full under the arm, as is done too frequently, by the generality of the trade. This has long been a most egregious error, and has escaped the observation of many, whose studious application has given them great credit in this particular, as well as their brilliant efforts in many other parts of the business, towards the attainment of the matter we are treating of, which has ever distinguished them by the neatness of their work.

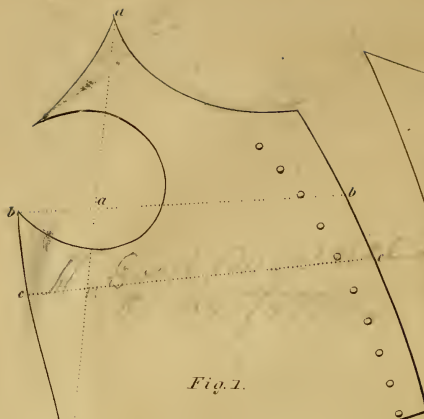


Fig. 1.

Fig. 2.

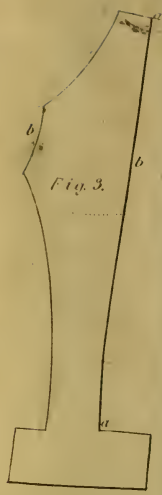


Fig. 3.

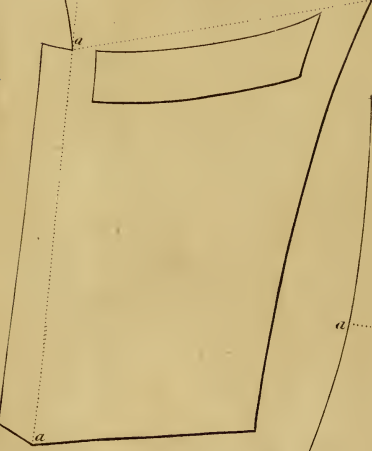


Fig. 4.

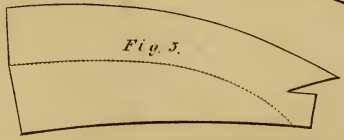


Fig. 5.

CHAP. IV.

Of the making a Gentleman's Straight Frock Coat.

OUR previous observations, on the coat for a thin man, will answer every purpose of the subject in question, a frock coat will require an additional width to the back in that place upon the hips, between the buttons, and likewise a little wider skirt for the back. In cases where persons are long in the neck, to remedy this, add to the forepart *before*, a full inch more than to another kind of coat, that it may button over the top button with much ease, that no restraint or construction may in any wise impede the free extension of the arm. As to the difficulty resulting from the flying off of the frock, we cannot be too particular in requiring our pupil to attend to the cut of the shoulder, which should not be thrown so far back, by an inch and a half, as in a plain coat. The forepart must be cut as straight as possible, and square across at the bottom. With regard to the sleeves, collar, &c. proceed according to our directions for a thin man. Take notice that, in cutting the forepart *before*, you do not cut it shorter than behind; this is a terrible fault, and but too often

exposed to our sight. In order to make a frock hang straight, you must take from the skirt at the bottom behind, three inches to make it shorter behind than before; this done, it will hang straight and level all round, to the satisfaction of the wearer.

WHEN you clear out your scye, you will remember that clearing it from the closing side seam, and round before, according to custom, is erroneous. This we have thoroughly proved from various examples in altering the mistakes of inexperienced Taylors. In our theory, clearing the scye will be unnecessary if you adhere to the plates and the maxims treated of. If you cut by the rules laid down, and find an occasion to enlarge your scye, begin very near the shoulder and clear it about half way round, and not under the arm, as is the common practice. Be careful in this particular, for any irregular cutting away before will totally dispossess the coat of its other genuine merits; for by cutting the scye too forward you will force it into wrinkles under the arm. The more you wound the forepart, the larger the scye will be, and of course the forepart will fly to the flesh, the sleeve will force the forepart, and with the additional weight of the coat, it is dragged to set close at the armhole, to the prejudice of ease, and every convenience, and sometimes will chafe the skin under the arm. In order to facilitate this nice piece of business, and rectify any errors of this sort, first take in the sleeve behind, the inside only, leave the the outside as large as it was before, only lock in the

inside to fit the scye. By this means, your coat will receive a peculiar advantage, and give ease and freedom to the wearer, and in case a coat cannot be worn through lightness or constriction in the scye, let out the shoulder (for we hope you will always lay in there as well as at the fide seam) as this is the place from whence relief must be had ; you must not let out the fide seam at the top, as is usually done ; this will only make it wider in the breast, nor will letting out the sleeve and fide-seam answer any purpose towards easing the coat, without letting out the shoulder also ; all cramped scyes must have ease from the shoulder and sleeve ; for when the shoulder is peculiarly fleshy and round, it demands extraordinary room.

IN those cases, some say the scye is too little under the arm, but this is wrong, for the cause is before, at the foreseam of the sleeve, and round the top of the shoulder ; in consequence of which it would be well to help the hand of inexperience by urging the necessity of laying in the shoulder forepart where the grievance lies ; for in any constriction, letting out the fore arm, and giving room on the shoulder, will effect a radical cure. The reason of our hint for laying in the fide seam is to provide you with the means, on any occasion, of making the coat wider upon the breast, either from the fault of your own practice, or by rectifying the errors of others.

If you would wish to prove the prescribed maxims by experience, make an effort upon your own coat. Take and baste it at the shoulder about one inch double, on both sides, then put it on, and you will soon find the effect it has upon you, and how different from the same quantity being basted at the side seam. It requires much judgment to alter clothes well, that have been spoiled in the cutting, and it is with regret we speak it, that too many of this description have come within the scope of our practice.

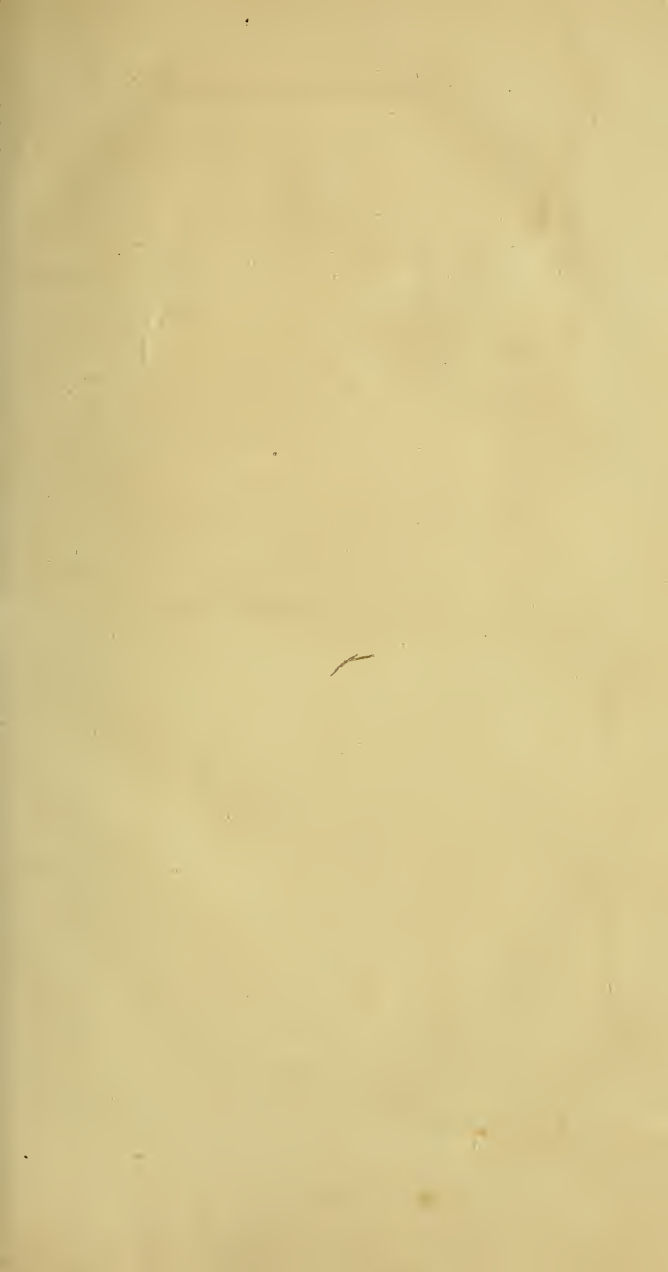
CHAP. V.

Of Great Coats.

HAVING treated largely upon different kinds of coats, we hope, by this time, our student begins to possess the power of discrimination, and a few hints will now serve to lead him, to the height of proficiency, where he may have leisure to contemplate the perplexity of his pursuits, and with a grateful recollection of his own application, rejoice that perseverance has at length brought him to the summit of all his wishes.

A great coat is the very exterior of all dress, and, though it is only used against the inclemency of the weather, has notwithstanding its merits as well as conveniencies; for whatever merit your inner dress may possess, if there be the least defect in the furtout, your whole body will be deformed; therefore we suggest the following observations as a guide, to the pupil's genius, and beg he may not slight the advice, as it is of more value than he may imagine; for we know that too many of the trade wantonly sport with the rules for making an outside coat. In the first place, we would advise them to cut it full and large, to answer the intended

purpose, the forepart must be somewhat larger in the shoulder than a strait coat, to facilitate its putting on ; the sleeve is to be cut three quarters of an inch wider in the double than a small coat : and also longer by an inch, and easier in every part by three quarters of an inch, both in the back, across the shoulder, and in the width of the body. There is often a great error in not being cut long enough before ; this is chiefly owing to the cloth going straight across at the bottom, and not taking off three inches at the wheelpiece ; and begin cutting from that point to the front to nothing ; this method will make the coat hang neat and straight round the bottom. Cut the shoulder tolerable straight, else the coat will fly off before ; for all great coats should hang neat and straight down before, and with width to lap over, which is their intended purpose, and the end is answered.



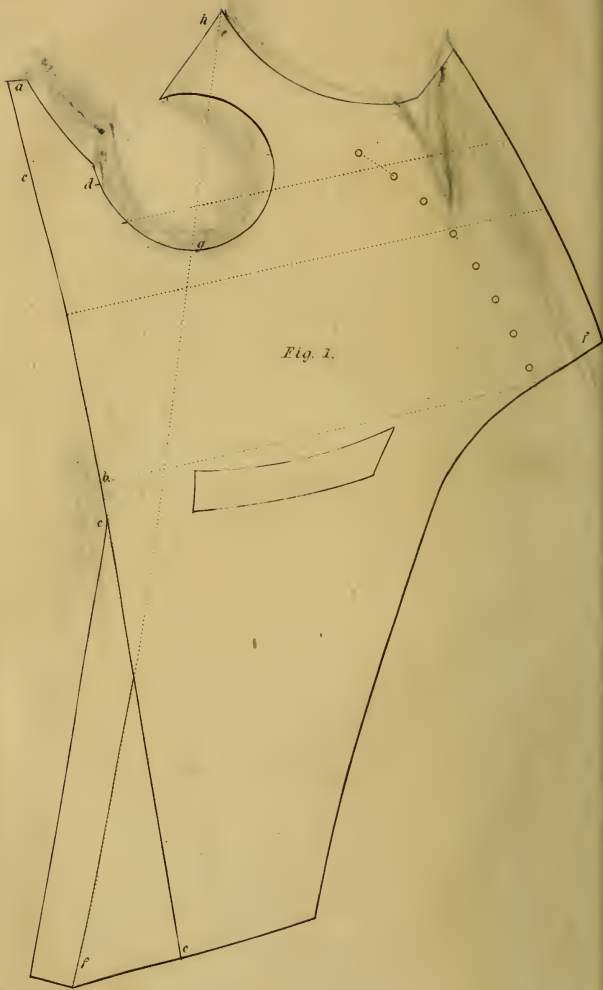


Fig. 2.

SECTION II.

CHAP. VI.

Theory of cutting a Coat without Seams, &c.

THERE is not any garment in the whole system that needs more diligent application than this one. Almost every other garment can be considerably improved, if necessary, by alteration; but if the proportion of the parts of this coat be disorganised, it destroys the whole symmetry of the garment, and leaves no room for amendment. This invention made its appearance in France, at the city of Paris, and met with merited approbation, among the nobility, not only for its novelty, but for the mechanical skill displayed in its invention; although the author did not bring it to the perfection that it has since arrived at, yet, from its originality, it reflects the highest credit and praise upon the inventor. In our description the learner must pay the greatest attention to the symmetry in plate III, and digest

with care and application its parts, and lines, as this is one of the truest models that can be drawn of it in miniature. You begin by measuring your customer in the manner heretofore described, for coats, with the addition of two measures more, which is rarely followed, but which cannot be dispensed with, in this garment. The first is from the top of your back at letter *a*, down to the lower point of your back scye, the next is from the top of your back at the seam, extending over the shoulder down to the length your customer wants his lapell, as at letter *f* on the plate—in beginning to cut your cloth, keep the crease of the cloth on the side opposite to you, so that you may have the breast of the coat next to you in drawing your lines. Begin by marking the top of your back at letter *a*, extending your measure to letter *b* at the waist, then down to letter *e* at the bottom, making a deduction of a quarter of an inch for your sweep in the wheelpiece, at the back skirts, and it must have the exact length measured for. You will readily perceive the propriety of this precaution by the examination of your plate, where you will find at the bottom that your wheelpiece takes in about half of your forepart plain—you proceed by extending your measure half across the back, viz. from the seam at letter *e* to your breadth across at letter *d*—then down from the top of your back at letter *a*, to the lower point of your back scye at the mark ;—this will be a certain criterion for the pitch of your sleeve, and a sure method of ascertaining the height of your side seam. The next thing you have to attend to, is drawing a

straight line across your cloth at fig. 2, letter *b*, at the waist, and the same at the top of the side-seam; then you may begin and form your scye, as described in the plate, observing the lowering of the scye below the line, and pitching the shoulder-strap well back, as this, if not attended to, might materially hurt the spring of the forepart, and make it wrinkle across the back and scye. Be very particular in ascertaining whether your back and forepart be of a length to correspond to each other. In order to find this out, you must lay your back over on the double at the side-seam, then bring the top of the back to the shoulder-seam at letter *b*, very little above the centre of the shoulder-seam; this you will find an invariable rule, if you keep by the form of the scye, as described in the plate. You next proceed by drawing a straight line, nearly from what you might calculate to be the half breadth between the hip button, opposite letter *b* at the waist, and let your line run straight upwards through the centre of the scye at letter *g*, then to letter *e* at the shoulder point of the gorge; next from the waist down to the length of your coat, and exactly what this line falls at, is the mark for the rise of the forepart plaits; these points being truly attended in the plate, it will undoubtedly prevent the power of any false system from injuring the exact symmetry of your coat.

THERE is nothing particular, but what has been discussed in the preceding pages, on the analysis of coats. Only remember to have your wheelpiece neatly fine

drawn, as it will always extend to within two or three inches of the top at the cut-in for the back at letter *c*, the back skirt must likewise be fine drawn or stotted across at letter *b*, after this is neatly executed, plait it up according to letter *b* at the bottom of the wheel-piece. We cannot dismiss this Chapter without recommending the patent sleeve, without fore or back-arm seam, as they look extremely well in all coats they are worn in, if neatly cut according to fig. 4, in plate II. This coat, if well examined, will excite the curiosity of the spectator, and will gain great applause from your customers, which will be more satisfactory, *though not more useful*, than the price.

Fig. 3.



Fig. 1.



Fig. 5.



Fig. 2.

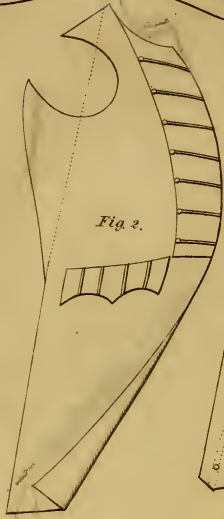


Fig. 4.

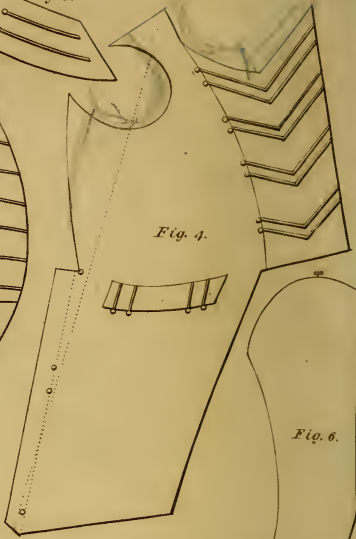


Fig. 6.

