

PORCELAIN AND EARTHENWARE MANUFACTURE IN LIVERPOOL. The foregoing paper, in which a brief allusion is made to this manufacture, elicited a full and interesting letter to one of our local journals, from John Rosson, Esq., of Moor Hall, Ormskirk. It was dated 9th May. The following is an abstract :—

During the existence of the “eleven manufactories” of earthenware, Mr. Richard Chaffers was at the head of the trade; and his sudden death, at the early age of forty, was a principal cause why so few materials now exist for a history of this branch of manufacture. Mr. Chaffers resided at the bottom of Dale Street, in a house recently removed in the improvements of the town; his moulding-houses were on the site of Islington terrace, and his manufactory on the north side of Shaw's Brow. He had been very successful in the manufacture of the common blue and white ware, of which he exported large quantities to our American colonies, when the improvements of Wedgewood introduced a new era.

The “soapstone” (steatite) of Cornwall had been leased to a few, who thus possessed it exclusively; and without it, he saw that competition in the trade was impossible. Having secured the services of a talented workman, called Podmore, formerly in the employ of Wedgewood, he proceeded to Cornwall, with a large sum of money and suitable introductions, determined, if possible, to discover a new vein of soapstone. After numerous unsuccessful efforts, he determined to suspend his operations for the time, and was riding from the boring by a difficult mountain road, to the nearest village. On a hill top, a signal appeared from one of the miners. The discovery had been made; and a few weeks after, a vessel dressed in colours, entered the Old Dock at Liverpool, with the first cargo.

Fatigue and anxiety brought on a severe fever, at a country Inn in Cornwall, from which he recovered. Some years after, Podmore, his principal workman, was seized with fever, and Mr. Chaffers having gone to take leave of him, at his own request, was also seized with the disease. Both dying, the business was broken up, and ultimately transferred to Staffordshire. Mr. Chaffers possessed a great knowledge of the mode of compounding and applying colour; and specimens of his work may still be seen at Knowsley, Wroughton Hall near Wigan, Moor Hall, and elsewhere. He was the maternal grandfather of Mr. Rosson.—Ed.