

army and navy cloths, blankets, negro cloths and broad-cloths, the great staple woolen manufacturers of that time sprang up in different parts of the country, stimulated by the enormous rise in the price of these necessities" [North], and many cotton mills were diverted to the manufacture of woolen goods. This development was helped by the introduction of steam in American woolen mills and by the more extensive use of the spinning jenny, which was first introduced there only in 1804. As illustrating how the minds of the people were centred on the textile industry at this time 237 patents were issued in the United States in 1812, and of these the great majority were for processes in the manufacture of wool, cotton and linen.

After the close of the war a strange reaction ensued. To understand this reaction, by which the United States

**Woolens the  
Turning-point of  
British Industrial  
Supremacy.**

woolen industry was prostrated, it is necessary to glance at two or three landmarks in the history of the woolen industry in England. In the twelfth and thirteenth centuries the Counts of Flanders, who ruled what is now Belgium and Holland, became so powerful that they were able when it suited them to defy European kings, and were more wealthy than many of these kings. To be as rich as a Count of Flanders became a proverb. Their wealth was chiefly made out of the manufacture of textiles, notably woolens. This wool came almost entirely from England, the fleeces of that country being greatly superior to those from continental sheep. The trade had gone on for a long period till wool became England's staple export. Hemingford could say: "All the nations of the world were clothed with English wool, made into cloth in Flanders." It is noteworthy that under Edward I. and Edward III. England laid the foundations of its woolen industry in times of strife and war, the industry being, in fact, a prototype of that of the United States, developed five hundred years later. Henry II., a patriotic ruler, made a good start by founding the Cloth Fair (afterwards known as Bartholomew Fair) at Smithfield, at which the buyers and sellers assembled for three days; and to compel the