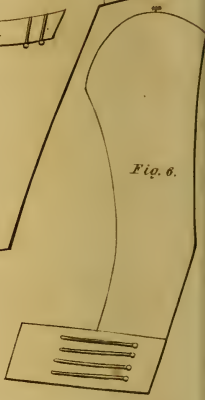


Fig. 9.

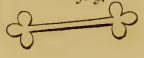


Fig. 8.

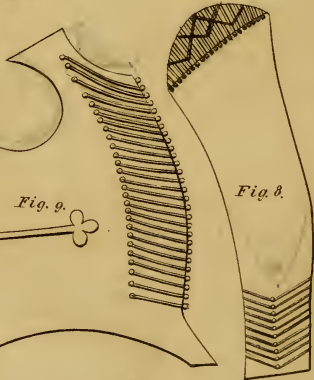


Fig. 10.



Fig. 7.

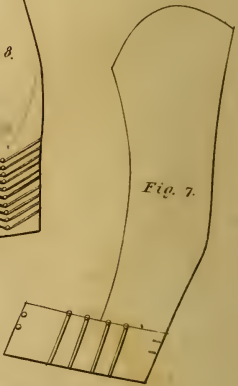
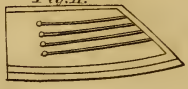


Fig. 11.



CHAP. VII.

*Of Regimentals, viz. Full dress Infantry, Navy, and Light
Dragoons, with practical observations.*

REGIMENTALS, the wonder of the last century, comes next under our observations; and, from the noise and bustle made about them, claims a share in our animadversions. But, suffice it to say, there is nothing in the cutting of those articles of dress, but what is clearly solved, and judiciously illustrated, in the preceding chapters on body coats. Notwithstanding this is the case, we frequently hear remarks made respecting them, by a few who imagine they have arrived at the *summum bonum*, of this part of the trade, and that all others are as unacquainted therewith as if it was not part of the business. It is true there are some Taylors, who never have had an opportunity of either making up garments of this kind themselves, or seeing it done by others; and it is for the benefit of such we write. We proceed by observing that the theory in measuring and fitting the body is exactly the same as other clothes; there is nothing which makes the distinction, but the

different shapes, contours, and facings, which form Regimental Order. We know it has been the *puff* of the day, that a selection of a few in each city, should be allotted to execute the principal part of this business, from what cause we know not ; perhaps it is owing to their acquaintance with the different uniforms now in use, more than their superior talents in carrying on the business. The various uniforms belonging to the crown is so diversified, that it would be puerile to dissent upon all of them, as all regiments, from the guards down to the first Regiment, has different forms and facings, according to the procedure and regulations of the war department, all regular troops are subordinate to this restriction ; we know also, that the volunteers, and yeomanry of the united Kingdoms, who have to clothe themselves independent of government, are also under the same restrictions to government, inasmuch as they must always have their uniform to comport with those established by the crown, yet they have a great advantage in the diversity of cloth, and the mechanical skill displayed on the facings and trimmings of many of the corps, which enables some of them to outvie the regulars, in the brilliancy of appearance, an instance of this kind may be here adduced. The lawyers' corps of Light Dragoons, in the city of Dublin, is not surpassed in point of military grandeur by any under the crown, and Henry Dundas, has adopted an imitation thereof, in the light Dragoons belonging to

the standing army. You will find a just resemblance of this uniform in plate IV. fig. 9, the facings are scarlet, upon blue, with three rows of convex buttons, and the lace extending on both sides as far back as the plate describes, the lace is silver, and the rounding is done with a broader kind, staytape breadth, the buttons close together on the breast, and the round lace only leaving a light of the blue to be seen, which upon the whole makes it appear most rich and brilliant. There are three rows put round the lower part of the collar, the broad in the centre, and the round along each side, leaving a light of the blue and scarlet edging, the cuffs at the top, has in like manner three rows, and at the vents must be a large bullet-hole left at the tacking, and four at the fore corners of the back, between the shoulders, and laced down the side seam with the broad lace, then forming itself into a loop below the hip button, such as is described on the plate, there is no welt sewed on at the pocket, but one row of the broad lace round the slit as described in plate IV. fig. 9. forming itself into a crow's foot (as it is called) and the buttons on the sleeve put on as shown on plate IV. fig. 8. The v made with the same lace as is on the breast—there is four rows on the collar, extending as far back in gradation as those on the forepart, the wing on the shoulder is braided silver and gold lace, with a mixed fringe, and this is put on so as to occasionally take off, and their place supplied with the ring plate ones, which are made after the manner of a horse's curb, but broader in the plate. This looks very elegant

when properly fixed on, and makes the exact shape of the shoulder joint. This uniform as to its originality took its rise from the Hessians, hence the name of Huffar jackets. This uniform is in our military arrangement, and has received the war department sanction, whereas before this, all dragoons used to wear long skirted coats, as in plate IV. fig. 2. only with this difference of v holes laced on the sleeves, and forepart skirts down from the hip button to within five inches of the bottom ; there is generally six holes formed on each, three and three together, and a button in the centre of each hole ; these coats are still in vogue, and worn by the heavy dragoons ; the only difference between heavy and light dragoons, arises from the one continuing the long skirts, and the other adopting the Huffar jackets. Nothing more need be remarked with respect to the heavy dragoons' coats, only keep in mind the form of the cut in plate IV. fig. 2. of infantry coats, as they must be cut exactly after this form, for the only thing that makes the difference is in the manner of the lacings and facings ; and in making the skirt turn-ups, there must be an inch of space between the v holes and them ; this being attended to, and the measurements truly taken, you will find handles enough for exercising your ideas and genius upon. There is one or two practical remarks which may not be amiss before we close on this subject ;—first, the lace that is put on for the dragoons, is flat on one side, and round or convex on

the side that appears, it must be sewed on in mechanical order, for in the making there is great diversity for the journeyman to exercise his abilities on, as the cutting is the easiest, so the workman has ten chances to one, over his employer, to show his judgment. As we have said before there is nothing in those garments out of the theory and practice of the business, in fitting the body, only in the different order of the shapes, which is truly miniaturised in the plate at fig. 2. But the man who marks it off with taste, and makes it up with judgment, gives proof to his employer that more depends upon him in the execution, than on the merits of cutting it. And when left to the discrimination of the beholders, or customer, will gain applause to the shop, and carrier on of the trade, where the garment was made. It is always a good plan for employers to keep good workmen, as much depends upon them.

HAVING finished our observations on the regimentals worn by heavy and light dragoons, we proceed to define the infantry coats, as displayed in plate IV. figures 2, 3, 5, and 7. which is a true model of an infantry officer's coat, from a general to the lowest subaltern. Notwithstanding there are many marks of distinction in the facings, buttonholes, and number of buttons, &c. For instance, a general's full dress uniform is scarlet, faced with blue, ten holes on the lapell, and two on the collar, of gold vellum lace, four buttons and holes on the sleeve, or rather cuffs, according to fig. 7. in plate IV.

These holes are put on at a regular distance from each other, as on the breast, not in pairs, there is no holes on the flaps of a general's coat; just put on four buttons in such a manner that the half of the button will appear below the edge of the flap. The buttons are always round, topped with the crown and mace thereon. There are seldom more than two buttons on the plaits, in as much as the turn-ups cover the place where the buttons should be placed. But there are now many of the field officers' coats made with the single plait, consequently must have the four buttons, and the back cut in the same manner as a plain coat. The casing runs across from the edge of the forepart to the back fly, and the corners are fastened together with a hook and eye. His Royal Highness the Duke of York, was the first who brought up the fashion of single plaits, and of the casing being the same as the turn-ups, hence arose the fashion of single plaits in plain coats, and answers every purpose when a coat is cut with a good spring, for all extra work should be avoided when it comports with reason and common sense. We hope that the observations that have been made will enable our students to proceed in due form, should they have any of the general officers' coats to make. The lower rank of field officers, commissioned, and non-commissioned officers' coats, are made in the same shape as in plate IV. fig. 2. (with the exception of the general's) and even sometimes they

will choose them made in this manner, without the skirts being broad and hooked over, the lace on officers' coats below the rank of general is silver, and only eight buttons on the breast, a colonel and major wears two epaulets, the lieutenant colonel, and adjutant one. Remember that in all military officers' coats, put the pocket inside, whether the lining be cassimere, white silk, or ratinet, and let it be all of a piece, as this looks much neater than having the back and forepart skirt lined separate. Take care that you put the bridle for fastening the epaulet, within two inches of the shoulder seam, so that the cushion may produce the desired effect, in the manly appearance, of being broad between the shoulders, for as all military characters ought to have a straight and lively appearance. The epaulets put on in this manner, makes the back appear as if there was a hollow between the shoulders, and adds much to the appearance of the figure. Let the four small buttons on the collar be put on a range very little above the collar, we mean the buttons for the gorget plate, which hangs opposite the chest, and the two for the epaulets. One remark it will be proper to make in this place, that as all those coats has no back fly, nor any forepart plait, so of course the turn-ups of the back and forepart proceed from nothing at the top, down to the bottom, and form themselves as on plate IV. fig. 2, and 5. and on the centre of the \times which they form there is a horn or star placed very little larger than a

button. We recommend the lapells to be fastened down to the forepart, although we see a great many regimentals, where the lapells are left loose, but this ought never to be the case, except in undress coats on engineers' full dress, and all navy coats, &c. But we recommend all infantry coats that has lace only on the lapells to be fastened to the forepart and the buttons sewed through. Keep in mind continually the form of the fig. 2. in plate IV. where you will perceive that the gorge is cut short, and the backs something broader than in other coats between the shoulders, the shoulder seam shorter than customary, and the strap not so far back, yet still adhering to the system heretofore laid down, so that the top may command the bottom in all cases, let the figure be what it may. We now come to investigate engineers' coats, as they ought not to be neglected in general order. The principle upon which they are generally made is nearly similar to the navy officers' coats, the collar is a stand-up and embroidered with gold twist, and four button holes, two on each end of the collar, done in a frame, the lapells are done in like manner on the turn-up side. Their undress generally has wrought holes with twist, the colour of the cloth which is blue, there is nothing particular in the cut of these coats, only attend to the form described in fig. 4. plate IV. after the embroidery is on there is little more trouble in making this than a plain coat.

WE shall wind up our remarks upon regimentals, by describing the manner of cutting and making up navy officers' uniforms, which is illustrated in plate IV. fig. 1, 4, and 6. After having taken the measure, proceed according to the theory heretofore described, only cut your gorget pretty short, so that the collar will just hook at the seam, when made up. The back is cut with a fly as other coats, and the forepart cut full; your lapells must be exactly the form as on plate IV. fig. 4. there must be herring bone holes on both sides of the lapells: the navy buttons have their motto to designate their meaning, such as the anchor, &c. The holes on the flaps and sleeves exactly as portrayed upon the plates, and the buttons below the flaps, and eight buttons on the plaits, the two on the centre the same distance from each other as those on the plaits. Many of those coats are made with fall-down collars, and the holes made on the fall-down; but this is generally an undress, and cannot with propriety be called so complete a uniform. Let those garments be put into the hands of the best workmen, as there is a large scope for exercising their abilities, both in marking off, and in working the notched holes. There is much depends on the skill and judgment of the workman; for those coats, when badly made up, look truly ridiculous, and cast an odium on both master and man; whereas if they are done completely, they will justify the employer's talents, and those whose lot it is to make them up.

Thus have we given a few practical and theoretical hints upon the different kinds of regimentals now in vogue, and even traced by analogy, the systems of those which differ but very little from the figures delineated on the plate. It would be useless to have given more forms of regimentals, when those will answer every purpose which are set forth as exact models of their kind, yet will still leave room for the student to exercise his genius upon in his day and generation. And as we have paved the way, we hope those who are to follow, upon the new beaten road, will improve upon our boasted system, and leave to posterity still farther proof, that nothing has arrived at that state of perfection, but it can be improved.

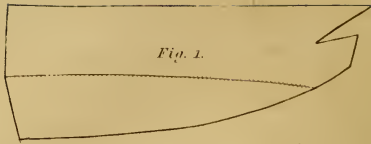


Fig. 1.

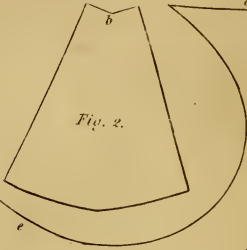
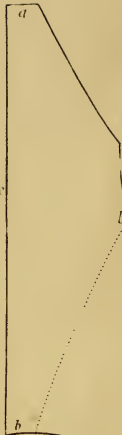


Fig. 2.

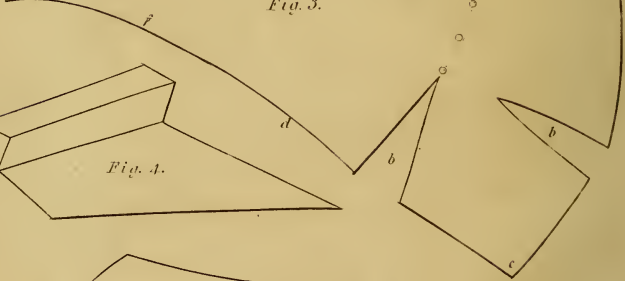


Fig. 3.

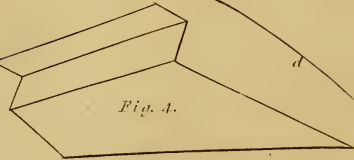


Fig. 4.

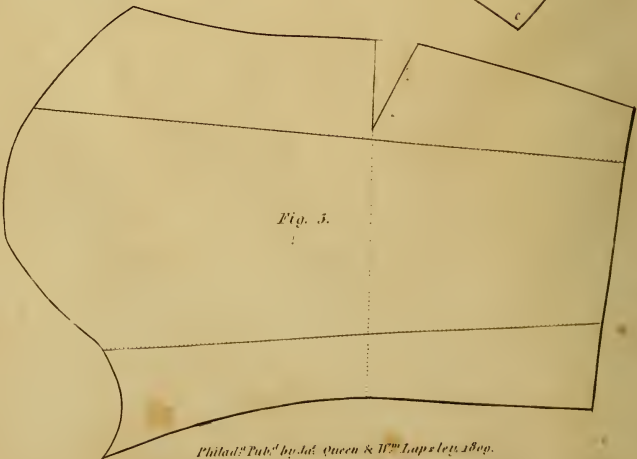


Fig. 5.

CHAP. VIII.

Of Ladies' Habits.

THE respect due to the female character and taste, makes it a difficult task to censure, in a suitable manner, the many incongruities that have been proposed for the adoption of some of our brethren of the profession. It is a common rule, to let the ladies have their own way ; but, in receiving their orders, the taylor must be cautious never to deviate from the established maxims of trade, merely to please their fancy. Although, he may, with propriety, follow the whim of fashion to a certain extent. As nature has been so bountiful in the formation of the ladies, would it not be consistent with reason, if their dresses were made coincident with nature, to display the elegance of their charms. The field of fashion, without going beyond the bounds of symmetry, is sufficiently extensive. The ladies have no occasion to rack their fancies to invent such preposterous distortions : extravagance has no similitude to true elegance.

At present there are many methods of making riding habits, very different from the regular plan. For instance: some make the waist too long, others make it too short; by some, the buttons were set too far apart, not extending up to the shoulders with a gradual rounding, which has a very graceful appearance. There are many other incongruities, that make it impossible for a workman, with his utmost diligence, to present that beautiful garment to public inspection, in the manner it deserves.

FORMERLY, when the prevalent fashion was in unison with the shape of the body, it was a distinguishing merit in a taylor, to be able, neatly to equip a lady, in these beautiful habiliments; how much more so must it be now, when the rage of fashion has deprived us of the guide which nature pointed out as a direction for fitting the body? What will you think, when informed of the difference and quick transition of fashion, in this particular, between 1791 and 1797? In the former, the waist was cut full nine inches long, from under the arm down to the hip, which by the by, is the proper way of measuring for the length of the waist. In the latter, we have seen, and were frequently obliged to cut them only three inches long, for figures of exactly the same size.

