

the machines, other young women were employed in executing them by hand, by means of combs, the teeth of which, confined in an iron frame, were made to correspond in number and position with the lines required. In consequence of this room being rather overheated, the young women employed in it had all a very high colour: they were, moreover, not only exceedingly well dressed, but apparently quite as well behaved. Indeed, from their appearance and demeanour, no one in England would have judged them to be mechanics.

In a small chamber we came to four tables, at each of which were sitting six young women, busily occupied in folding and sewing sheets, under the direction of a superintendent, securely seated in a wired caged cell at the bottom of the apartment, which opened into an immense room, 400 feet long, in which we found in full operation the Binding Department, in all its branches. For nearly 100 yards we passed through piles of half-bound books—principally edged either with bright yellow or bright scarlet—waiting to undergo that variety of tailoring and millinery operations necessary to enable them to appear before the literary world in quarter, half, or full dress. The labourers in this immense and important workshop were, as nearly as I could