

(1.) * WOOL. *n. f.* [*awl*, Saxon; *woMen*, Dutch.] 1. The fleece of sheep; that which is woven into cloth.—A gown made of the finest wool. *Raleigh*.—Cause clothiers to take wool, paying only two parts of the price. *Hayward*.—Struthium is a root used by the wool-dressers. *Arbut.* 2. Any short thick hair.—Wool of bat and tongue of dog. *Shak.*

(2.) WOOL is the covering of sheep. See OVIS, and SHEEP. Wool resembles hair in a great many particulars; but besides its fineness, which constitutes an obvious difference, there are other particulars which may serve also to distinguish them from one another. Wool, like the hair of horses, cattle, and most other animals, completes its growth in a year, and then falls off as hair does, and is succeeded by a fresh crop. It differs from hair, however, in the uniformity of its growth, and the regularity of its shedding. Every filament of wool seems to keep exact pace with another in the same part of the body of the animal; the whole crop springs up at once; the whole advances uniformly together; the whole loosens from the skin nearly at the same period, and thus falls off if not previously shorn, leaving the animal covered with a short coat of young wool. Hairs are commonly of the same thickness in every part; but wool constantly varies in thickness in different parts, being generally thicker at the points than at the roots. That part of the fleece of sheep which grows in winter, is finer than what grows in summer. While the wool remains in the state it was first shorn off the sheep's back, and not sorted into its different kinds, it is called *fleece*. Each fleece consists of wool of divers qua-

lities and degrees of fineness, which the dealers therein take care to separate. The French and English usually separate each fleece into three sorts, viz. 1. Mother-wool, which is that of the back and neck. 2. The wool of the tails and legs. 3. That of the breast and under the belly. The Spaniards make the like division into three sorts, which they call *prime*, *second*, and *third*; and for the greater ease, denote each bale or pack with a capital letter, denoting the sort. If the separation be well made, in 15 bales there will be 12 marked R, that is, refine, or prime; two marked F, for fine, or second; and one S, for thirds. The wools most esteemed are the English, chiefly those about Leominster, Cotswold, and the Isle of Wight; the Spanish, principally those about Segovia; and the French, about Berry: which last are said to have this peculiar property, that they will knot or bind with any other sort; whereas the rest will only knot with their own kind. Among the ancients, the wools of Attica, Megara, Laodicea, Apulia, and especially those of Tarentum, Parma, and Altino, were the most valued. Varro assures us, that the people there used to clothe their sheep with skins, to secure the wool from being damaged.

(3.) WOOL SOCIETY, BRITISH, an association formed in Edinburgh, in 1791, for the purpose of obtaining the best breeds of fine-woolled sheep, with a view of ascertaining, by actual experiments, how far each species or variety is calculated for the climate of Great Britain; the qualities of their wool respectively; the uses to which each kind of wool could be most profitably employed in different manufactures; and the comparative value of each species of sheep, so far as the same can be determined.

WOOL-COMBING, a well known operation, which, when performed by the hand, is laborious, tedious, and expensive. The expence of it through all England has been calculated at no less a sum than L. 800,000; and to lessen this expence, the Rev. Edmund Cartwright of Doncaster in Yorkshire bethought himself, some years ago, of carding wool by machinery. After repeated attempts and improvements, for which he took out three patents, he found that wool can be combed in perfection by machinery, of which he gives the following description: In *Plate CCCXLVIII. Fig. 1.* Is the crank lasher. A is a tube through which the material, being formed into a sliver, and slightly twisted, is drawn forward by the delivering rollers. B, a wheel fast upon the cross-bar of the crank. C, a wheel, on the opposite end of whose axis is a pinion working in a wheel upon the axis of one of the delivering rollers. When two or more slivers are required, the cans or baskets, in which they are contained, are placed upon a table under the lasher (as represented at D), which, by having a slow motion, twists them together as they go up. *Fig. 2.* Is the circular clearing comb, for giving work in the head, carried in a frame by two cranks. *Fig. 3.* The comb-table, having the teeth pointing towards the centre, moved by cogs upon the rim, and carried round upon trucks, like the head of a windmill. *a, b,* the drawing rollers. *c, d,* callender, or conducting rollers. Underneath the table is another pair of rollers, for drawing out the backings.