Habit-making is a neat and delicate part of the profession, understood but by few; it is seldom practised by, and is unknown to thousands of taylor's. Although, by many it may be thought to be part of the taylor's trade, yet they are quite dissimilar; and are as different as that of a cabinet-maker and carpenter. It is a pity, however, that it is not better understood by taylor's; so that apprentices might become acquainted with it; and the knowledge of it more generally diffused, as well in the country as in cities. Ladies, then, upon an emergency, might be supplied without difficulty.— We mention this, because we have known taylor's, both in town and country, who, rather than confess that they were ignorant of habit-making, have undertaken this part of the business for families; by which they spoiled the materials, and lost their custom; this happened to taylor's, who in other matters had given general satisfaction, for a considerable length of time. No man can justly be blamed for what he does not know. It is truly a pity that country taylor's have not paid more attention to the nature of habit-making; it is certainly the most pleasing part of the business. For what, in any situation, can so strongly recommend them to custom and establishment as the favorable opinion of the ladies? Besides, when we consider the improvement of dress and manners, the increase of population, riches, and industry, in this country within the last twenty years, it becomes not only a matter of merit, but of necessity, for every man

to become acquainted with the most minute parts of his business; his own interest as well as the luxury and profusion of the times, require it. Fifty habits are now made for one, in comparison with the time we formerly mentioned. You will scarcely see a farmer's daughter in market, or a mechanic's daughter parading through the street, who has not one; which makes the knowledge of it the more essential. For the benefit of such of our brethren as are not well versed in this part of the business, we will use our best endeavours to ground them thoroughly in every particular, that may tend to their improvement; so that what they lack in practice, they may make up by diligently adhering to the rules we have laid down, and illustrated in the plates. We hope that every inquirer after knowledge will avail himself of this opportunity.

For the method of measuring for a habit and skirt, take the following rule: first measure from under the arm, at letter *e*, on plate V. at the scye, down about five inches; this you must calculate yourself according to the size of the lady you are measuring, to letter *f*, as the plate directs; there mark the measure, which will be the length of the body. Next down the back, from

the top at letter *a*, to letter *b*, at the bottom, then across for the breadth of the back, from the crease or back seam, at letter *e*, then down to the elbow and hand. Remember to mark the measure; you next measure round the body, as high as possible under the arms, and round the waist; you next measure round the arm at the sleeve top, as far in upon the body as you can for the scye, and afterwards as many times round the arm as you please, or think proper, and mark the measure; but be very correct about the wrist, as it must fit neat and close. With respect to the breast, be delicate and judicious, and take measure half across with a proper allowance for the rising prominence; measure likewise from the top of the back at letter *a*, over the shoulder and down to the lower part of the breast, or lapell, at letter *c*, or to what the lady may wish, and the ruling fashion may dictate. For the length of the skirt or petticoat, measure from where you left off at the side, at letter *f*, down to the ground, and any other part you may think proper; you will do well to measure from the top of the back, to the lower point of the back scye, at letter *b*, as these are the leading features in measuring. These measurements being taken, if it be required of you, how much cloth will answer the purpose, you will be able to ascertain the question, by the following rules:—

IF the lady requires a half breadth in the skirt, which is very seldom the case now, you must take full three times the length of your skirt. If you should be at a loss to know how to put in the half breadth, observe our remarks on cutting out habits. First, take your cloth, measure it, and cut off the skirt. Then lay the cloth straight, and cut the edges where the seams are to be, in a straight line; then open your piece to the full width, and cut your pocket-holes about six inches from the seam, in the breadth that is for the front; then lay a line from the top of the pocket-holes, about six inches from the seam, in the half breadth before, that is the front; let it fall in a straight line, from the top of the pocket holes to the front, about two inches to make a hollowing; and cut it off, that it may not be too thick and clumsy in the binding; after your seams are sewed, you will find it wider behind, than before, by twelve inches, which the skirts require, that are cut according to this plan; in plaiting up to the measure of the waist, remember to lay all your plaits towards the hip, from the front, and leave about five inches plain before, for the apron. In the breadth behind, lay the plaits in such a way, from the side or hips, that the inside at the back may appear like the outside of the front; that is, from the hips, to the back seam; let the plaits meet each other at the back seam. This will

give an agreeable fulness to the skirt behind, and add much to the effect. Should you want half a breadth more, take the remaining part of your cloth, and split it in two, and put the pieces on each side; then the petticoat will hang properly, and the seams will not be out of their places. Remember, at the same time, to make your pocket-holes twelve inches within the half breadth; that is, six inches on each side as before; and after it is plaited up, put a band of cloth, two or three inches wide, at the top of the skirts before, if it be not fastened to the inside of the waistcoat.

IN cutting the jacket part of the habit, be a little circumspect; as some taste and genius are required. First, mark your back according to the plate; and take full as large a back hollowing, as the plate directs; for in this part, we see errors made by many of our principal habit-makers. For want of sufficient hollowing in the back, the jacket skirts part behind, but if you follow the directions of the plate, you will find that the back will lap over behind, when the seams are sewed up.

YET, this hollowing of the back must be done with discretion; for, should you do it to excess, you would spoil the whole habit, and make it wrinkle, both across the back, and under the arms—(an error which is too frequently seen.) Take care also, to cut the top of your backs wide on the shoulders; for women are, in that part, proportionably larger than men all the way up to the back of the neck; this may be owing to having less restraint upon this part than men.

TAKE notice in cutting your forepart, to mark the turn of the plate in the breast, and the pieces that are to be cut out, in the front of the breast, and at the bottom; which are to be fine drawn up again; this answers for ease in the breast.

THE back rows of buttons may be sewed on, beginning at the finedraw below, but keeping this maxim in view, that the change, or mutability of fashion will make no alteration, in the rule for fitting the body.

Of cutting the back and forepart, to answer each other, so as to fit with ease and elegance.

IN order to make the back and forepart in unison ; lay the hips of the back to the hips of the forepart, and stretch the back up as high as you can, and at the top of the back, there mark your forepart-shoulder across, and cut it to the likeness of the plate ; with an agreeable round in the breast ; as a single breasted is entirely the fashion. Consider that a round prominent breast, is the chief ornament, and give your side-seams the same shape as the plate ; likewise your skirts, according to the direction given in it for the fore parts are to be fastened at letter *b*, and *f*, across ; and when you have it on, you will find it correspond to the back skirt ; which you may cut to tack over like the back of a coat ; or in one piece like the back of childrens' jackets ; you will find that adhering to the form of your forepart skirts, they will all fall agreeably, and easily together—those considerations you will find worthy of your closest application. Many of the maxims are but slightly understood ; in respect to joining the back and forepart together. Avoid the old trite custom of bearing on either the front part, or back ; it is a

pity that many respectable workmen will still follow this method of bearing on the front in one place, and the back in another ; without considering that bearing on the forepart, draws the back : and bearing on the back, draws the forepart. Though this may not be seen, in the first instance, as pressing will shrink the parts for a time ; but in a few days' wear these disagreeable effects will appear ; and the lady, instead of receiving an addition to her shape, will appear crooked and deformed.

By all means sew the seams straight ; this is the genuine way, and is so evident, that every practitioner must be convinced of it, if he considers the habit-bodies without any seams at all ; there the cloth is strait, without bearing on ; and so must all habits be, with seams ; or they will never fit the body.

OBSERVE the figure before you, of the habit without seams, will answer every purpose ; only look to the line where the side seam ought to be, and it will teach you how the back ought to be cut ; and you must remember a back, if it has seams, hollows it. Be careful how you cut the shoulder of the forepart ; for should you cut it too short, though but one quarter of an inch, your habit will wrinkle across the back, and under the arm. Some ladies, through a protuberance in front, require a long forepart, which will baffle any thing but great

experience, and must be provided against. Respecting the sleeves, you must have recourse to the method described in the plate, for the form, and draw it in at the bend of the arm, at fig. 5. cutting the piece out, as the ladies, through custom, have a manner of holding their arms more bending than men, which requires the sleeves to be more crooked and bent.—Also, in making the sleeves, remember to let a piece of outlet be in the under seam, hollowing it according to the plate, below the sleeve top.—Be sure you hollow it according to the plate at the top; which, when put on, will clear that superfluity under the arms, which is an egregious fault, too often exposed to our view; clear your arm hole, before you put in your sleeves—you may hold the body easy on the sleeve, from the side seam, nearly to the fore-arm seam; and from it, you may keep the sleeve top full on the body, to within three inches of the shoulder seam. Your scye ought to be lined all round the body, as by the friction against the body, if the lady wear whale-bone vests, in the inside, under her habit waistcoat, it will soon wear out under the arms. Cut your collar, as is shewn in the plate, on the bottom edge; make a straight sleeve, without forearm or back-arm seam, as they look much neater. We recommend the skirts to be rantered on, as the body will by this means, look much neater in the wearing.

ALSO note, if you cut your back too wide across the shoulders, it disconcerts the fitting upon the top, or neck of the shoulders, and will keep the sleeve from coming up, and make a disagreeable appearance in the sleeve lining all the way down from the top, which is frequently complained of. The way to prevent any faults in this place is to cut the back narrow across the shoulder, and give more sleeve to answer this; for when ever you take from one place, you must add to another, to make out the scye. We have, in the course of our practice, met with habits, in which the seams of the sleeves turned upon the top of the arm, and the same habit was returned after alteration several times, with the same fault, till we saw it, and found that the defect arose from not pitching the sleeve right. The proper way of doing this, is to take the habit body, lay it with one hand, two inches from the hip; and the other hand in the arm hole, and where it folds, which may be about two inches from the shoulder seam, from which place double it under the arm; then double it before from the back scye, and where the mark falls—there let the seams of your sleeves be put, as that is the right way of dividing the arm-hole in four parts, which will cause the sleeves to hang true without twisting.

Habits continued.

BEFORE we leave the subject of habits, it is necessary to inform our readers, that, according to the newer mode of cutting the skirts, the general pattern for a middle sized lady is three yards, and those of a larger size, from three and a quarter to three and a half: but this you can calculate according to the size. From the middle size, and any under this standard you can calculate;—say, from two and half, to two and seven eighths. It must be cloth of the superfine breadth, as in the skirts we have just mentioned; but there is not near as much cloth put in. Remember also, that the length of your skirt must be cut about a quarter of a yard in, on the double of the cloth at the top, and run on a straight line down to nothing at the bottom, on the selvage edge of the cloth. Your front piece, or apron, may be cut at the top of the waist, and down at the bottom; you need not exceed a quarter of a yard in the breadth of your piece; this will be very little more than the half breadth of your cloth on the double, and not half that above;—this will make it full enough; and is a great saving of the cloth, which some years ago was

only uselessly plaited up. Your front piece need not have more than two small plaits on each hip, and your back piece plaited to the measure.

THE patent habit deserves some notice here, as this very delicate article of dress is not an invention of our school; though we are taking upon us the authority of explaining it to the world. We own we are possessed of the enlightened ideas of the author, and wish to bestow him every praise that is due to his great abilities in the trade, as well as his condescension in permitting us to publish it in this work. The inventor, Mr. James Key, late of Bond-street, born, we are told, at Atherstone in Warwickshire, a man of great attention and application in business, for his very remarkable abilities in the discovery, and execution of the plan of making clothes and habits, without the accustomed seams in the sleeves, received his majesty's royal letters patent. It is not for this invention alone, that our tribute of praise is so liberally bestowed; but his abilities in every other branch of the trade.—We have made it our business to obtain ladies' habits, and clothes of every sort, made by him; which we have unripped, to discover his plan: which we must own, has given us great satisfaction. We think him a complete master of his

shears, and a great ornament to the trade. This habit without seams, we have most minutely examined; and have given it our best attention: and we sincerely think the invention deserves every notice that the warmth of penegyric can bestow upon it, as it not only is admirable in the execution, but beneficial in the plan. The very fine materials of which the habit clothes are made, required the strictest attention, and must have been judiciously considered by the patentee, for the dye of many of the most delicate colours is easily taken out by pressing with a hot iron, upon the seams, which too frequently changes the colour of the cloth, and has a disagreeable appearance. This is totally done away by making the body of one entire piece, and cutting the sleeve so ingeniously, that both front, and back arm seams are eradicated, and only one seam in the under part, imperceptible to either wearer or observer. We think seams should always be dispensed with, where they are more prejudicial than useful. When ladies' habit sleeves are made without the usual seams, it prevents a great deal of dust from lodging upon them; which, if caught by a shower of rain, can never have that clean appearance that the inside of the arm has without the seams. It may be brushed the same as any other part of the body, even in gentlemen's coats, how frequently do we see disagreeable appearances, in the

inside seams, by means of powder and dust; and in which, by constant and severe brushing, the sewing is soon worn out and the sleeves become faded and shabby, before the grain is worn off the rest of the coat. From the abovementioned premises, the patent riding-habit has a great advantage, not only for the merit of cutting and making the sleeves, but also on account of the body being made without seams in either side or back. To prove that our opinions are not singular, we have cut them and seen them on the back of hundreds. Hence singular advantages will result to those mantua-makers, who may think proper to consult the construction we shall adduce for the execution of this nice point of practice, which will be quite as beneficial to them as to professed habit makers.

THERE is but little difference between making habits of fine broad cloth and cotton. The same maxims must be used in either, a strict observance must be paid to the plate and its delineations, and when you have paid a due application to the manner of it, and are about to cut out one of those habits without seams in the back, or side; first lay the stuff on the double straight down from the part where the back seam is usually made, cut the waist to the point down before as the manner of the

plate, and hollow it in the same manner from the bottom of the back behind, accross to the forepart front. The scheme of this maxim will be obvious, when we inform our readers, that when the shoulders are closed together, it will drag up before, which makes an essential difference between cutting one of this sort and one with seams; for if our learner will but try, he will find from the top of the back at letter *a*, to the top of the shoulder at letter *d*, to be of the same length, as it is from the bottom of the back at letter *b*, and the bottom of the forepart at letter *d*, that when the shoulders are seamed together, the body part will be straight and level all round, and the forepart no longer than the back. These are the symptoms that produce such admirable effects, giving room in every part, yet compels the back and body to fit clean and clear from wrinkles when put on. Which even astonishes experienced tailors, though grounded in the cause that effects it. We have been told of many who have imagined it was an easy point of practice, to make one of those patent habit bodies: who for want of experience have failed as often as they attempted it, and ever will until they follow the rules laid here. Such practitioners will make a better shift with habits that are made with seams, for they have the advantage of alterations, to bring them to a point; in the other, the merit is in the cutting, and must

be achieved in the first effort with a little consideration of seaming the parts properly together; but we hope those, and the others with seams, are both so clear in detail and definition in the figures in the plates, that with a little trouble, no professor in the business will be long in ignorance, either about the practice of habits, or any other part of the business. We further observe, that in making habits with seams, one of the principal errors arises from the different parts not working well together. For to manage this matter properly, the back seam must be cut, as a kind of elasticity will result from the cloth, it must almost be the same as the foreparts, though cut in a different direction, and which, if not duly attended to, will cause one part not to work with another, owing chiefly to uniting places that are cut elastic, with such as will not stretch. This results from the ignorance of those who seam them together, there are men, who are so confident of themselves as to bear the back on in some places, and the fore part in others, and affirm, that the body requires it. But we totally contradict this assertion, as they must not be fulling on in any parts, nothing can be so puerile or childish, as to bear on in one part of the cloth more than in another, they must be all equal. To suppose that fulling any

part of a riding habit, could assist the fitting of it, is a most ridiculous conceit, and unworthy the attention of any man, possessed of the least scientific knowledge in the trade. We hope shortly to see all such monstrous incongruities banished, and that the strong will assist the weak, that a kind of sympathetic union may be maintained in all shops, throughout the continent.

THE previous observations with the plates and the figures, and the separated parts, we hope will be sufficient to define the whole method of making the patent riding habit, and the sleeves which is most particular in the practice will appear so plain to every taylor by the drawings, that a further detail will be unnecessary. His own reason will tell him that the back arm seams are marked on the cloth, that a surplus both of inside and outside must be left on the cloth, in the width to make as much as will turn round the arm, and that in bending after the sleeve is nicked and narrow in the hollow part of the arm, and the cloth is turned down to the under side, and a gusset piece is cut out of the inside and finished to complete the bend of the arm, the same of the outside; these observations might be reduced to practice by the student, before his first attempt, if he is doubtful, by cutting a piece of paper the figure of a sleeve,

and turning it down as above observed. Remember to take that measure from the top of the back at letter *a*, to letter *b*, where you think your side seams at the top, or lower point of the back scye, this is a chief and principal point.

