

IGNATIUS COCKSHUTT was born in Bradford, Yorkshire, on the 24th of August, 1812. His father was at that time engaged in a manufacturing business, in partnership with Joshua Cockshutt, a cousin. Bradford was not in those days the prosperous manufacturing centre it has since become through the popularity of the famous Alpaca goods produced there. However, it was, even then, a rising town, and any keen observer who noted the strong, capable Yorkshiremen engaged in its industries, might confidently have predicted for the little town a future of industrial pre-eminence. But England was then in a critical condition. Industry was almost paralyzed, credit broken, confidence overthrown. The tremendous inflation of values, resulting from the French war, had given place to the inevitable reaction, and prices tumbled till business men could see no bottom. Many who had thought themselves rich suddenly realized that they were poor. Still the depression went on. There was no market for goods. Business men were unable to realize upon their assets and pay their debts, and were forced into bankruptcy. After the supreme effort to subdue Napoleon, England lay panting and exhausted, having an empty treasury, a jaded spirit, and a commercial hopelessness that was not fully dispelled till some years afterwards, when, with newly-invented machinery, she entered upon