

cotton and wool, and of cotton and worsted, are no longer rejected. They undergo a process called "extraction," by which the cotton is destroyed, and the woollen fibre is preserved and utilised. Although rags are very generally used in woollen factories, they are principally manufactured at Dewsbury, Batley, and the neighbourhood near Leeds, in which it is estimated that from 7,000,000 to 8,000,000 of yards of cloth are annually manufactured, of the value of £1,500,000.

The amount of material produced by the looms of the United Kingdom is almost incredible. The cotton yarn annually spun in that country, reckoning it to be of an average size, would reach 600,000 times round the earth, and our looms produce annually 3,000,000 yards of calico.

The cotton factories contain one-half of the cotton spindles of the rest of the world, and can produce cotton better and cheaper than in any other country. They spin daily 50,000,000 of miles of yarn, from which our looms weave daily 10,000,000 yards of calico or other goods.

"Can it be wondered at that there is a party of politicians called the "Manchester School." It is common for us to condemn those who seek to maintain class interests, but do not all endeavour to support their own class? the army and navy—landowners—coal-owners—ironmasters, all keep their own interests before them. The manufacturers do the same. They have wealth, they have intelligence, and the 6,000 or 7,000 masters have the responsibility of being in the aggregate the mainstay of nearly one-fifth of the country."

There were consumed in 1860 not less than one thousand million lbs. of cotton, and the maximum extent of the manufactory of textile fabric reached £150,000,000 stg. At least 75 per cent. of the superior descriptions of paper are now made from the refuse of the Cotton Mills.

The statistics supplied by Mr. P. L. Simmonds who has had lately under his care the preparation of new editions of "Ure's History of the Cotton Manufacture" and other commercial works, go far beyond those given in the foregoing paragraphs, which were completed up to the year 1856. The position of the Textile Industry in 1850, Mr. Simmonds represents to us as follows:—

Textile Industry.	Estimated value of Goods Manufactured	Declared value of Quantity Exported.	Estimated Quantity consumed in the U. Kingdom. Value.
	£	£	£
Cotton	104,000,000	52,000,000	52,000,000
Wool and Worsted	32,000,000	16,000,000	16,000,000
Flax	18,600,000	6,600,000	12,000,000
Silk	18,400,000	2,400,000	16,000,000
	178,000,000	77,000,000	96,000,000

In explanation of this table it is stated in relation to cotton that the exports have nearly doubled in the last ten years. In 1850 we shipped £28,400,000; in 1855, £34,800,000; and in 1860, £52,000,000. The imports of raw cotton have also doubled in the same period. In 1850 we received 663½ million pounds; in 1855, 892 million pounds, and in 1860, 1,391 million pounds. Passing next to wool and worsted—Mr. Simmonds calculated it at 200,000,000lbs., but these opinions were conjectural. The nett imports of foreign and colonial wool (less the re-exports) were, in 1850, 64,000,000lbs.; in 1855, 70,000,000lbs.; and in 1860, 118,000,000lbs. The exports of woollen manufactures, including yarn, &c., had been to the value of £9,000,000 in 1850, £7,700,000 in 1855 (a year of war), and £16,000,000 in 1860. Pass next to the linen trade. There were more than 100,000 acres under culture with flax in Ireland, and at least £12,000,000 of capital employed in the trade. Our foreign supplies of flax are declining, for in 1850 we received 1,822,918 cwts., while in each of the past years we had received less than 1½ million cwts. But there is a fibrous material brought in and largely worked up now at Dundee with flax, which ought not to be lost sight of, namely jute, of which we imported upwards of 1,000,000 cwts. in 1859, a quadruple increase since 1853. Our exports of linen manufactures have not increased very rapidly; the value of the shipments in 1850 and 1855, was £5,000,000, and in 1860, £6,600,000, but the bulk of this manufacture was used at home, and was fully double the value of that exported. The last textile for notice is silk; and here, too, the principal quantity made is used at home. The value of the exports stood in the following order:—1850, £1,250,000; 1855, £1,523,000; 1860, £2,400,000. The total value, from the data and estimates submitted by Mr. Simmonds, showed an increase of fully 50 per cent. upon the returns submitted by Mr. Redgrave, and, even making all reasonable deductions for error, they would give, it was thought, a fairer estimate of the magnitude of the trade and of the present aggregate value of the textile industries of the kingdom. The utilisation of waste substances, the collection of the blowings and droppings, the re-covered grease in the wool-factories, the re-conversion of old rags and mixed fabrics, &c.; these have risen into such importance that woollen rags, at one time worth only £4, now fetched £40 per ton. The use of these has been stigmatised as a fraud upon the consumers, and a disgrace to the manufacturers and to the country. But, in truth, the reconversion of old wool is a matter of necessity, arising from the dearth of raw material and the demand for cheap goods.