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The wool, if for particular nice work, goes thro' three operations, otherwise two are sufficient: the first operation opens the wool, and makes it connect together into a rough fliver, but does not clear it. The clearing is performed by the 2d or, if necessary, a 3d operation. A set of machinery, consisting of 3 machines, will require the attendance of an over-looker, and 10 children, and will comb a pack, or 240 lb. in 12 hours. As neither fire nor oil is necessary for combing by the machine, the saving of these articles, or even of the *fire alone*, will in general, pay the wages of the overlooker and children; so that the actual saving to the manufacturer is the *whole* of what the combing costs, by the old imperfect mode of combing by the hand. Wool combed by the machine is better, especially for SPINNING by the machine, at least 12 per cent; being all equally mixed, and the flivers uniform, and of any required length."

* WOOLFEL. *n. f.* [*wool* and *fell*.] Skin not stripped of the wool.—Wool and *woolfels* were ever of little value here. *Darvies*.

(1.) * WOOLLEN. *adj.* [from *wool*.] Made of wool not finely dressed, and thence used likewise for any thing coarse: it is likewise used in general for *made of wool*, as distinct from *linen*.—I was wont to call them *woollen* vassals. *Shak*.—I had rather lye in *woollen*. *Shak*.—*Woollen* cloth will tenter, linen scarcely. *Bacon*.—Spite of his *woollen* night-cap. *Dryden*.

(2.) * WOOLLEN. *n. f.* Cloth made of wool.—His breeches were of rugged *woollen*. *Hudib*.—Odious! in *woollen*! 'twould a faint provoke! *Pope*.—He is a bel-spirit and a *woollen* draper. *Swift*.

(3.) WOOLLEN CLOTH. See CLOTH, § 5 and 6. The following is the specification of a patent granted to Mr Harmar, of Sheffield, for a machine for raising a flag on all sorts of woollen cloths, and cropping or shearing them, which, together, come under the description of *dressing woollen cloths*, and also for cropping or shearing of fustians. It is dated March 29, 1794. See Plate CCCXLVIII. Fig. 1. exhibits a side and end view of shearing cloth from list to list. A, is the frame, with its pillars, legs, and rails. B, is the cushion or shear-board over which the cloth is extended. C, the cropper's shears in their situation for working, with their bobs or levers. D, the harness or breeches fitted to each end of the riding blade of C; at the near end is hollowed the bow of C, and at both ends fastened with screws passing through the blade, or else is grooved to admit the blade, and is fastened with wedges. It is composed of two strong pieces of plank, with holes to admit screws through to nut-screws fastened to their upper surface, and square holes through which pass small pillars; other two pieces of plank are frames for wheels turning on pins (as in drawing) situated under the pieces fastened to the riding blade; here the lower ends of screws are rivetted to plates, but so as to turn, which plates are screwed to the wheel-frames; also, in these lower pieces, small pillars are fixed, which, passing through the upper pieces, steady the harness; those screws turned to right or left bring the edges of C to the angle of B, for the