Some practical observations on Ladies' Coats for riding on various occasions, either in post-chaise or phaeton.

THOSE dresses worn by some ladies instead of habits, are going out of fashion, by ladies of distinction; and the substitute for some time back, has been police coats, made of cloth for that purpose; or velvet which looks very rich, more so when it is not tabby but silk. Of those there is various shapes and diversities.—But they are principally executed by mantua makers: and so much the better for the trade, as we need not covet any thing in their garments, but in the woolen line. Of those coats there is much neatness attached to them when they are well executed, and require as much delicacy in cutting and making as a habit. There is this principal difference, that the skirt of a levett coat, is fastened to the body, and the jacket and petticoat or skirt of the riding habit, are too abstract matters. But the same kind of turns which are in those coats are in habits, and entirely of the same nature. You must bind the front breadth from the

pocket holes, with a band to button on the body before, and plait it in the band, the same as the habit petticoat, with any other addition of ornament which fancy or fashion may dictate. With respect to ladies' phaeton coats, this is made after the manner of a coachman's box coat, with as many deceptions and capes. The only difficulty attending those coats, is in fitting the capes, which is done in the following manner—when your shoulders are seamed and the sides, open the coat and mark if the back and forepart shoulder lie flat upon the board; if so, then cut the capes exactly as the shape of the neck, and when they are put on they will fit snug and easy. This is as easy and as general a plan as we can recommend for the uninformed adepts; but they can use their own genius in other plans if they please, observe that the back and forepart must be both of a length at the top; the back must not drop in the middle of the shoulder seam, but like the neck of a waistcoat, come close up before, but at the bottom before, it must be three inches longer than the back behind, or it will not hang well; for when on it will be shorter before than behind. The like must be a coachman's box coat in every part, stand-up collars are sometimes made to ladies' coats, but box coats have falldown, and both must be cut long in the neck, to be plaited on under the capes at the sewing of the collar to give ease upon the shoulders. An inexperienced man in those matters would hardly suppose the quantity of

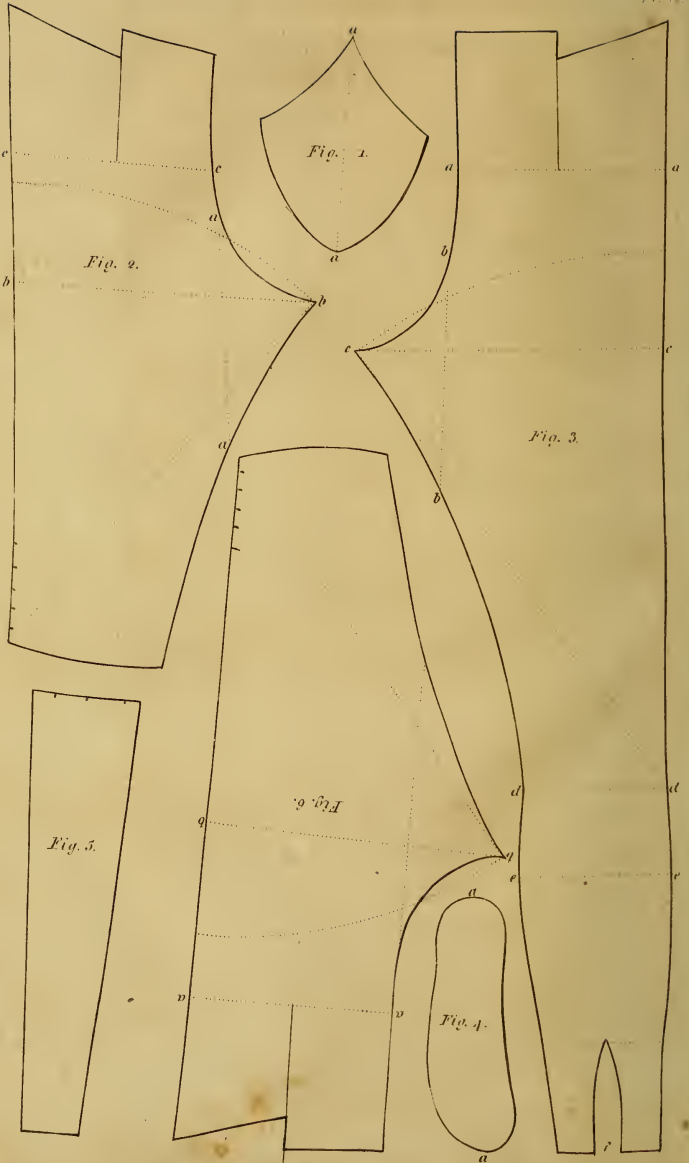
cloth made use of in these capes; we have known four yards and an half (of narrow cloth) in one of them. Having led our pupil thus far, we hope he will be able now to find his way without assistance, if his application is but adequate to the desire we have had to serve him, he will, we make no doubt, cut a very brilliant figure in the trade, after he has had a little practice to justify our maxims.

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CHAP. VIII.

*On the theory and practice of single and double milled Cassimere
Breeches and Pantaloon.*

THE manner of measuring for this sort of breeches differs not from the practice in the other kinds, described in the following pages. First, take the measure from the hip bone, making allowance for the rise the party wants them, measuring exactly from the hip bone down below the cap of the knee, and as much longer as the prevailing fashion may suggest; then measure tight below the knee, and above at the slit, and the thick part of the thigh; next round the waistband;—if you are measuring a tall man, remember he will take too yards of cassimere for breeches, and for pantaloons two yards and an half will be sufficient, and no less. The cassimere must be cut in the following manner, and marked:—first, double the cloth, with the wrong side towards you, and take care that the grain of the wool runs right down the thigh.—First, mark



the pockets and falldown, (commonly called the spare seam,) and having laid your measure at the mark on the hip, extend your measure down to the cap of the knee, and mark your knee straight across, and the same at the small below the knee; and let it be rather shorter towards the leg seam, than it is from the side seam at the bottom of the slit;—then mark up the legseam according to your measure, with this proviso, that you make a little allowance, if your customer wants them easy, in single milled cassimere you may cut them to the measure, as it is more elastic than the double milled, they should be cut a quarter of an inch less on the double, if they be wanted to fit tight to the thigh, as this kind of cassimere is adequate to it, if they are wanted tight.

If this direction be not strictly followed, the breeches will be most assuredly too wide, and the customer may be greatly disappointed, should articles of this sort be wanted upon an emergency. Besides, misfitting causes doubt, and may reflect discredit on the ability of the taylor, on future occasions.

WHEN you have proceeded thus far, according to the instructions; lay your measure up the thigh, and be sure you give stride enough, and a long spare seam. It is necessary to possess a certain rule for pitching the fork. Take the following: cut your falldown straight, till you come within four inches of the fork or bottom, then turn up gradually, until you make a shape similar to that described in the plate; and let your leg

seam be six inches shorter than your side seam. Measure from the hip-bone to the knee-bone, opposite the cap, and to have this the more exact : remember, there is always a little bone like a knob, that you will feel when measuring, and be sure to mark the measure there as below, for the length. This rule is but little known by the trade in general : it is only by chance that they may hit it ; perhaps it is often owing to the goodness of pattern, which is too much followed by men at the taylor's business, for want of a methodical system to direct them. Therefore we aver, that this rule is indispensibly necessary to our theory and practice ; and by following it, you will be certain of having given a plenty of stride-room. Take care that your side seam be neat and hollow, and the leg seam as straight as possible. When this is done, cut your inside round upon the seat, and leave no fullness in it for the waistband ; as, by cutting your seat round at the top, you will find sufficient fullness. In order to strike your seat of a proper length, lay the measure from the fork to the hip, and run the measure to the end of the seat, keeping your finger on the measure at the fork ; after this is done, cut your fittings, such as waistbands, kneebands, and top bits ; and in making, if the breeches be short, let the upper side be beared on the garter ; if they are required long, it is necessary that the under side be not hollowed in the ham, but cut straight across, and the garter sewed on full for the rise of the calf of the leg, and on the upper side the garter sewed on plain. In putting on your waistbands be sure they are put forward before

the spare seam at the centre of the falldown about half an inch, after they are made up. When that is accomplished, and the buttons on, button and stretch them so that they will fit the falldown ; then mark the fall buttons about a quarter of an inch above the button hole of the fall upon the waistband ; so that neatness and compactness may visibly appear to every observer. Nothing has a worse effect than a loose falldown ; it has an indelicate appearance, which decency cannot warrant.

On Cassimere Pantaloons, continued.

THE same measurement that has been submitted for consideration on cassimere breeches, either double or single milled, will answer for the parts above, with this additional measuring; that is, from the small under the cap of the knee to the rise or centre of the calf of the leg, and down the small or ankle, and round the small and calf of the leg, and also the small under the knee, at your lengths run a line across as described in the plate on pantaloons, according to the letters.

THE practice in making the above garments, is strictly to adhere to the measure, carefully taken in every respect, as is directed in the observations already made. In regular business, where no advantage or dependence is to be had, either from elasticity or deduction; whatever is contrary to fair and exact measuring in those kinds of materials, will only tend to bewilder the pupil, and lead him from the rectitude of his judgment. Take notice what sort of stuff the person you are measuring has on; that you err not on account of the closeness and thickness of the one sort, or the lightness or thinness of the others; so that you can make it a

little narrower or broader than the measure, as circumstances and occasions vary; for our learner must observe that if we are ever so plain in our instructions, there will be room enough left for him to exercise his own genius. This will ever be the case, whilst there is a difference betwixt saying and doing, or betwixt description and execution. We need not enter into a disquisition concerning any sort of cloth; it is no use to make puerile or unnecessary observations, when we have matters of more serious consideration to treat of. Imbost cassimere ought to be taken notice of in this place. Let the measurements be the same as described in the milled cassimere, adhering to the length and width, neither adding nor diminishing; only in cutting, keep them in your mind, such as milled cassimere, and in cutting the out and inside be careful to let the stripes run down the thigh, that they may not appear crooked, when put on; and take care that your waistbands be forwarded, as before observed on the method of making them. There will need no further comment; only we wish you to have recourse to the observations already made on cassimere breeches and pantaloons.

*Some practical observations on the theory and practice of
making Breeches.*

THIS delicate and necessary appendage to dress requires more comment than the trade would, perhaps, really imagine; chiefly owing to the great variety of materials of which they are composed, according to the choice and approbation of various customers, and that they may suit the purposes variously intended; for in all the changes and various textures of the different stuffs to be used for this article, there is a great difference both in the theory and practice, as will appear in their separate lineaments, owing to the elasticity of some, the thickness of others, and the repulsion of the rest. Therefore, till our pupil has examined, and properly digested this matter, and availed himself of the different rules for measuring and marking, and, as it were, screwed them to his memory, as we hope he will carefully read and follow the precepts hereunto annexed; as they will prove to him, in every respect, a perfect justification of the precepts we have imparted.

CHAP. X.

*How to measure a gentleman for Breeches of any kind, and
Pantaloons, with, and without feet.*

FIRST, lay the end of your measure up above the hip bone, as high as your customer wishes, and mark it at the hip bone; then extend the measure down the thigh to the bottom of the cap of the knee, and as much lower as the rage of fashion may suggest, or the party require it.

SECONDLY, measure the thigh tight; also, measure very tight below the cap of the knee, and in the hollow part above the knee. Next measure the thick part, as tight as possible—afterwards round the small part of the body, for the length of the waistband, which is all that is necessary. Only if they want them to rise on the calf of the leg, you must measure the rise at the place they want them; and, in like manner, give the same addition in the length. The same measurements will answer for pantaloons above; only you must mark the

measure below the knee and at the calf, then down to the small : or, if they should want them with feet, you must extend it down to the sole of the shoe. This being done, in order to ascertain exactly how to measure for the tongue and foot, measure the exact length of the sole ; then extend the measure round the heel to the hollow at the instep, and mark it exactly, then as many times round the foot as you may think proper ; afterwards round the angle or small of the leg, and at the calf of the leg. For further particulars, we refer you to the plate on the analysis of pantaloons with feet.

*Some practical observations on cutting and making Breeches
and Pantaloon.*

WHEN at your cutting board, if it be any of the stocking web piece you have before you, observe the following directions, which entirely result from the stretch or elasticity that there is in all frame work of this nature, and require that the breeches or pantaloon be three inches longer than the measure. But more of this hereafter. First, lay your measure up about three or four inches above the mark at the hip upon the piece; then extend it to the intended place at the knee, and mark it for cutting an inch and a half longer; then for the width, lay on the measure at the bottom of the knee, and mark for cutting one inch narrower than the measure, and the same in gradation all the way up, on the double of the stuff—and be sure to abide by the following example for the stride. First, make a deep falldown, and having laid your finger upon the measure at the bottom of the knee, with the other hand extend the measure to the fork, and make the stride within three inches of the length of the measure below the

mark at the hip bone ; this will give proper room for the elasticity of the materials, and ease and freedom to the wearer.

NEXT cut your leg seam very straight, and not hollow, as is the common practice ; and let the side-seams be likewise straight from the knee slit up to within four inches of the hip, and let it spring out gradually about an inch and a quarter at the top.

WHEN this is done, and your breeches are put on, you will find them fit neat and the ribs run straight down : there is an egregious fault, too often exposed to public notice.—We often see ribs go twisting across the thigh, and make them look crooked, and inwardly inclining, which seems to the spectator (according to the old vulgar adage) as if people were ill shaped or knap-kneed. When you have got so far, cut your seat at the joining of the waistband, less by two inches on the double ; and in making, let your kneeband be cut exact, lining it with a piece of brown holland to the size. If they rise on the calf of the leg, cut the band one inch longer than your measure, and bear it on the ham in the under side, which need not be hollowed in the ham, as for short small-clothes. And in all stocking web, silk or any other kind, you may bear on the waistband according to the length of them both—and not the breeches ; which though diametrically opposite to the common practice in use for cassimere and all other

kinds, yet we do affirm is positively right, and the true way, proved and justified by long experience, and which will convince every practitioner on his first essay, if he only strictly adhere to the rule here laid down, for making all kind of frame work.

How to cut Silk frame Breeches.

THE method of cutting and measuring, as before described, will answer in every respect for worsted ones, with this exception, that as there is more elasticity in silk than in worsted, the true method is to cut them a quarter or half an inch less in every place of the width; this you must know from your book of directions, if your customer wants them tight, and three quarters of an inch longer in length.—Note, if they are to be lined, be sure you only fasten them to the waistband, round the top, and leave them quite loose at the knees. But we think drawers are preferable, as they can be washed occasionally; but if the gentleman must have linings, take the following instructions. Cut them one inch longer than the measure, and half an inch wider on the double. Give them plenty of stride up within one inch of the top of the measure, after the same mode as was pursued in cutting the outside, and cut the seat two inches wider than the outside, and the same in the length of your seat-seam, that they may answer the elasticity of the outside. Cotton linings or drawers

require more stride than any other kind in use, owing to the repulsion and contraction of the stuff. If the lining be of dimity, follow the same rule as in cutting cotton ones, which will answer the intended purpose.

Rules for cutting frame Breeches for a corpulent man.

FIRST, when you measure a fat man, lay your measure in the hollow of the groin, by the side of the falldown, and extend it to the inside of the knee, and to the bottom of the legseam, and mark the measure.

SECONDLY, lay it as near the hip bone as possible, and down the string or the buckle on the outside; having made your mark, you need not be ashamed of measuring this part twice; because there is no more difficulty in fitting a fat man than a thin one, if you be correct in taking his dimensions; but be very circumspect, in taking your front lengths; be sure your measure goes up to the hollow under the belly, and not above; as you can make a regular allowance in the stuff for the rise, but there are few men of this shape, who desire them high, as they find them uneasy in wearing, owing to the weight and pressure of the belly, which bears them down from the hip.

THIRDLY, for ascertaining the width, take your girth below the knee, above at the slit, and as far up the thigh as possible.

FOURTHLY, observe well the length of the waistband, as there are frequently gross errors committed in this particular. Having proceeded so far, and your piece being laid before you, and the object of the person before you, lay on your measure to the different parts, and observe, when cutting (if silk or stocking worsted) that the length of the stride must be the full length of the measure from the groin under the belly to the bottom of the legseam; and also take notice, that in laying on your measure, you will find in the making that the sides of the legseam must be one inch longer than the bottom of the knee slit. This is necessary in all fat men's breeches. In the next place, be sure to give them a good rising on the hip, as much as four inches higher than the top of the falldown; and in taking the length of the seat, lay your measure on the point of the fork at the top or legseam, and keep your finger on that, whilst you extend it to the hip; afterwards run it up to the seatseam one inch longer to the hip than it is from the fork; which, if strictly attended to, will fully accomplish the intent of this awkward and difficult part of the business.

