

Egypt. In the time of Moses, the Pharaoh was arrayed in vestures of fine linen; and on the tomb of Beni Hassan are shown the pulling of the flax and the ridding of the seeds by means of the ripple. It was the only material allowed for the garments of the priests and the bandaging of the dead. The ceremonial law of the Hebrews also prescribes linen for the priests. Cotton was then unknown, except as a curiosity. Wool was regarded as foul. We read of the Egyptian linen in Genesis, Chronicles, Proverbs, and Ezekiel. Pharaoh arrayed Joseph in vestures of fine linen, 1716 B. C. The mixture of flax and wool in a fabric was forbidden (Lev. xix. 19). Solomon had linen yarn brought out of Egypt (1 Kings x. 28).

“He [Aaron] shall put on the holy linen coat, and he shall have the linen breeches upon his flesh, and shall be girdled with a linen girdle, and with the linen miter shall he be attired; these are holy garments.”

Wilkinson states that the ancient Egyptian linen is far superior to the finest modern in general quality and the evenness of the threads. One specimen has 540 threads or 270 double threads in the warp, and 110 in the woof.

In the linen corselet given by Amasis of Egypt to the Lacedemonians, each thread, though fine, was composed of 360 other threads, all distinct. It was handsomely embroidered. The tomb of Rameses III. at Thebes showed a similar corselet, worked with figures of animals. Pliny notices the corselet of Amasis, shown in the temple of Minerva at Rhodes. See FLAX.

It was first manufactured in England by Flemish weavers, under the protection of Henry III., 1253. Before this, woolen shirts were generally worn. A company of linen-weavers was established in London, 1368.

The Presbyterians, who left persecution in Scotland in the time of the Stuarts, planted the linen manufacture in the North of Ireland, and were encouraged by William III. and succeeding governments.

**Lin'en.** (*Fabric.*) A cloth made of flax and having many grades of fineness, and several forms distinguished by their figures or surfaces; as *damask*, *diaper*, *cambric*, *huckaback*, etc.

The earliest notice of linen — cloth of flax — is in