

“THE MECHANICK’S ADVISER”

For November 17 - 23, 2019

Apothecary – “We did a phone interview with VCU today about our program. They are hoping to have it done next week. We also received a request from a pharmacy school in New York, asking if we could work with one of their students next year. The signup process is underway.”

Armoury:

Blacksmith – “Mighty are the Blacksmiths of the James Anderson Shop. Morphing the black metals for diverse purposes, they show their Power over all other trades. The Range of their trade is beyond compare. This frigid week, you would see work done with double layers of socks, extra kerchiefs, and Monmouth caps galore. Ken has worked on gun parts, a sign bracket, and demonstrating techniques for the newer members of the Shop. Aislinn has worked on lock components and a type of transplanting scoop for the Gardeners, which required some creative use of the swage block to form the bowl. Owen has been very busy indeed, with curtain rod for a bed and chain for a well bucket on his agenda. Alex finished his second grid iron and began work on holdfasts, while young Tim continues piling up thumb latches. Go, go, chilly Blacksmiths, to the foot of the anvil.”

Cabinetmaker – “Work continues in the Hay Shop on the high chest of drawers, but at this point the effort is spent planing out boards and sawing them to rough dimension. This generates a great excess of wood shavings and scraps, which our Blacksmiths at their forges are happy to take off our hands. If anyone in town is wanting for fire starter, the Cabinet Shop can set you up. The Harpsichord-makers have just about finished their music holder for the spinet and have begun making plans for the next instrument, to be started as soon as the old one is out the door.”

Joinery – “This week, the Joiners have all made progress on their various projects, in spite of (or because of?) the change in temperatures. Scott has almost finished planing the poplar stock for the back of his food safe. Peter is knocking together the first of his post-and-rung chairs, and Amanda has begun preparing stock for her turned chair. Brian has kindly re-worked the lathe with a new treadle and continues work on the tall chest of drawers for the Hay Shop.”

Milliner and Mantua-Maker – “Dearest readers, I hear from my agents that some amongst you have wondered as to who is the real Mrs. Crackenthorpe. I assure you, I, Mrs. Crackenthorpe, am the Real Mrs. Crackenthorpe. My agents in town are sworn to secrecy on the matter of my true identity, and will not, no matter how much chocolate they are gifted, give it away. Furthermore, to the reader who commented on the excess of the beautiful French language in my publications, I can only say: je n’ai utilisé qu’un mot français dans le dernier papier, mais pour vous aider avec votre maîtrise de cette belle langue, j’essayerai d’en utiliser plus.

“Though the temperature has dropped, the Millinery is no less restless. On Sunday, Mrs. Martha J--- picked up a gown completed many months ago by Miss R--- S---. Mrs. J--- condescended to have her portrait taken that I may share the completed ensemble with my subscribers.



“A certain Miss N--- B--- (though I hear she is soon to be Mrs. K--- A---!), shoemaker’s apprentice, spotted the milliner’s apprentice Miss A--- H--- racing out of M--- H---’s shop to admire a chocolate poodle promenading dans la rue. Another trustworthy source, known to me only by the initials B. S., claimed Miss H---’s quick exit from her shop was due to her involvement in an international spy ring. B. S. was unable to give specifics as to how or why Miss H--- became involved in an international spy ring, or indeed, what her rôle in said spy ring would be, given that her skills lie solely in stitching a fine hem and making ornamental knots, as evidenced by the cap and cap riband she recently completed.

“Miss S--- has quite appropriately decided that the changing climes calls for changing clothes. She is at work on a new bedgown made from a beautiful blue worsted wool to keep her warm in the shop’s temperamentally temperature’d interior. Similarly, Mrs. J--- W--- has put her hands to a pink wool half-handkerchief.

“Mrs. C--- J--- seems to have been absent frequently from the millinery shop depuis son retour de Londres. Indeed, my most trusted agent A. L. H. reports that Mrs. J--- has not been seen in the Millinery shop since Sunday, and even then, she disappeared in the direction of the courthouse for a number of hours. My agent B. S. reported that Mrs. J--- was occupied with an occupation of the Taylor’s shop. B.S.

claims that, so desperate for her old job back, Mrs. J--- has been using any excuse to visit the shop and then, once there, refuses to leave. As she is not currently in the Millinery shop at the time of writing, and as neither I nor my agents have personally checked in the Taylor's shop to certify her presence or absence from that shop, I can only speculate as to her whereabouts. If any of my dear Subscribers have information on Mrs. J---'s absence from the Millinery shop, I ask that they discreetly leave word with one of my trusted agents about town."

Public Leather Works – The Public Leather Works will re-open on Sunday, November 17 at their new location in the former Bindery building.

Wigmaker – "Greetings from the Wigmakers! We've finally emerged on the other side of a very busy fall. While it still continues with a multitude of projects, day-to-day normalcy has been restored. During our absence, a great many things have happened. We've once again taken part in the Halloween festivities, styling five different wigs for the dandy couple and three witchy sisters. During our two-week maintenance closure, Sara and Regina had the opportunity to travel to New York City to see two original wigs at the Met, one of Italian origin and one from France. Both of these wigs were constructed using both familiar and unfamiliar techniques, and we look forward to reproducing them in the future. Meanwhile, Betty styled a wig for the new exhibit at the Everard House, Regina finished a wiglet made out of horse hair, Debbie is putting the finishing touches on a new wig for Christmas programming made out of yak hair, and Sara is in the beginning stages of a new human hair wig for one of the Tailors. In addition to all of this, regular maintenance continues as always, and we even found time to rearrange the Shop when it came time to reopen after maintenance!"