On the theory and practice of black Florentine.

AS these materials are of a very delicate nature, we hope the taylor will be particularly cautious, as an error committed in articles of great value may be very distressing, especially if they be returned, the loss might be serious to a poor tradesman. But to proceed:— First measure from the hip bone, making allowance above, for the rise; and from thence down to below the cap of the knee, as described in former directions; then measure very tight round the knee.—Your next measure above at the slit must be easy: and also measure easy at the thick of the thigh, and round the small of the body for the waistband. Observe also, that if it be a tall man you are measuring, two yards and a quarter of florentine will be required, and a quarter more, if they should rise very high.

Practical directions to be observed at the Cutting Board.

FIRST, lay your measure upon your piece, and mark out the place at the top for your pocket holes; then mark down your falldown to the fork, and in marking this, bring it straight down within four inches of the top of the legseam, from which place turn up gradually according to the plate, and with regularity up to the fork for the stride.—Afterwards, mark your legseam as straight as possible to the knee; then from the side seam, make them a quarter of an inch wider on the double of the stuff than the measure all the way up the thigh; for there is no stretch or elasticity in florentine. Therefore, you can place no dependence on any thing but exactness of the precepts proposed to facilitate your practice. Please to observe, that you must allow for the turning of the seams, as silk must be sewed in this manner, to prevent ravelling on the edges. Turn in the knee under the facing of black glazed linen, so also in the falldown and the top of the pockets, commonly called the frogmouths, you may face with any thing black. When you are ready for your holes, lay a single bar, and sew it to the breeches, and gum them until

they are in the inside of the hole, which will enable you to cut all your holes at once without the fear of ravelling. If you cannot get gum, a little piece of bees' wax will answer the end. But take care and put but little on, as it is of a greasy nature. You must rub it on the exact length of the hole, with an iron, lapping it on the side, and melting the wax upon it, and holding the double, rub it along the mark.

IF you have pieces, backstitch them, and afterwards stitch them down. Observe further, when you put your waistband on, be sure that you pitch them longer before than behind, so that your waistband from the hip to the front may be the longer half; this will cause your fall to fit well; for an error in this part will incommode the fitting of the breeches as much as bad cutting. Also take care that your men do not follow the usual practice of putting on the waistband, (which they call half and half;) all silk breeches must be made very forward in the waistband, half an inch after they are made up before the falldown seam, else they will never fit completely, when buttoned. Observe likewise, when you put on the fall buttons, to set them on a quarter of an inch higher than the holes would seem to require upon the waistband; the buttons to the pockets should be a little on the stretch. With respect to the buttons on the knees, let them all stand below the holes at the bottom, and draw in the knee a little from the slit; likewise the upper side on the band over the knee.—Be careful that you do not press them on the outside, as it will injure the lustre of

the filk. And further observe, in the pitch of the pockets, that they lay forward, not straight down the thigh, but projecting to the legseam. Put on all your stays, sew all your seams, and baste them with the greatest exactness; this is a matter of great consequence to learners, for if in this state, they are exact to the measure, and the other directions be strictly observed, be assured they will fit the party with much nicety, and give perfect satisfaction.

THERE are two descriptions of men whom young practitioners find it very difficult to fit, either in filk or florentine. The one is he that is proportionate in all parts; and the other is he that is swag-bellied, very tall with thin thighs. As the taylor can have no resource for the least error in the stretch or elasticity of the stuff, the latter object, with the thin thighs, is more intolerable than the former. But in order to fit him, take the following rule: cut out the breeches by the previous rule, respecting the thighs; those answering your measurements, strike your falldown, then your pockets, and from the place opposite the fork, add a gradual spring up to the hip, and as far above as they rise; and having, by your measure, made a regular line, straight up to the top of the hip from a line at the thigh, you will find how much you have gained by your spring; and if it is not so much, it must be full two inches, and the same in cutting the under side, and allow full three inches to be beared upon the waistband. Do not make your seat so round as that of a fat man; for remember it

is not so much in the seat (in this case) that the room is wanted, but round the body, the place of the waistband. Let the legseam be very tight, if the stuff should be ribbed, let the ribs go straight down the thighs. When you make breeches of Weymouth silk, proceed in the same manner as is directed for florentine.

Of Weymouth Silk Breeches.

THE beautiful texture of this very elegant article, so fashionable at present for breeches, requires that it be handled with great delicacy, and never used but upon the most captivating figures, where grace is adorned with symmetry and manly dignity; in this case it gives brilliancy an additional lustre. The theory and practice of making this sort of breeches are exactly the same as are observed for the florentine. It will therefore, be necessary for the learner to make himself particularly acquainted with those instructions, both as to measurement and the turning in of the seams, and every other direction there recommended. With respect to the stripes or ribs, if any there be, make use of the same rules. This, if properly executed, will attract a smile of approbation from your employer, which will enhance the satisfaction in your own breast, and be more pleasing than all the gratification that can be derived from flattery, where praise is not due.

Practical observations on cutting and making Nankeen.

NEXT to cassimere, we think nankeens for the summer wear the most agreeable, and perhaps for riding, at that season, superior to any thing in use. They are cool, easy, and neat; and when they are too much tinged with the toil of the day, they are easily washed, and made as neat and clean as when just brought from the hands of the taylor. Young practitioners must observe, that this kind of garment must be cut to the measure, if there have not been previous orders, to cut them easy. Sew all the seams with thread of that colour, as silk generally turns yellow by the repetition of washing. Make the button holes of twist. We would also advise you to stay them with Irish linen, to prevent them from bursting on account of the thinness of the stuff. This will strengthen them much, and diminish their tendency to laceration or tearing. By turning your attention to the plate, you can see the different modifications in cutting the pantaloons with feet; showing the turning of the tongue and soles. If strictly attended to, as to the manner of measuring already given in the

preceeding observations, you will find it will suffice as a direction for all those articles, which at present are in so much demand in this country.

WE recommend the patent English nankeen, not only on account of the fineness of its texture, but the deepness and durability of the colour, which will stand the process of washing as well as that of India.

N

*Some practical observations on buff cassimere Breeches and
Pantaloons—and on the method of cutting them to fit neatly.*

FIRST, when you have measured according to the directions already given, cut them a quarter of an inch less on the double, as before observed on cutting single milled cassimere. If breeches, the knee-bands must be proportionate to the width. With respect to other maxims requisite for the execution of these materials, we shall refer our readers to the rudiments ascertained in the chapter of cassimere, before mentiond. We cannot pass over this, without taking some notice of the neatness of cassimere, when appropriated to the above purpose. Breeches of this kind have a very neat appearance, and in our opinion, have a decided preference to leather, both on account of their lightness and ease. It is true, that leather is more durable; but then the former hold their superiority in regard to ease and convenience, and will wash like a shirt. This gives them value in the estimation of every gentleman who prefers their easy elasticity to the *buckram* confinement of any sort of leather.

CHAP. XI.

Plain and striped hair Plush, or hair Shag, as it is commonly called.

THE many feasonable advantages resulting to the wearer from this excellent article in respect of neatness, cleanness, and durability, astonishes us much, that the wearing of it is not more fashionable; as it has every convenience that could excite a preference to the purchaser or wearer. Indeed there may be some objections to it from the practice in use; for we really think the trade are more unskilful and farther from proficiency in this appendage of dress, than in any thing we observe in the streets. This may be owing to its difuse, it being too seldom met with in practice to secure a proper attention; for in the making of breeches of plush, the imagination seems to have entirely bid adieu to consistency, and reason in the trade. Nothing ever was more erroneous than a great deal of the practice in use. In order to cut them well, first, having taken your measurements, as in former examples, and the materials

being before you, take great care that you cut exactly to compass your measure ; for remember that the breeches, in every part, must be justly cut to it after they are sewed together ; this will convince you of the necessity of making them half an inch longer, to procure a natural ease to the wearer. Be sure that you do not lose sight of the drawing in plate VI. ; which, by inspection, will give you a clear idea of the mode and shape they should have to prove the effect, which will be conspicuous to the beholders. Make your legseam straight, and when you cut your inside, let it run the same way as the outside, and avoid that egregious method of cutting the inside to run up and the upper side to run down, which from the reflection of the light seems as if the plush were of two different colours. An error which is too common, and is frequently made by people of respectability belonging to the trade.

Be particular to leave two inches to be beared on the waistbands in the top of the seat, and in making, sew on privately a piece of tape or linen, down to the spare-seam, and up the seat seam. Stay your flits well with linen, and be particular, in basting them together, that the seams may be true and keep your left-hand thumb and finger tight and straight down, so as to pitch the seam of the two sides closely together, with care, what the trade generally calls *drivery*. These things being strictly adhered to, your practice will be perfect. Remember, that if the party must have linings (we always recommend drawers, as they can be occasionally wash-

ed,) it should be advisable to have shamie linings; for the sharp friction of the hair with other materials would soon rub out, and would always want mending. Take care, in lining the waistband, that the leather turns over the top a quarter of an inch, to prevent injury to the shirts by means of the friction.

TAKE notice, that striped plush must be cut by the same rule as all other striped stuff, with respect to managing, the stripes so that they may run straight down the thigh, in the same manner as the above directions respecting the cutting and making in every respect.

The method of cutting Velveteen ; with practical observations.

VELVETEEN is as serviceable and valuable a commodity as can be substituted for winter wear. There is a richness in the look of it, added to its great utility, that will always give a distinguishing preference to the choice of those who wish to unite strength, beauty, and convenience together. The manner of measuring and cutting these is the same as the plush ; only in the making up, be sure you seam them in the leg seams, falldown, and seat, with a firm loopstich, and canvass them well in all the parts and tackings. If you are working for a groom or a coachman, take care to give them an abundance of stride, and cut them below the knee to the springing of the calf ; and instead of hollowing the ham, be sure to make it straight, to avoid a common error too much practised.

Of Corduroy and Thickset.

BOTH these articles, though different manufactures, are notwithstanding of the same materials, and those who make a choice of the wearing, are sure to be satisfied with them in point of duration. For though they are inferior to hair plush, yet they are almost equal to velveteen; being as useful for riding, as they are for common wear in undress, and serviceable in both.—When cut and made, they are likewise very neat, and deserve a strong recommendation from all taylor, when their opinions are asked. The manner of cutting and making corduroy or thickset, is the same as that spoken of before for the velveteen.

Some practical observations on Worsted stuff of all kinds.

ALL worsted stuffs must be cut considerably easier than the measure, owing to the necessity there is of turning in for the seams. The size must exceed the measure by half an inch on the double. As we have said so much in former chapters, relative to the laying on of the measure and cutting, and other maxims relative to making, we think it needless to say more in this place, as the work might otherwise extend beyond our intended limits. When we look forward to the matter we have in contemplation to treat of, we will only make this observation: that all the waistbands come forward beyond the seam at the spare, except when we have said to the contrary. With respect to striped worsted, the same rule must be observed for making the stripes run straight. This will serve, in all cases, by having recourse to the first directions respecting knit ribbed breeches.



Fig. 1.

Fig. 2.

Fig. 3.

Fig. 4.

Fig. 5.

CHAP. XII.

Some practical observations on Breeches without the accustomed seams.

BEFORE we proceed in detail it is necessary to refer our readers to plate VII. and figure I. where they will find a true resemblance of a pair of breeches without legseam or side seam, waistband or kneeband seams, they being all left in the stuff, and being made to answer as well as those with seams.—Which we think much neater for any kind of ribbed stuff, either stocking or silk web—broad or narrow cloth or cassimere, or any stuff that has the least elasticity in it, they fit so neat to the thigh, and are in no danger of injury from the workman's bad practice in the seaming, which often causes confusion from ignorance or negligence in this particular, if the other parts are properly united. This method will be found to exceed in nicety any other point in the practice of making breeches for delicacy and complete fitting. We need not say any thing of

the mode of measuring, as we have said enough in the preceding chapters that we have treated on, and given in previous cases, will answer in every particular for these breeches. And we do not wonder if our pupils should be a little astonished at the appearance of figure 1. in the plate. However fanciful it may appear, we assure them that this is a true resemblance, and the only genuine way to cut them.—When you have for example the stuff before you, such as stocking web or cassimere, which only runs half yard wide, it is impossible to make them without some of the accustomed seams, for if a seam more runs up the seat, that behind will be of little consequence, being quite out of sight. You must understand that nothing but broad cloth will answer to make them with one seam to run up the seat and back parts of each thigh. Having stocking web or cassimere, or any thing of the same breadth, mark down about six inches from the edge for your side seam, and leave that to turn over to make part of the inside. Afterwards mark your leg seam—as if you were going to cut it at the mark, and add as much beyond that as may be necessary to turn over to meet the other part for the inside, and that will make the seam under the thigh all the way up. What is wanting you must piece out in the seat, till your seat is made out complete as if you had made both leg and side seams. There is this difference between this sort of breeches and others, that when you make your knee slit, after the manner of the plate, you must make your inside a little longer than in the turning over. You must put a piece down

the ham to set the buttons on, and must cut your slit in the same manner as in a flash sleeve, and put the catch under, but suppose that it needs a very large one, as the trimming up of the seat draws a large open place, as from figure 1, to figure 1, on the plate, and from letter *c* to letter *f* and down to letter *d*, as those points command the power of the seat, they are left to give room to the elasticity of the seat.—For when figure 1, is put to figure 1, although they point downwards, yet the seat requires it, for the draft lies in the hip and stride, consequently there must be room left somewhere, and likewise when seamed up you will find that it exactly makes the hollowing of the ham true. Therefore, we aver that this maxim will answer. Cut the parts for the waistband, no longer than the measure, in any sort of materials: if of the elastic kind, less by two inches on the double; when you cut the falldown, let it be as long as from letter *b* to letter *f*, then begin to turn up for the fork at letter *d*. And remember that the length of the waistband will mostly answer from letter *c* at the hip bone, to letter *d* at the fork. When you cut the fall let it be as long as from letter *a* to letter *a*, and put your side welts and fall bearers to, putting a stay at the lower part to sew in with both seams.—And let your fall bearer extend as far from the spareseam, as is described in the plate. As this piece must answer for the front of the waistbands, and always ought to be as far forward as we have drawn it in appearance on the plate. For on this depends the very certainty of the

falldown fitting well. For if a waistband is not forward enough, the falldown must be disordered—this is an evil too frequently complained of; resulting entirely from bad practice, which tailors are as reprehensible for, as bad cutting. And when breeches are not well cut, they will certainly loose their place upon the breech, either in the act of fitting down, or walking. When badly made they will, without doubt, be drawn from their natural position, which causes distortion and disagreeable wrinkles. This verifies the old trite proverb among the trade, let some men have ever such favorable opportunities for practice and instruction, still the dung fork is in their hands, and becomes them much better than either the needle or tailor's sheers. Finally, it will be necessary to leave a regular outlet, as upon the plate at letter *e* and letter *e* and letters *a b* and *b* at the top, for the waistband part all round.

N. B. Of the different letters described upon the plate; letter *c* at the hip bone, to letter *d* at the knee. Letters *b b* the two points centre of the ham. Letters *f f* on a straight line from the top of the falldown to letter *f* at the thigh, and letter *f* on the line at the spare seam signifies where it ought to turn up to the fork at letter *d*. At the letters *a* and *a* signifies the cut in for the side welts and fallbearers. The lines designated through the whole, will be a guide how to

form the upper side thigh upon the cloth, in the piece. The different lines, such as from the knee to the fork, and round to the side seam, signifies the certainty of pitching the fork, and is described fully in chapters preceding this.