work of shearing. E, the inclined planes down which the wheels of D roll when the machine is working. F, is the working axle, with its rods or rails; the gudgeons of this axle rest on the cross rails of A; the axle has the inclination of B and E, as in drawing. Its rods, fixed to the sides of it by projecting pieces, are about four inches from its centre, and the thimbles of G ride down them to keep pace with C in its progress. G, is the line communicating at the lower end by a thimble with the rods of F, and at the upper end with the bob or lever of C, as in drawing. H, is an axletree, with its handle, cog-wheel, and stop, fixed by stops, on which it turns, to the pillars of A. I, the lines communicating with the extremities of K at one end, and the other with H. K, levers, turning on their pins, and, by the action of K and I, work against E, to raise C from B, for all necessary purposes. L, pulleys in their frames, to give a proper direction to I, that the turning of H may have the effect before named. M, is a crank attached to the lower gudgeon of F; the crank handle has an eye in it, through which a square leg passes, against which works the lower end of a screw, the nut of which is one side of the said eye. This screw, turned to right or left, loosens or fastens the leg in the eye at pleasure. The said leg at the other extremity has a handle where the near end of the catch N is fitted on. Now, as the leg is shifted by means of its eye and screw in that end where the handle is further from the centre of F, N works O with more speed. N, is the catch that works O. O, is the cog-wheel of N, with its screw pinion on its axle. P, is an iron axle, with pulleys near both ends, with a cog-wheel. R, is a small sword, fitted into the mortise of the projection on the lower extremity of F, and pinned, and the other end is fitted to the crank handle of S. S, is the crank axle and pulley that carries the band which goes to the power that works the machine. The situation for R, as to that end that fits on the crank of S, is directly behind the lower end of F, and under the further extremity of B, where the crank end of S rides on a stop fixed to the further rail of A; the pulley end where the stop is rides on X. Now the crank S being put in motion, gives R the necessary vibration, and R works F, which alternately raising or falling its rods or rails by G, C works, and, to effect the progression of C, F being in a working state, M works N, and O works P, and C is carried forwards by T, and to carry C forwards faster or slower, as necessary. For the due performance of shearing cloth, the handle of the leg of M, where N is fitted on, must be brought nearer to the centre of F for slackening, and more distant from the said centre to increase the speed, as then N will take more or less teeth in O. Or the progression in this frame may be effected by the method described in the progression of fig. 2, under the letters M, N, O, P, T, the lines for carrying forwards C by P. U, is a projection fastened to D, and works against U when C is about to stop. V, is a rail and small sword passing through a mortise fixed to one of the legs of A, at nearly one end, and by a working joint, goes up to near the extremity of W. W, is a lever, passing through its fulcrum, and pinned

pinned to the upper end of X; and near the other end rests on a small notch, sunk in the inside of the upper end of one of the pillars of A, and weighted in the extremity with lead or iron. X, is the step of the pulley end of S, and, by a small sword, goes up to W, on the near side of one of the pillars of A, through which X goes, and moves on a pin, and is the step of one end of O; and the further side of the said pillar, where the letter X stands, is the step of the pulley end of S. Now when U or D works against U or V, W is thrown from its notch, and W, sinking, raises X, and slackens the band on the pulley of S; then the machine stops, and X, raising the step of S on the further side of the pillar of A, on the near side of it sinks the step of O, and the screw-pinion is thrown out of the large cog-wheel of P. Y, is a small axle on steps, fastened to D, with its handle and bands going too near the extremity of Z. Z, two small rails, with catches at their extremities, which fall into notches in D to fasten both the shears of C together. Now when the machine stops, by the means already described, the pressure of the handle of Y raises the catches of Z, from their notches in D, and the shears of C are at liberty, and may be driven by the hand to the necessary situation for shifting the cloth, first turning H to the right, to clear them from B. The cloth being shifted, bring the said shears of C to their proper situation, and the catches of Z will fasten them; then turn H to the left, throwing back its catch, and the shears of C are brought to their work: when lift up to its notch, the extremity of W, and the band on S, is tightened, and the machine works. *Fig. 2*, a side and the two end views of shearing the length-way of the cloth. A, the frame, with its pillars, legs, and rails. B, a circular cushion, or shear-board, formed to the angle of the cropper's shears, and at each end resting on steps fixed to the top rail of A, to be moved round, as occasion shall require. C, the cropper's shears in its harness, or working position. D, the harness, attached to both ends of the ledger blade of the shears C, as particularly described in *fig. 1*, under the letter D; but this mode of shearing requires that the strong pieces, attached by screws to the ends of C, should be framed together near the back of the said laid ledger blade, to take the weight of the ends of the shears. When the whole width of a narrow cloth is shorn, the second shear of C is placed behind that in drawing, and has another, B, for it to work upon, and I, to be worked by. And that part of D attached to the heel of C and letter E, are lengthened as described (*fig. 3*.) under the letter C; so in like manner the shears are situated behind each other in taking the width of a broad cloth. Here it must be noted, as in this mode of shearing the cloth having the progression, the wheels of D are omitted, and pieces of wood, half rounded, supply their place. E, is a small frame in its steps, with its arms and lines. The situation of E is seen under letter D, *fig. 3*; it is attached to the heel part of the harness, as there seen by the drawing. One of the lines of E goes down to the working-rail of E, in the aforesaid, *fig. 3*; and the other line communicates with the lever or bob of D. F, the roller, with its handle,

