

## COTTON MANUFACTURES.

“From one of the most miserable provinces in the land, Lancashire has grown to be one of the most prosperous. Within a hundred and fifty years the population has increased tenfold, and land has risen to fifty times its value for agricultural, and seventy times for manufacturing purposes. From an insignificant country town and a little fishing village, have sprung Manchester and Liverpool; and many other towns throughout the country owe their existence to the same source. These are the great monuments to the achievements of Arkwright, Crompton, Peel, and the other captains of industry who wrought this mighty change, and the best trophies of their genius and enterprize.”

Cotton was but little used in Great Britain until the middle of the eighteenth century. The history of its establishment as an industrial staple is fraught with sad and humiliating incidents, reflecting disgrace upon the authors of the ingratitude and treachery which were the rewards of some of the earlier inventors of the machinery from which it derived all its importance and power. To other well known families it has been the means of securing enormous wealth, and even exalted rank; while to the British nation, cotton has been one of the chief sources of preëminence and power. Who would have thought, when Hargreaves constructed his first spinning frame (“jenny”), in 1767, that in less than a century a single firm would be *printing* calicoes at the rate of a mile an hour, or turning out ten thousand miles of the same article in a year? In 1811 there were 4,600,000 of Crompton’s mule-spindles in use. At the present day there are 30,000,000 mule-spindles actively employed in Great Britain alone, and the increase goes on at the rate of 1,000,000 a-year. One English firm manufactures mules at the rate of 500,000 annually.

But it is the enormous amount of capital expended in maintaining the manufacture of cotton, and the vast number of persons to whom it gives employment, directly or indirectly, that excites the astonishment and almost terror of every one who seriously studies the subject, and contemplates the calamity which would result, if a disease like the oidium of the grape vine should strike the cotton plant.

It is estimated by very competent authorities\* that the capital employed in cotton manufactures in the United Kingdom, exceeds £50,000,000; that in the machinery establishments and other work-shops supplying the machinery, £50,000,000 more is invested; making in all £100,000,000 sunk in the trade. There are not less than half a million persons employed directly in the cotton mills, and one

million and a half are dependent upon these workers; making two millions immediately dependent upon this manufacture, besides an additional two millions engaged in trades which supply the cotton manufacturers with their machinery;—hence there are four millions of persons in the United Kingdom entirely dependent upon the stability and progress of the cotton trade! These estimates do not include numerous other collateral branches, which swell the number of those directly or indirectly interested—deriving an income from it, or being wholly dependent on cotton—to one-sixth of the population of Great Britain and Ireland, or considerably more than the aggregate population of British North America.

The effect of the cotton trade and manufacture on Lancashire has already been noticed; but so astonishing is the result, that a few additional statistics on this important subject may be introduced with propriety and advantage.

In 1758, the population of Manchester was only 20,000—less than half that of Toronto at the present time. In 1858 it exceeded 500,000. The inhabitants of the county (Lancashire) amounted, in 1758, to 300,000; now it embraces 2,300,000 souls. The tonnage of Liverpool, in 1758, was 100,000 tons; in 1858, or one hundred years later, it had risen to 5,000,000 tons. Cotton has been mainly instrumental in producing this extraordinary increase.

An idea of the rapid increase in the manufacture of cotton fabrics in England may be gathered from the following figures.

1857.	
Cottons, Calicoes, &c.....	1,979,000,000 yards.
Value .....	£28,786,000
Yarns and Laces.....	8,700,000
	£37,486,000
1858.	
Cottons, Calicoes, &c.....	2,321,000,000 yards.
Value .....	£32,042,000
Yarns and Laces.....	9,579,000
	£41,621,000
1869.	
Cottons, Calicoes, &c.....	2,563,000,000 yards.
Value .....	£37,040,000
Yarns and Laces.....	9,465,000
	£46,505,000

In two years England has added twenty-five per cent. to her exports of cotton goods, yarns, &c.

The cotton crops in the United States amounted in 1849-50 to 2,096,706 bales, with a value of \$117,649,947. In 1859-60 the crop reached the enormous quantity of 4,669,770 bales, having a value of \$308,865,280.

\* See *Journal of the Society of Arts*, Dec. 24, 1853.