

material and retaining the secrets of manufacturing as far as they could was pursued by succeeding rulers in harmony with the determination of the people down even to the reign of Queen Victoria. To those who only associate with the name of Great Britain the free trade views of the present day it will seem almost incredible that the inventions of Hargreaves (carding machine and spinning jenny), of Arkwright (the spinning frame) and of others were guarded by Governments and people as trade secrets, and kept as jealously as the secrets of the industrial guilds of ancient Egypt. In 1774 an Act was passed "to prevent the exportation to foreign parts of the utensils made use of in the cotton, linen, woollen and silk manufactures of this Kingdom," and under penalties of confiscation and heavy fines it prohibited "the putting on board of any ship or vessel not bound to some port or place in Great Britain or Ireland of any tools or utensils commonly used or proper for the preparation, working up or finishing of the cotton, woollen, silk or linen manufacture." In 1781 another statute was enacted adding a year's imprisonment to the penalties imposed by the Act of 1774. This policy, with some modifications, was strictly enforced down to 1845, when the era of free trade was inaugurated, by which time British textile manufactures were considered out of danger from foreign competition.

In the pamphlet previously quoted Mr. North says that during the earlier decades of the existence of these laws no known instance occurred in which a perfect textile machine was smuggled into the United States from Great Britain. The models that were introduced were so imperfect that it might fairly be said that the people of the United States had to invent anew the machinery by which, after trying difficulties, the textile industries of the country were at last established. At a later period they were to reap the advantage of this, for some of the most important improvements in the textile industry of the world had their origin in the United States during the last century. A catalogue of these would surprise persons unacquainted with textile manufacturing who associate all progress in this field with the primary inventions of Great Britain.