on which the cloth to be shorn is wound. G, the small rollers, to guide the cloth to B; the middle one which swells riding on it, lighteneth the lifts of the cloth as it rides forwards: the swells are moveable, for the purpose of suiting cloths more or less longlifted. H, the rod, cranked on every side, with the pulley for the progression, and that also which carries a band to the working power situated at the upper end of A, near Q. I, is the thimble fitted on the crank, with the line going up to near the extremity of the bob working C. K, and axle, with its cog-wheel and stop, as particularly described (*fig. 1*.) under the letters H, I, K, L, and produce a like effect, and must be fixed to this figure the same as in that. L, the check to F, fastened by a pin at the near end, and passing under F, being hollowed to it, the further extremity (being carried under C and B) having a weight suspended on it. M, the roller, with a cog-wheel, to which the end of the cloth is attached; and being tightened by the handle of F, the weight on L keeps it in that tight state as it is carried through the work. N, an iron axletree, carrying a large pulley with one groove, and a five-groove pulley with its steps, that out of sight lies under A on a cross rail. O, an iron axletree, carrying a five-groove pulley and screw pinion on steps, as in drawing. P, bands going from the small pulley of H to the large pulley of N; and from the five-groove pulley of N to the five-groove pulley of O. Now these five-grooved pulleys gradually descend in their dimensions from fourteen inches to three inches in one, and the other may be the same dimensions, or very considerably smaller; or it may be reduced to a pulley of three inches diameter with one groove. These five-groove pulleys stand, in respect to each other, in contrary directions. Now when the crank by a band on the pulley on its upper extremity is set to work, the band B, from the other pulley, puts O and P in motion, and carries forward M. That M may have different speed, the band of the five-groove pulleys must be shifted for that purpose to the different grooves, which give them more or less speed. *The Stop-Frame*—Q, the step where rides the upper end of H, which step at one end is tenoned into the pillar of A, and pinned. R, is a small sword, at the lower end tenoned into the extremity of Q, and pinned; and at the upper end is mortised, so as to admit the further end of S. S, is the lever, tenoned into the mortise of R, and pinned, and passing through a mortise in the pillar of A. Now to stop the machine, the near extremity of the lever S must be pressed down, and that slackeneth the band communicating from the acting power to the pulley of H. When set agoing the said extremity of S must be lifted up, and pinned there. To work this machine, put the cloth to work as directed under letter M; then throw back the stop of G, and the shears are brought to their work; then raise the extremity of S, and the machine works. *Fig. 3*, shews 2d a mode of shearing cloth the length way, a side and end view. A, is the frame, with its pillars, legs, and side and end rails. B, the inclined planes, as *fig. 1*, under E. C, the shear boards, over which the cloth is stretched from H to H: every shear has its board, and is placed by the side of each other,

