

circumstances. His wife reasoned with him on what she considered his foolishness, but in vain, and one day, in a rage at what she believed to be the cause of all their privations, she broke some of his models.

In 1768 Arkwright, having completed the model of a machine for spinning cotton thread, removed to Preston. At this time he had hardly a penny in the world, and was almost in rags. On the occasion of an election, the party with whom he voted had to supply him a decent suit of clothes before he could present himself at the polling-booth! He got leave, however, to set up his machine in the dwelling-house attached to the Grammar-School; but afraid of the hostility of the spinners, he thought it best to leave Lancashire, and go to Nottingham.

Poor and friendless, it may easily be supposed that Arkwright found it a hard matter to get any one to back him an enterprise which people then regarded as hopeless. He at length succeeded in convincing Messrs Need & Strutt, stocking-weavers in the place, of the value of his invention, and induced them to enter into partnership with him. In 1769 he took out a patent for the spinning-frame as its inventor, and a mill, worked by horse-power, was created for spinning cotton by the new machine.

In a year or two the success of Arkwright's invention was fairly established. The manufacturers were fully alive to its importance; and Arkwright now reaped the reward of all the toil and danger he had undergone, in the shape of a disgraceful attempt the rob him of his patent rights.

Besides trying to defraud him, the rival manufacturers did their best to discountenance the use of the yarns he made, although they were much superior to those made by them. Arkwright retaliated by working up his own yarn into stockings and calicoes; which became a very profitable business.

For the first five years, Arkwright's mills yielded little or no profits; but after that, the adverse tide against which he had struggled so bravely turned, and he followed a prosperous and honorable career till his death. He died in 1792, leaving a fortune of about half a million sterling!

QUESTIONS.—What was Arkwright's first trade? Why did he abandon it? What business did he next try? With what success?

How did he spend his leisure time? What complaint did he often hear? What did he think of trying? Who joined him? What did his wife do? Where did he go when he had completed his model? Why did he leave Preston? Where did he go? Who entered into partnership with him? How did the manufacturers try to injure him? What was the result of the first five years of his mills? What after that? When did he die? What fortune did he leave?

DICTATION.—Sir Richard Arkwright, born at Preston in 1732, invented the spinning-frame in 1769.

As hand-labor was thereby dispensed with, and the production of yarn was greatly accelerated, he may be considered the founder of the cotton manufacture.

Recitation

THE SONG OF THE ROAD.

As I came out by Biddenden
There murmured in my ears,
The song that all wayfaring men
Have heard in all the years.
And all the way, by hill and moor,
That song went down with me,
By Tenterden and Appledore,
And Romney to the sea.

The song that all wayfaring men
Shall hear until they die,
That haunts their dreams, and
[brings again,

Under the open sky,
Across the pent, unhappy hours,
Across the clanging towns,
The gleam of little wayside flowers,
The white tracks of the downs.

The feel of wind upon the face.
The fragrance of the pine.
The draughts of keen, exultant space
That thrill the blood like wine,
Blue, mystic distance, fold on fold,
Luring from far away—
The song Ulysses heard of old,
And I heard yesterday.