

### Weaving.

Weaving is of great antiquity, even in this country, as a manufactory of woollen cloths was established by the Romans at Winchester, soon after their invasion of Britain. About six centuries later, we find a curious allusion to the process of weaving, as practised by a Bishop, who, in a treatise on "Female Purity," illustrates its beauty, and shows how necessary it is for other virtues to accompany chastity. "It is not," says the worthy ecclesiastic, "a web of one uniform color and texture, without any variety of figures that pleaseth the eye and appeareth beautiful; but one that is woven by shuttles, filled with threads of purple and many other colors, flying from side to side, and forming a variety of figures and images in different compartments." Now this paragraph very accurately describes some of the most beautiful processes of figure weaving. About the close of the eleventh century, the arts connected with the manufacture of cloth had made a considerable degree of improvement, and the weavers in all the large towns were formed into guilds or corporations. The arts of spinning and weaving silk in a complete form were first brought over from France in the middle of the fifteenth century, and a company of females were established in London, called "silk women," who exclusively managed the business. But the great improvement in this branch of manufactures may be traced to the religious persecutions in France in 1686, when more than fifty thousand workmen, of various descriptions, took refuge in this country. In the latter part of the last century the invaluable invention of Sir Richard Arkwright introduced the very extensive manufacture of cotton, and added a lucrative and elegant branch of traffic to the commerce of Britain. The light and fanciful department of the cotton manufacture has become in some measure the staple manufacture of Scotland, whilst the more substantial and durable cotton fabrics have given to England a manufacture inferior in importance and extent only to the woollen trade.—*Selected.*

### A Word to Apprentices.

Apprenticeship is the most important stage of life through which a mechanic is called to pass; it is emphatically the spring season of his days; the time when he is sowing the seed, the fruits of which

he is to reap in after years. If he spare no labor in its proper culture he is sure of obtaining an abundant harvest: but if in the culture of the mental soil he follow the example of many in tilling the earth, and carelessly and negligently does his work, like them he will find the seeding time past, and his ground bringing forth only weeds and briars. Let the young apprentice bear in mind, when he commences learning any business, that all hopes of success in the future are doomed to fade away like the morning mist, unless he improve the golden season. Let him bear in mind that he can become master of his business only through the closest application, and the most persevering industry; and that unless he does master it, he may bid farewell to all visions of future prospect and success. The apprentice is the foundation of the great mechanical edifice; and surely if the foundation of a structure be not firm, the structure itself crumbles and falls to the earth. Then, young friends, persevere; be studious and attentive; study well all the branches of your business, both practical and theoretical—and you will not fail, when your time shall come to take an active part in life, to be of use, not only in your own particular business, but to society.

### Swearing Nobly Reproved.

Prince Henry, the son of James I., had a particular aversion to the vice of swearing and profanation of the name of God. When at play, he was never heard to swear: and on being asked why he did not do so at play as well as others, he answered that he "knew no game worthy of an oath." The same answer he is said to have given at a hunting-match. The stag, almost quite spent, crossed the road where a butcher was passing with his dog. The stag was instantly killed by the dog, at which the huntsmen were greatly offended, and endeavored to irritate the prince against the butcher; but his highness answered coolly, "True, the butcher's dog has killed the stag, and how could the butcher help?" They replied, that "if his father had been so served, he would have sworn so as no man could have endured." "Away!" said the prince; "all the pleasure in the world is not worth an oath."