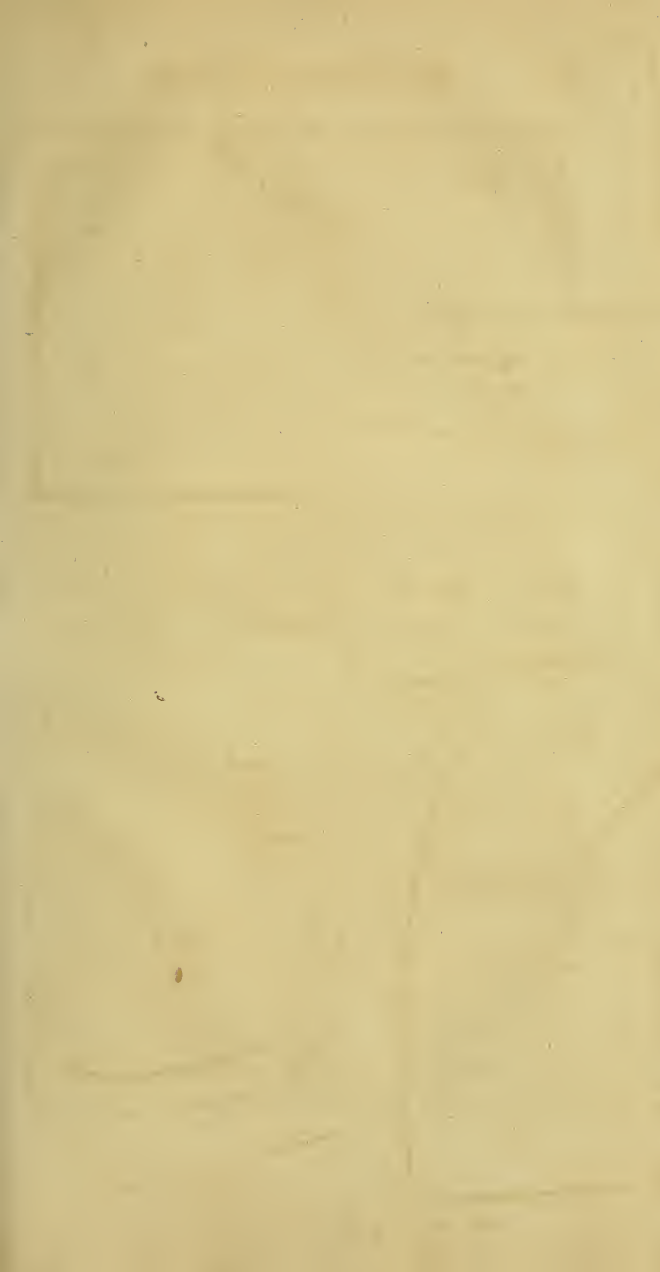
CHAP. XIII.

Some practical observations on the theory and practice of cutting and making Waistcoats.

WE will now endeavour to draw our students' attention, from the observations we formerly made concerning breeches and pantaloons; and direct his view to the best and most advantageous methods of cutting and making waistcoats. Our object in this part of the work, is to lay down rules by which the most unenlightened person in the trade, will be enabled to avoid the crude and undigested maxims, too common among many taylor, and be in possession of a criterion, by which he may judge of the matter in question with ease and perspicuity.

WE have no doubt there are many *Billy Beakies** who, having filled their coffers, by a long course of practice, may smile at the idea of our detailing rules for making waistcoats; perhaps they may consider them as puerile

* *Great men of the trade.*



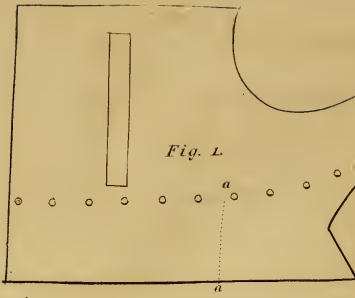


Fig. 1.

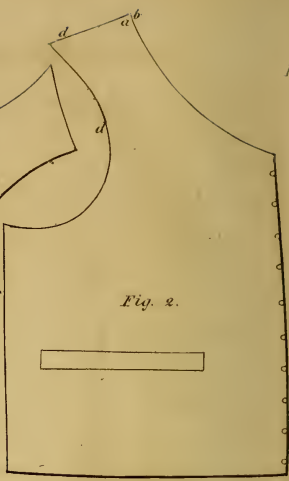


Fig. 2.

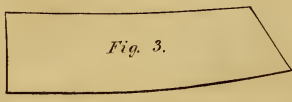


Fig. 3.

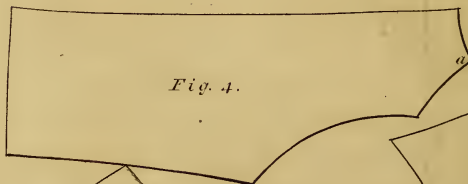


Fig. 4.



Fig. 6.

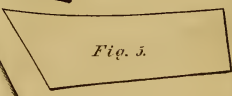


Fig. 5.

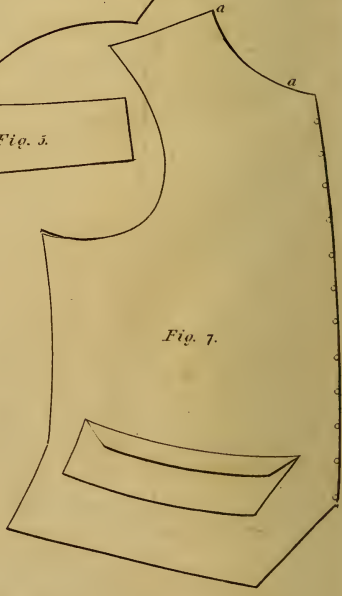


Fig. 7.

and vain. They may congratulate themselves, that success in trade is a complete evidence of *their* abilities; and therefore, flatter themselves, that they are above the need of instruction. All that we have to request of these wiseacres is, that they would lay aside this delusive pride, and suspend their final judgment, until they have had recourse to the subjoined plates of waistcoats; perhaps even a slight inspection may furnish them with some seasonable hints, and induce them to give our remarks an attentive perusal.

PROBABLY some may assert, that they were acquainted with the principles here laid down, long before they read our observations. To this assumption of merit, we will make no objection. It will in no wise diminish the salutary effects that will be derived by the uninformed, for whose benefit we chiefly labour. To these self-conceited gentlemen, (though we are no less their friends,) we will suggest a passage from the sacred volume, which, we think has some bearing upon the matter in question, "*The whole have no need of a physician;*" nor was it for the perfect that our book was written. But we have no doubt that there are many persons, who will rejoice to find, that the mysteries of the business are explored; and as it were, exposed to view, in a manner so plain, that the meanest capacity can fully comprehend them. We care not for the envious asseverations of disappointed men. Candour is the organ of knowledge; as for such men they are beneath contempt. Opposed to candour, are spleen and scur-

rility, which are supported by envy; but those ought to be despised by every man, who is anxious to arrive at the truth. We acknowledge we have been prolix in our introductory observations. The envy and calumnies, invented by some professors of the business, against our work, have induced these observations. But we will now return from this digression, and proceed to point out the method of measuring for a waistcoat.

FIRST, having the person before you, lay your measure at the top of the shoulder, down as low before as your employer may wish. When this is done, put the measure round the body in two separate places, as, over the breast and the belly. If it be an old man, who wants it long, with skirts, you may take a third measure over the hip; this will be all that is necessary.

WHEN you have the materials before you, which you intend cutting, please to open the book at plate VIII. of waistcoats, and observe well the figures, the modes, maxims and turnings of the different parts, to give a better idea of the appearance of those different points, and the manner in which they must bear upon each other before they are sewed or united: this will greatly assist your fancy, when you lay on your measure to mark for cutting your materials upon the true scale. Be careful that it be not too round before in the fore-parts, and see that your gorget is cut hollow at the neck—spring it forward as the plate directs, upon which

depends the chief art of fitting a waistcoat. Keep it forward to lay close to the neck, and it will go away gradually to make a rolling collar, which is very neat in the present state of fashion. There is another matter which requires some consideration, and that is in the length of the back to the foreparts, from *a* on the back, to *a* on the foreparts. Observe that the back must be of the same length as the foreparts, straight and easy, and what you call closing the back to the foreparts. Take care that it answers the same, which will totally prevent the foreparts from driving up on the belly which is a general complaint, mostly caused by the back's being cut too short for the foreparts, and the foreparts being cut round, two most frequent errors which should, to insure success, be most strictly guarded against. In order to do this properly, pay strict attention to the delineations of the plates. These possess all the requisites necessary for complete fitting, proved and certified by real experience, as incontrovertable as demonstration itself; therefore, the learner cannot pay too great a respect to the shape and manner of those drawings, to ripen and foster his faint ideas.

WHEN you are making silk waistcoats, remember the method of gumming the holes (with a little bees' wax) as observed in the silk florentine breeches,

to stick and hold them together, by which you make and work your holes without danger of ravelling; and it will be better to make use of glazed linen, instead of buckram, under the facings of the buttons and holes.

Of round collared Waistcoats.

THERE is nothing very particular in the execution of this waistcoat, except the common observation of seeing that your back is of a right length for the foreparts, and your cape cut as the plate directs. Should you have a small quantity of materials, as the common quantity made use of for other waistcoats, it will be too small for broad breasts and round collars. Therefore, to assist our pupil, we will request him to cut a true shape of the linings in the form of the foreparts, as this will enable him to make the best of his outside, and for the length of the back, have recourse to the plate, and draw the necessary inferences, from that similitude, relative to the making of double breasted waistcoats. We recommend in all those to make holes down both sides for the advantage of the wearer, lest any unforeseen accident should happen from dirt and the days' pleasure of the wearer, it should be spoiled, owing to his not having an opportunity of changing the other side of the breast. Set on the buttons at the mark upon the plate, at the side of the welts of the pockets, up to figure 6.; and observe that your welts are cut according to the right way of the stuff, and not as the

flop vests mostly are. Take care, in the cutting of one of these waistcoats, that you proceed as for those with one lapell—that you have sufficient room, in the breast. Do not cut the armholes or scye too deep on the breast, but keep them easy and at the same time close. It is a great error, to cut any garment too narrow at the breast. Ease and freedom are more requisite here than in any other part of the body; and therefore, this direction cannot be too strictly adhered to. In cutting the cape, to be added to the place of the lapell, see that it falls regularly, and in one easy manner to the shoulder, for the least error arising here, will incommode the fitting of the whole waistcoat. The reader will find it of advantage carefully to inspect the plates, as well as those before spoken of, and those which will hereafter be mentioned, for in the observations to be made in the remaining part of this work, they will be taken as our models.

Of the double breasted Waistcoats, in plate VIII. figure 1.

THIS plate requires some consideration, for though it is the general plan of most in wear; there are difficulties in its formation. Therefore, our student cannot too closely adhere to the plate. He ought to be particularly careful, to make the lapell fit neatly, and observe that the collar fits snug round the neck; and be careful that the length of the front and back parts be alike. Observe the cut of the neck and the armholes, it being a particular point; and turn it out as at the neck, and make the back to answer the same. By being thus done, when the neck is made up, we pronounce it will fit close allround. That your collar may answer your forepart, cut the collar as described in the plate; this will assuredly answer the purpose, and fit peculiarly neat and smart. Be careful never to cut a straight collar to any waistcoat; for this method will never answer any purpose, but be a chief instrument of frustrating the well designed cutting and fitting of the whole waistcoat.

*Practical observations continued on single breasted Waistcoats
in plate VIII.*

FIGURE 2 is a single breasted waistcoat, and must not be cut too round in the front part of the breast, unless it be for a man who has a large belly, and who may wish it long. Nor must the shoulder fall too far back, but must be cut as straight as possible; only allowing a proper round for the breast and belly. Be careful that the shoulder is kept inclining to the neck, in the manner of the figure, and let it be cut with a gradual hollow in the gorget, and the point of the back. Let the back be of the same length as the forepart: this will make it fit close and straight. The great difficulty in cutting single breasted waistcoats, results from not cutting the shoulders straight—for if you pitch the shoulder too far backward, in the cutting, it will have a disagreeable effect; for when it is opened and unbuttoned, it will fall away from the body; when buttoned, it will be all in puckers before, and of course fall away from the neck behind. While we are upon this subject, if we might not be thought to digress, we would offer a few hints towards rectifying any faults made in waistcoats, by inexperience, as before mentioned.

FIRST, separate the back from the forepart, and when laid on your cutting board, piece in the neck, as usual at the gorget, about two or three inches, and taper it to a point in the middle of the gorget and under the arm at the top of the side seam, about the same. This will prevent the scye from being too large, and you must cut off at the shoulder, as much as you piece at the neck, we mean down the scye from the point at the shoulder seam, then take the back and piece it to the length of the foreparts, and close it again to the measure. This done, cut your collar after the manner of figure 3, in plate VIII.; and when the different parts are properly adjusted, you will find the waistcoat fit equal to your most sanguine expectation. This is the proper method of rectifying errors in thin men's waistcoats, but when cut for fat men, we must pursue other methods, which will be shown hereafter.

Some practical observations on Waistcoats with flaps.

THOUGH this method of cutting a waistcoat is not much in vogue at present, we would not be astonished, if the fluctuating rage of fashion should suggest a change from the present mode, to that of waistcoats with flaps, or any thing equally ridiculous; as they were worn with considerable *eclat*, for a number of years. Fashion is very capricious; so much so, that it is impossible for us to foresee, to what folly she will next lead us, or to what absurdity she will next be espoused. In her movements she is as unstable as the wind. Having once set our fancies afloat, she leads us through the wild mazes of variety without our being able to resist. With these operations, the taylor has nothing to do. His business is to wait the result, and observe what effect it has upon the fascinated myriads. For these reasons, we think it necessary, for the benefit of our country friends and readers, who mostly retain the former mode of wearing flaps, to give a sketch of the forepart, which may be seen in the plate VIII. figure 3. Respecting the cutting or making, nothing further need be said than what was suggested, in respect to the single breasted waist-

coats, not to cut them too round before; nor must the shoulders fall too far back, but be as straight as possible, only allowing a proper round for the breast and belly. Be careful that the shoulder is kept inclining to the neck, in the manner of plate VIII. and it be cut hollow with a gradual sweep, and turn that point to the neck. Let the back be of the same length as the foreparts, as the plate directs. This will compel it to fit straight and close.

p

Some practical observations on Waistcoats with sleeves.

THOUGH waistcoats of this sort are scarcely worn by any persons except hostlers, postillions, grooms, and old men, yet they require a particular kind of practice, and much care in the formation; for we usually see as much defect in those waistcoats as in any part of the business. Therefore, that our learner may avoid error in this matter, we hope he will pay great attention to the following rules for measuring, cutting, and making, as the only means of accomplishing this arduous task. It is true, that tailors get through this business, with the use of arm puffs, and puckered redundancies; with disagreeable tightness in the shoulders, and other disagreeable defects. But this bungling comes far short of the mastery that is requisite to give a person satisfaction, so that he may do his business with pleasure, well knowing that his practice will afford him praise, and give his employer great satisfaction.

To measure for a waistcoat with sleeves, lay your measure first from the top of the shoulder before, down to the bottom, or as low as the party may require it:

for, remember that in some things your employer will have a pre-eminence of choice ; though after you have received his directions, you can always exercise your own judgment by uniting propriety with their requests.

SECONDLY, measure from the top of the back, down to the bottom behind ; by this the length will be obtained to a certainty.

THIRDLY, measure from the back seam behind, half across the shoulder, and nick the measure for one half of the back. In measuring for the length of the sleeve see that the party holds his elbow level with the shoulder, at the elbow joint, make a nick, and extend the measure as near the hand as your customer may require for the length of the sleeve, and mark it. Then measure round the arm at the top, and also at the elbow and wrist. Afterwards, measure round the breast and belly, and half across the breast if it be single breasted. Be careful that your marks and measures be distinct and correct, when you cut out the waistcoat ; consider well the stuff you are to make it of, and do not lose sight of the instructions already given respecting the nature of the materials ; their elasticity, or other peculiar qualities. If the waistcoat is for a person in any business where great exercise is required, consider well the intent, and give a little latitude on account of the ease required in such cases ; for though we give you exact rules how to proceed, there will always be room enough to exercise your own abilities. If the waistcoat be of the fustian kind, cut it across the shoulders half an inch longer than

the measure on both sides, in order that it may be one inch broader across the back; which must be cut one inch longer than your measure; and in cutting the foreparts, have recourse to the back, and see that it answers as before. Let your foreparts run close up under the arm; for that will give great room to the sleeve, and eradicate puffs. Observe well your sleeve, for in this there is great nicety in giving plenty of sleeve top, and spring it out in the forearm seam at the top: for remember, the farther you spring your fore seam out at the top, the more room you give for the extension of the arm. By adhering to this direction, you will procure freedom and ease to the wearer, without the least restraint or confinement whatsoever, this is the general fault so frequently complained of; and no attention should be omitted to rectify so gross an abuse, by every practitioner of the art.

