

plentifully about the lakes near Calcutta, and also in the Island of Formosa, whence the Chinese import it in large quantities. The stems of the plant being cut into the proper lengths for the sheet, the pith is cut spirally into a thin slice, then flattened, pressed paper into Spain. On the oldest specimenextant of this Spanish manufacture a treaty of peace between the King of Aragon and a neighboring potentate, A. D. 1176, is transcribed. A manuscript exists in England, however, written upon cotton paper, bearing date A. D. 1049; but this paper was, ne doubt, imported from the East. Paper at this early period was of exceedingly inferior quality, being coarse brown, spongy and liable to speedy decay. So much was this the case that in A. D. 1241 the Emperor Frederic the Second of Germany issued an order declaring null all documents written on this material, and fixing a term of years within which they were to be transferred to parchment. Paper had hitherto been manufactured of raw cotton, hemp, or other vegetable fibre; but it now came to light that rags having already undergone the process, not only of manufacture but of wear, was better adapted to the purpose,

pulp. We have, therefore, specimens of paper made from rags as early as the fourteenth century, the oldest extant

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