Continuation of practical observations on Waistcoats for fat men.

THE great protuberance of the belly of fat men requires care in the application, and it would be well for all men of little practice, to digest well the method we are about to lay down. The difficulty arising from irregular figures should excite attention in the workmen. They ought to be well informed of the intended purpose, and the means required to produce these effects. When they have attained a thorough knowledge of this practice, they will be adequate to the undertaking; for in these as well as in regular business and in well formed figures of men, the practice will be agreeable to the theory. In fitting a fat man, the greatest difficulty lies in single breasted waistcoats. The great prominence of belly causes so much more width, at that place, than at the breast, or below at the hip, that you will find considerable difficulty in the regular falling to the breast, as well in continually hiding the linen between the waistband of the breeches, and the bottom of the waistcoat, owing to the tendency of

the waistcoat to rise upon the belly, which is very indelicate, and should be guarded against with the most scrupulous care. Observe in taking measure round the belly, that it is put in a level direction; for, as you lay the measure straight across upon the cloth, either the rising or the falling of your hand will cause an addition to the width. Measure the party as high as you can under the arm; afterwards the belly and hips, which must be proceeded for accordingly. Nothing can be more shameful than the rising of the waistcoat upon the belly, for want of properly fitting the body. A great inducement to our undertaking this treatise, has been to remedy this as well as other abominable errors to the shame of the trade, which show nothing but inattention and poverty of genius. Observe, when you take the length, it will be necessary to lay on the measure twice.—First, from the shoulder to the hollow of the breast, and mark the measure, then down to the bottom of the waistcoat—afterwards take a measure all down the buttoning as low as the intended length. To the learner it may not be amiss, to measure the length of the back. Though this may not be a custom of the trade, we advise it, as fat men are so short behind and so long before, it will be a means of giving a better idea of the size of the body, and from a proper similitude of the shape of the waistcoat to fit the object. In order to make this matter more intelligible to the mind of our students, we would advise them to have recourse to some of the figures on the plate. When you cut from the mark at the hollow of the breast, be cautious

to rise gradually for the protuberance of the belly, and neatly round and fall in at the bottom ; for be assured, the rules here laid down are not the premises of uncertain speculation, but are sanctioned by the result of well earned experience. Take care that the side seam be short enough for the hind part, in proportion to the length of the foreparts. Some alteration is requisite, as to its fitting well about the neck, to prevent its falling away towards the shoulder, a thing very common in fat men's waistcoats. Even so ridiculous are some made, that you may see their shirt half way to the shoulder point. Nay so great is the abuse, that even the buttoning of the coat can hardly hide the notorious fault. However, in order to prevent this excessive blunder in future, pay particular attention to the following directions. First, cut your forepart shoulder straight, inclining forward ; for that of itself is a great inducement to fitting well. It is a most flagrant error to let the shoulders fall too far back. Likewise, in cutting the forepart, be sure to leave it high enough under the arm at the side seam, and sink or hollow it gradually. Our next remark is respecting the backs and collar. Observe that the backs be cut exactly to the side seam, and answer to the forepart ; for notwithstanding the shortness of the backs for a fat man, they must be made to agree in the length. Cut your collar round at the bottom, and straight at the top. With respect to the height at the neck, you must be ruled by the wish of your customer ; and in making your mark for the pockets, place it as high as the mark on the plate, making

the waistcoat, after being cut with great nicety, draw it in a little over the belly ; and likewise in the hollow part of the breast. Note, if the waistcoat should be silk or any kind of florentine that will ravel in the edge, wet and rub gum on the holes : this will contract and keep your stuff from ravelling, and be sure for this kind of stuff to use no buckram. If you strictly adhere to this, you will certainly accomplish the business to your own satisfaction.

Continuation on old mens' Waistcoats.

OUR learner will observe the very particular attention that is requisite in all old mens' waistcoats, as well as in other appendages of dress, in order to prevent the common practice of fitting their bodies so irregularly and preposterously. For, though things may be well conceived, and neatly executed, they will not always have that striking effect that clothes will have upon more agreeable figures, or men of genteel address. There is a certain awkwardness in heavy men, that when they move, disorders the very economy of dress. Therefore, in order to guard against this as much as possible, take the following rules: measure first from the shoulder to the hollow of the breast, and mark the measure; and then to the bottom of the waistcoat. Next measure down the middle, from the neck to the place intended for the length before, and measure the length of the back, (though not a common practice) for by this measure you will fully discover the shortness of the back, and be enabled better to adjust it to the front or forepart. In

measuring round, first at the breast, as near under the arms as possible, and afterwards at the belly, put your measure exactly level round ; for either holding up or down your hands, will increase the breadth, which will deceive you when you lay your measure across the cloth, lastly measure below the belly at the hips. This will be all that is necessary. But before you begin to cut, have recourse to plate VIII. and figure 3, and when you have digested well this figure, adapt its proportion, as nearly as possible to the scale and measurement you have taken, only diminish on the back in proportion to the prominence of the belly. Keep this in your mind continually as a pattern or direction, and take the most particular care to cut the point from inclining forward ; for should it lean off, in this part, it will lie off the neck behind, and will be drawn most disagreeably. This is a rule that cannot be dispensed with. For this, and cutting the collar, and making the fall of the belly below the breast, are all matters of serious consideration, and should influence the taylor's care to provide against them. Nothing gives a gentleman a more disagreeable appearance than a waistcoat that does not fit well round the neck ; and it is here, that most errors are committed. Therefore, we must once more beg our student to be circumspect and assimilate his collar to the drawings of the collar upon plate VIII. at figure 3. Observe, that the back must have its proportion of length ; for, however short the back, it must be made to answer the foreparts. And please to observe that in cutting the forepart, you leave it high

enough under the arm, as at the closing of the backs. If the waistcoat is striped, let your welt run with the stripe of the stuff. In order to make it fit snugly round the bottom, draw it in with the stitches, and take a hot iron, and by pressing it a little you will compel it to fit closely. Be careful also in closing on those kinds, if double breasted, to lay your measure near half way between the edge of the forepart and the buttons, for should you follow the common method of half and half, you will too much lighten and narrow it. Therefore in this case you must ease a little in the measure, for irregular figures. With regard to the flaps of the pocket, a single view of the plate, will be sufficient to direct him how to cut it. The taste of the times, in this article, as well as the cut of the skirts, will always be a guide to his genius, and prompt him to a degree of neatness, which will give a pleasing turn to the whole waistcoat.

THE next thing that comes under our notice, is the figure of a waistcoat with a round collar, a fashion that has been the rage some years back; and may come in vogue again, but we think cannot be of long duration. The idea was borrowed from great coats, the collars of which were made in this manner, about twenty seven years ago. But there was an inconvenience attending them, which shortened their duration. The waistcoats of this fashion, in our opinion, are quite as reprehensible as the great coats; for they are not only inelegant, but uncouth and clumsy, and at all events,

should be discouraged by fat men; for they help to throw an impediment in the very place where it should be most avoided: viz. in the neck, where all men of this denomination are particularly short. In strict regard to elegance and his own appearance, a fat man should wear no collar at all, except those that stand up, for those help to lengthen the neck, and to figures thus loaded with fleshy shoulders, have the best and most pleasing effects; much better than any turndowns or other substitutes, which seem only to be invented to hide the disagreeableness of long necks; in which case, they have their uses, and as they have been long in vogue, and have been otherwise sanctioned by custom, we shall let them float down the stream of time, till they sink and die unnoticed, like many other once brilliant appendages, that have had their day, though now no more. But perhaps time, or the whim of some great researcher, may bring them into life and fashion once more. As some gentlemen, however may choose to hold up their consequence, and save them from oblivion, we shall desire our pupil to have recourse to plate VIII. and figure 2, which upon inspection, will show them the very cut and semblance of their proportion. With regard to measuring for those, follow the preceding observations, with this further remark; that for a round collared waistcoat take care to give it plenty of spring in the cape at figure 4, and plate VIII. This corner must be cut and sprung as much as the fall of the shoulders may require, only be sure your back and shoulders answer each other, and when you make it up,

take care and abide by the rules laid down in the plate. The great difference between the shoulders and top of the buttons, and in like manner where the buttons are set on from the front of the breast; in order to fit neat, remember that a man with a large belly requires the buttons set round according to the prominency of belly. With respect to the cut of the skirts, you should always endeavour to follow the fashion that sanctions the manner of cutting them with a gracefulness that may add beauty to the finishing of the waistcoats.

Practical Observations.

THE different figures upon this plate naturally suggest a few additional remarks. Every person not thoroughly acquainted, ought to pay the most studious attention to the figures, cuts, turns and scyes, and carefully compare the plate with the descriptions. By this means, he may become acquainted with effects produced, with the causes which produced them, and the maxims they are intended to illustrate. In persons who are not thoroughly acquainted with the general outlines of the business, (though in other respects men of genius,) there is a modesty or diffidence, which cannot be overcome, except by the possession of rules amounting almost to absolute certainty. In the foregoing observations we have endeavoured to lay down rules, which, if strictly adhered to, will inevitably answer this important purpose. How far we have succeeded is not for us to determine.

CHAP. XIV.

A few theoretical and practical observations on Boys' and Childrens' clothes, both of first and second size.

NOTWITHSTANDING many persons whose knowledge of the business is very superficial and limited, have often undertaken to censure and stigmatise professors of the art, concerning those small, but necessary garments; alledging that there is little time or trouble spent in the execution of them.—And hence have arose many disputes and contentions respecting the bills rendered for making of them, so that many excellent mechanics have lost the custom of whole families on this account. But there is one thing certain, and those of the trade who have been most in the habit of making childrens' clothes, will no doubt, readily assent to the assertion, that there is less compensation for the labours bestowed on them, than any other article of dress; and is an undeniable proof, that individuals who thus treat their taylor, are unreasonable in their conclusion, and

would not (if in their power) pay a reasonable price for any other articles of dress they might stand in need of. As there is no article of dress more difficult or troublesome to make, and cut, than those little affairs; so there is none displays a taylor's taste and ingenuity more, and of course, ought to entitle the maker to the credit due from the complete execution thereof. It is well known by the trade in general, that there is as much diversity, change, and taste, displayed throughout this little field of fashion, as in the more enlightened circles of society, and the time and labour bestowed thereon ought rather to increase, than diminish the price of making. And parents that love their offspring, and take pleasure in beholding them in their infantile dress, should not suffer their curiosity to abate, when their children increase in stature, and years, but should continue to encourage their tradesman, by an additional compensation, to adorn and set forth the beauties of their children by handsome made clothes.

IN measuring for jacket and trowsers, such as described in plate VII. figure 2 and 3, lay the measure from the top down to where the waist buttons are placed. Then to the bottom of the skirt, and for the length of the trowsers, begin about two inches below the armpit, and to the shoe, or ankle bone; next round the breast which will answer both for the width of the jacket, and the trowsers at the top. Next across the back and down to the elbow, and down to the hand, twice round the arm, and the like number of times round the thigh

or leg will be sufficient. But when about to cut, just cast your eye on the plate at figures 2 and 3, when you will find the back is cut without a seam, and the forepart according to our regular system marked out by the line direct from the point of the shoulder to the plait at the bottom, as this in every instance must be followed; we highly recommend this method of making children's dresses, as nothing has come under our observation that looks neater. They can be made as fancy may direct, with one or three rows of buttons, a button hole left in each of the side seams, and two on each forepart between that and the breast, which will answer to keep the trowsers up. The fall bearer comes up to the top, and forms the waistband at the front, the pocket is put in the side seam about two inches from the top, or if your customer would prefer them without a fall, the buttons, say five or six in number, may be put on the side seam, in this case the pockets may be put in with a welt like a waistcoat pocket across the trowsers, about three inches from the top. We have seen light dragoon jackets, made upon a small scale for little boys, whose parents took delight in cultivating a military spirit, where they would form a little company, marching rank and file, and making a handsome appearance with their swords and helmets. This occurs but seldom, as the expence and trouble incurred thereby is so great, few parents chuse to gratify their children in this respect, and in indeed taylors need not covet this kind of work unless they are well paid for it, as scarcely any journeyman is willing to have any thing to do with them.

THE next form on plate VII. fig. 4 and 5, is a round-about jacket, the trowsers button over the jacket and the holes are put on the waistband or upper part. But we recommend them to be cut without waistbands entirely, as it looks much neater to have them all in one piece, about six button holes may be made, marked round. In cutting leave the upper and under side of the same height at the top. The seat is to be made rather full in the seat seam, down to within three inches of the fork. To be more explicit, do not hollow them in the seat as you do the spare seam, but in a straight line from within three inches of the fork, up to the top, equal with the upper side. By this means, sufficient room will be left for the seat. The same measure may be taken as for those last mentioned with this exception, you must measure down the back, as the foregoing have small skirts, these have none, but are quite round. We have often cut this kind without back or side seams, which fitted equally well. We have given but two forms of this kind of children's jackets, on the plate. We had to crowd the different parts of figures, of much more importance on the plate, and we think these may suffice, for the second and third size of children; we recommend skirted coats and trowsers; this is more becoming for boys of nine years old and upwards. As we have descanted so largely on measuring in the different sections of this work, we think it unnecessary here to say any thing farther on this subject, only follow the directions given, and examine the joints and symmetry of the boy, or child you are measuring, and you may

follow the formation of nature in them in the same manner as larger sizes, and you will find this little nursery of fashion worthy of your greatest care and attention, and experience in cutting and making those and becoming a masterpiece at them. It will be a kind of prelude to ripen and facilitate your growing ideas in the performance of still brighter displays of skill in your profession; so that the trade you have devoted a portion of your time to acquire, may not only bring you through life comfortably, but in like manner give celebrity to your names, in your own day; and hand down to posterity unequivocal proof of your abilities and usefulness in society.

CHAP. XV.

Conclusion.

SOME of the preceding pieces, it must be acknowledged, are of a very curious nature, and worth no person's notice, but those following the trade. This is a species of writing least susceptible of the graces, which embellish composition; or rather is most destitute of the attractions which engage attention and create delight. Yet we have sometimes thought, that it is not a moral impossibility, to make even the stern face of controversy wear a smile—and even reap some valuable fruit from the rugged furrows of disputation. But to soften any asperities that might be introduced into any part of the work, views of the trade are interspersed; so that if the former would carry the appearance of any thing rude, there may be some agreeable openings and light-some views, to admit a prospect of the business, which is almost arrayed in its own peculiar phrases, and never fails to produce its effects on the minds of those who

have a desire of becoming its advocates. The authors confess a peculiar fondness for the trade ; it is not at all improbable but their views, on this topic may be found to diffuse some knowledge, and the descriptions to have some share of merit. It is hoped however that the reader will indulge them in this favorite foible, if any should feel the same prevailing passion for the benefit of the trade. It is possible, these persons may be inclined not only to excuse, but approve the fault, and take part with the lover, even in opposition to the critic.

FARTHER to diversify the piece, the various sketches of preceding fashions are introduced, easy to be understood, and calculated to entertain the imagination, as well as improve the mind ; more particularly to display the beneficent design of the various appurtenances and numberless dresses ; neither are these remarks altogether foreign to the main point, but as far as the curiosities of them may comport and serve the general end.

IN the course of this work, we dare not suppose, that we have discussed all the principles that might or can be illustrated, or sagacity might devise, and perhaps sophistry urge. Perhaps the authors of this work have not removed all the scruples which awaken prejudice, or embarrass truth ; this however we may venture to assert, that we have met with no considerable objections, which are not either expressly answered, or virtually refuted, in the preceding chapters ; and though we should neither satisfy, nor silence the gain-

fayer, we shall think our endeavours happily employed, if those principles may throw light upon the dim apprehensions, establish the wavering ideas, or be a barrier against false systems.

IF any should burlesque or ridicule these principles laid down, we shall only remark, that it will be advisable for them to strive to commence societies, for promulgating any knowledge in the business to posterity, (as every generation must speak and think for itself,) and not let their knowledge die along with them. The way is now trodden over, and the beaten path is before them; if they cannot follow in this way, we will be glad to see them take a better, and lead the ignorant into it. Should any, in the spirit of decency and candour, either start new, or revise old objections, we doubt not but they will receive both a due examination, and a proper reply. As the practice and theory in these chapters, enter into the very essence of the business, and constitute the very glory of our boasted system, it can never want a succession of advocates, so long as the trade is in the same state in society; for our parts, we mean to retire from any thing of a controversial nature. But in any thing that has the least tendency for the benefit of the trade, we shall embark as soon as called, and give our opinions freely to our fellow labourers, in the pursuit of knowledge. Indeed, there must be great credit given to many taylor's in the United States, for the manifestation they have given in bringing the business to the state

in which it is at present ; particularly Messrs. *Watson, Smiley, &c.* of Philadelphia, than whom as conductors of the business, for some years past—there has been none of greater merit ; and none that has gone before them on the continent, has ever carried it on with the same merited approbation. But we still insist upon the great necessity of something, to be adopted, among men of the business, for the further investigation of the principles of the trade ; that society, not only in this *Æra*, but hereafter, may be partakers therein ; and should any thing be urged forcible enough to overthrow our boasted system, in the preceding pages of this work ; or detect any mistakes, the trade may depend upon seeing a free and undiffembled retraction. We shall look upon it as a duty to ourselves and our readers, to acknowledge the error, as it is one thing to be silent, and another to be obstinate. As we shall inflexibly adhere to the first, we would with equal steadiness renounce the last. Though we withdraw from the strife of pens, and of tongues, we shall take care to preserve a mind ever accessible to truth, ever open to conviction ; a mind infinitely more concerned for the benefit of the trade, than for the prevalence of our own opinions, or the credit of our performance.

As we have the honor to be members belonging to the trade, we cannot but reflect, with a peculiar degree of pleasure, that every principle, contained in those chapters, or observations, are maintained with plates and letters, or drawn from it by just and necessary conse-

quence amongst the trade ; it likewise affords us much satisfaction to observe that the most material of the sentiments are adopted by the *first* professors of the trade, to have the first rate authorities belonging to the business, is surely no contemptible support ; this must give a sanction, whenever our system or theory is called in question. Perhaps it might be further remarked, that we have not always confined ourselves to the method contained in the London system, nor followed their train of thoughts with a scrupulous regularity. We would rather refer them to its maxims, for their own benefit, than answer such *puerile remarks*.

As we have chosen the path that seemed the most agreeable and inviting, rather than the beaten and frequented, if this leads with equal certainty, to the great and desirable end. We dare promise ourselves an easy excuse, that method and order, in the principal parts of the plans are not wholly neglected—the following summary may more fully illustrate.

FIRST. The dissertation on coats, shows the necessity of following the dictates of our theory, and serves as an illustration of the principles of the article in question. It will serve as a direction or warning to every taylor, by which he will be enabled to judge for himself, and perfect himself in this great attainment ; his proficiency in this, we have before said, will place him quite at home, in every part of the business.

IN the abovementioned chapter, the principle plan of measurement is laid down in a clear and perspicuous manner ; together with directions how to proceed. The subject there treated of is a coat for a thin man, without lapells : viz. single breasted, consequently there is one additional measure taken ; that is, round the hips, or below the waist. This is not unreasonable, (though at first it may appear so) when we consider the object in view. First, it must be observed, that where there are no lapells, there are generally two or three holes below the place where the bottom of them is generally struck across : consequently, if it be for a thin man, it generally falls off from opposite the breast down to the hip, and thence in a gradual manner to the bottom. But if it be for a fat man, this will not be the case : for the rounding commences at the breast measure, and falls in again opposite the hips ; thereby making the waist, as it is generally called, the very centre of the prominency of the belly. The rest of the measurements are so plain and easy to be understood, that "*he who runs may read ;*" and as it is preferable to follow up nature, in all her various dimensions, and under every existing circumstance, with regard to the symmetry and proportions of the human body, this position is proved to be true by positive conclusions, and natural evidence.

THE chapter concludes with a strict and judicious train of reasoning upon the plan of cutting and striking the marks ; the different lines of which are delineated and attested in the plates, which are there more particularly referred to.

WE presume there is not any taylor, who will fail to applaud the beauty and perfection of the plates, as soon as he has seen and examined them. We observed before, that nothing of the kind has ever been published, which will bear any comparison with those which we have here presented to the trade; and we again insist upon the truth of this assertion. For the taylor who examines these plates, (however illiterate or uninformed he may be) must be void of intellect indeed, if he cannot cut by them; cutting exactly in the same proportion as they are on the plate.

THE authors, also, in the beginning of this chapter, manifest their good intention, by observing, that it was written for the benefit of the inexperienced. We do not mean in this place to recapitulate the arguments, that were there adduced; but merely to enforce the maxims by our conclusions, if any arguments should occur to us, that might lead the mind to clear perceptions of the thing intended. We shall say nothing with respect to the double breasted coat. The form, as delineated in plate II. fig. 1 and 2, for the breast piece, fig. 3, the back, and fig. 4, a sleeve without the usual seams, is such a true resemblance, that it cannot fail to strike, in a manner peculiarly strong, the intellectual faculties of the mind, and thereby much facilitate the labour of the practitioner when cutting out cloth for his customer, or himself.

BUT we insist still further, that the maxim laid down of the upper part of the coat commanding the spring and bottom of the forepart, was a secret to every taylor we have known, or with whom we have reasoned on this subject on the continent, previous to the publication of this work. We do not pretend to find fault with any man, for what he does not know in this particular, or any thing contained in the whole body of the work. But the reasons are so obvious, and the causes that produce the effects shown in the straight line, from the shoulder point down to the waist, and bottom upon the plaits, so evident that it is needless to say any thing further about it; for no man of sense, who examines the subject, can have the smallest shadow of doubt upon it.

BUT to proceed further into the subject we have to insist upon. The arguments upon the straight frock, or surtout, are so judiciously advanced that a plate on the subject would be superfluous, and an additional expence to the purchasers of the work.

FROM the publication of the present edition, the editors anticipate no emolument. If it defrays the incident expences, they will not deem their labour lost; in as much as they think it probable, that another edition will shortly be called for; in which case they intend not only to give a number of additional plates, but likewise to enter more fully into the *minutiæ* of the business. Perhaps by that time their minds will be

more matured, and they be enabled to throw some additional light upon the points that have been so ably discussed by the *original compilers* of the foregoing pages.

BUT to return from this digression ; the practical remarks, with respect to a frock coat being cut as straight as possible in the forepart shoulder strap, are wise and judicious ; which must be obvious to every one. In our own practice, we have observed, that pitching the furtout as far back as a body coat, the fitting of the whole is much disconcerted.

FURTHER, there is another principle illustrated in this chapter ; that is, the manner in which the back ought to be cut in the skirts. The reason assigned for this purpose is evident from the nature of things. That this may appear more evident, we will make the following brief observations. First, all frock coats or furtouts are designed for covering the limbs as far down as they go: to give the foreparts more spring than they ought to have, would reduce the back skirts as narrow as those of a body coat, which would destroy its proportion. Secondly, it would prevent its setting to the hips or waist, on account of the overplus of cloth put in spring, and consequently would destroy the looks of the coat. The reference which is made to other parts is easy to be understood. For instance, leaving space that the foreparts cover each other when buttoned, three or four inches, and the clearing the scye are principal points, and ought to be attended to, with the greatest

care, according to the given directions. We have seen coats spoiled, after having been decently cut, by an inexperienced journeyman, by cutting the scye to bear under the arm. So that the more the system is reasoned upon, the more advantage will result from it. Upon the whole, we find old and invariable maxims, with new illustrations; the experiences of others who have gone before us, with new observations and improvements; so that it may be said with propriety, that there are few perplexing doubts or intricate cases, which, at any time have occurred to professors of the business, that are not in some one or other of these chapters, very judiciously solved, or cleared up.

It is hoped, that those observations on the foregoing chapter will suffice, as there is no plate from which we might suggest any additional ideas.

WE will now proceed to chapter VI. where we find the arguments concisely, and at the same time, most forcibly displayed on plate III. For after considering the form of this garment as described, and making a practical trial, we found that it completely answered the intended purpose. The plan is so complete, that it can scarcely be misunderstood. Lay the cloth on the double, and the crease being the centre of the back, or what is called the back seam, mark from the top down to the waist, and cut it across on the double exactly the breadth of half of the back between the hip buttons. After that is done, mark in the wheel piece, giving

it the same form and spring, as described, from the forepart point, at letter *e* and through the centre of the scye at letter *g* down to letter *b* opposite the waist, where it has to cut in for the back skirt; and from that to letter *f* on the point for the rise of the forepart. The fine drawing is the only particular thing, from letter *c* at the bottom of the wheelpiece to letter *e* at the top, or where it ends, and the fine draw of the back skirts at letter *a* to the cut for them made at letter *b* at the waist.

THE necessity of the other maxims is so particularly explained, both by precept and example, and so forcibly inculcated, that to give any more reasoning upon the subject would be only recapitulating the whole chapter; and perhaps we would leave no room for the learner to exercise his talents. The form of this coat is so simple and easy, that the learner, by a careful examination of the plate, without studying the theory, as contained in the chapter, might cut one of those coats, if he were smart and quick of discernment.

THE next thing that claims our attention are regimentals. Whatever arguments may suggest themselves on this pleasing part of the business, we will adduce with pleasure. In plate IV. three different forms are delineated, Infantry, as described in fig. 2, 3, 5, and 7.

OF this form, in the small scale, as executed on the plate, we truly say, that for justness and proportion of parts, we have never seen a better model. And in this

place, we may with propriety observe, than the man, who attends to nothing but making up clothes, will be much benefitted ; his ideas will be strengthened, and he will be put in possession of the method, by which he is to proceed in marking off. With respect to the place of the forepart shoulder strap commanding the bottom, although it be cut upon a different plan of arrangement from that of a common citizen's coat, yet has its bearings, as you will perceive by having recourse to the plate, and the draw exactly from the gorge point of the forepart strap down to the waist, and keeping its own to the bottom. This to any one who has read the practical observations and the maxims treated of in the preceding chapters may seem the more astonishing; yet they have the same evidence of reason for their support, that the others have, which the authors have insisted in that chapter, when they state, that their garments were within the pale of the trade, and evidenced in the system and theory. But this form is also referred to afterwards, when noticing the cutting of a heavy dragoon's coat. Thus it appears that the authors trace it by analogy, from the form of its cut, and not of the lacing which is on it.

THE next thing upon which we shall make any observations, or from which we shall deduce any reasons, is that of a navy coat, as described in figures 4 and 6. The plan of this garment is by no means new to us: and therefore, for the sake of brevity, we shall make but few observations upon it. The method of forming the

herring bone holes, and the plan of cutting the breasts are so concise and perspicuous, that any man, although he had never before seen any thing of the kind, could in a short time become acquainted with the mode of proceeding. This reason alone would fully demonstrate its utility.

WE think proper also to remark in this place, that upon examination of the chapter, we find an omission, which, however we do not think was intentionally left out by the authors. In making the lapell fide, that turns out, there are notched holes, wrought exactly half the length of those which are there described; and these latter are generally wrought on both sides. This remark is only made for the benefit of those who are most inexperienced in the business.

THE reader will perceive, that the back for the navy uniform coat is omitted in this place; which most probably arose from a deficiency of room on the plate. It is a matter of little consequence; as we are informed in the same chapter, that it is always cut exactly in the same manner, as that of a common citizen's coat, which may suffice for this explanation.

IT must be admitted by every person, that we do not exceed the plain statement of truth, when we assert that we have never seen a truer modle, than described in fig. 8, 9, 10 and 11, on Light Dragoons' uniform jackets. The mode of cutting the forepart, back and sleeve seams

even to comport with reason itself. The beauty, the skill, and judgment displayed in this uniform erects, as it were, a barrier against the attempts of those whose weakness or ignorance might otherwise induce them to oppose it. The form of this jacket, we have no doubt, will be very pleasing not only to the cutter, but also to the journeyman, who may want knowledge to make it. They may see the manner in which the lace is put on, not only on the foreparts, but also on the sleeves at the cuff and collar. We need not say any thing further on this topic, as things bearing on each other, always speak for themselves.

THE views that are given respecting ladies' habits, command particular attention, not only on account of the abilities which the authors display in the plan of the drawing, as described in the plate, but also in the development of the many principles insisted on, throughout the whole of the chapter. The formation of the plate deserves great credit and praise from all professors of the business. The plate not only shows the article intended, which is *without* seams in the back or sides, but also the more immediate form of those *with* the usual seams, as the line drawn where the side seam ought to be, and particularised, from where it ought to be struck with the chalk on the whole cloth, or plainly show the form of the back, as if it had seams.

THE forms of the back and forepart skirts are also discoverable, and as to their formation, are ably executed ; the principles by which the plan of cutting the skirts either way, are shown and stated at large in the practical observations, and the given maxims stated and insisted upon.

NEXT in order are some principles concerning ladies' phaeton coats, or those which they wear when riding in a phaeton or chair ; concerning which, we need not make any particular remarks in this place, as they are not at all used on the continent of America. Therefore, we will leave the principles therein stated to the reader, as we find them. Indeed the authors themselves seemed inclined to be of opinion, that the sooner some of them are got rid of, the better it would be for the trade in general.

THERE is every reason to believe, we hope, that the trade has been much benefited by the maxims illustrative of the theory and practice on breeches and pantaloons. We do not think that we have asserted this without some just grounds. The more carefully the principles laid down are examined, the better will their consequences be understood. They are, in our opinion, calculated to make even the unskilful expert in this branch of the business. We have no hesitation in pronouncing it one of the most concise, and at the same time judicious modes by which a person who wishes information on this subject, can be put in possession of

the rudiments of this branch of the business. And further we rejoice to find them so happy in their choice of technical phrases. Throughout the whole, the language is so strong and nervous, and the reasoning so just, that every attentive reader must acknowledge that the authors have exerted their utmost to put him in complete possession of their ideas on the subject, and must pronounce them to be adepts in their profession. The reasonableness of the method of measuring is ascertained beyond a doubt: the plan of proceeding when about to cut, the salutary directions given with regard to the different kinds of stuff that may come into their hands through time and practice, and the method to be pursued in making them by the workmen, form such a mass of sound judgment and talent, as must silence the caviller, and raise the admiration of the best informed on the subject. The lines which are drawn across the the upper side thighs, upon the plate of pantaloons, are meant to designate the different measurements, as for instance, from letter *e* to letter *d* on each side of the lines. The rules for knowing the proper place to strike the fork are also proved, and fully justified. Making a deduction of from three to four or five inches, according to the length of the person whom you are measuring from the hip bone to the knee; by attending to this, the reasoning in the chapter is fully justified, and the cause shown for the deduction in the side measure, and the keeping of the finger on the measure for the length at the knee, while with the other hand, the measure is held at the reduction below the hip bone, running it inclining down to the fork and there mark it.

THE many reasons, sanctioned by long experience, and adapted fully by the authors with respect to waist-coats, have fully justified them in the plans and form described in plate VII. Yet we also find, that they give a very brief summary of the method to be pursued in making them.

THE authors hint, that they have a perfect knowledge of what numbers might say with respect to their giving instructions for this appendage of dress, and state that their sole intention was to instruct the ignorant. They conclude this by introducing a very appropriate quotation from the sacred volume, "*The whole need no physician;*" thereby justly implying, that it was not for those who were *perfectly* acquainted with the business, that this was written. They feel fully sensible of the malevolence of disposition attending the weak and ignorant minds of many professors of the business, who are unwilling to be instructed in this simple, yet necessary principle. The rules therein stated are another evidence of the diligent and arduous manner in which they have handled every point upon which they have insisted. Happy indeed would it be for many who have devoted years to the study of the business, if they would make a close application to the great and leading features of this work, and see the design of the authors in displaying to the trade in general such a fund of information.

To the judicious and experienced reader, who may think proper to peruse this book, it will appear, that

the facility with which the authors describe the diversified principles and rules of trade, is an evidence of the truth of the theory, and of their knowledge. They have the faculty of transferring their knowledge, as it were, to the readers in the same manner as if they had fully communicated their doubts and ideas to them. They have only unfolded the principles that seemed most reasonable in themselves ; and therefore cannot fail to agree with those maxims and principles, which are believed and supported by many other professors of the business.

F. I. N. I. S.

Directions for the Binder.

Plate I. to face page 20.

Plate II. ————— 30.

Plate III. ————— 38.

Plate IV. ————— 40.

Plate V. ————— 50.

Plate VI. ————— 74.

Plate VII. ————— 104.

Plate VIII. ————— 111.

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