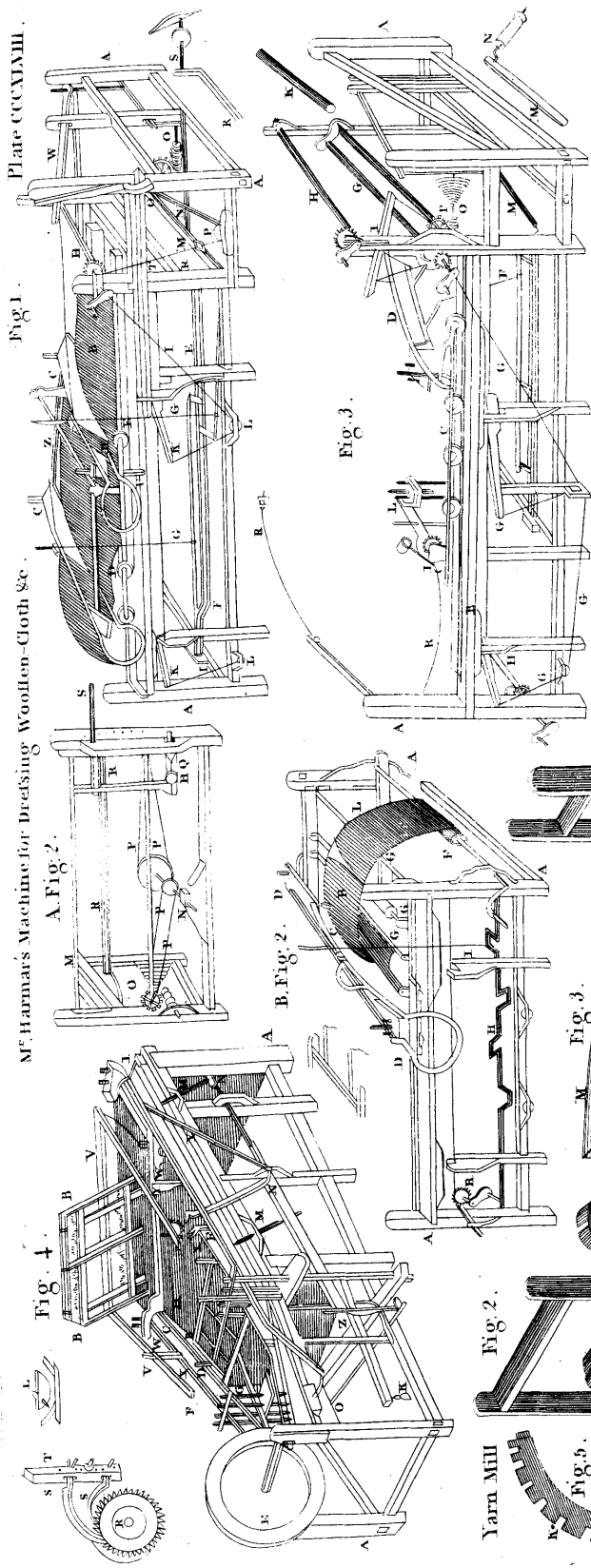
ther, so as to take the width of the cloth; and the shears, situated for the like purpose on them, the harness H, and small working frame E, *fig. 2.* are lengthened accordingly. D, the cropper's shears in its harness, and bob or working lever, with E, *fig. 2.* in its proper situations, attached by the steps to the harness of D. E, the axle, with the line communicating with the bob at one end, and at the other with one of the axle rods, by a thimble, described under F and G, *fig. 1.* F, the line and thimble before named. G, a small axle, with its lines, levers, pulleys, &c. particularly described under letters H, I, K, L, *fig. 1.* H, rollers for the cloth, and their cog-wheels and stops. I, a lever, with its catch and stop to the wheel of H, which is on the other side of the pillar of A, near the middle of it, and falls into the cog-wheel of H, which line communicates with the lower end of the catches on H and L, and passeth through small pulleys, fixed under the catches, on the inside of the frame A, that, by the pressure of the upper extremity of the said lever, the catches are raised out of the cogs of their wheels, to give liberty for winding the cloth when shorn on the roller of H, situated near to I. K, a roller to guide the cloth, when wound forwards, that it may keep its situation on the surface of C: it is placed near the axle G, on steps, in the same direction fixed to the pillars of A. L, an axle, with its handles, cog-wheel, and stop, resting on B, with its near stop. This axle has an aperture through the middle of it lengthwise, to admit the cloth through. Now when the cloth is stretched from one of the rollers of H to the other, by turning L to the right, more regular tightness is given to the cloth, and better fits it for the action of shearing. For effecting the progression in shearing and working the shears, M is a small sword, fitted on the handle of the projection of E at one end, and at the other on the crank handle of N. N, a crank, with its pulley with one groove, and a small five-groove pulley, of about 3 inches diameter. The larger one-groove pulley carries a band to the power that drives the machine. The situation of this crank is nearly the same as S, *fig. 1.* and produces the like effect. O, is an axle, with a large five-groove pulley and screw pinion. These pulleys of N and O have their bands, and descend in their dimensions, as particularly described under letter P, *fig. 2.* P, a roller, with its cog-wheel, on which the bands wind that carry forward D, with all the other shears, more or less, fastened together by a rail, at their proper distances from each other (as in drawing), that each may take its proper share of cloth, being situated as described under letter C. Bands from P to D carry forward the shears of D. For stopping this frame, the stop part of *fig. 1.* under letters U, V, W, X, must be put to it, fixed to the rails and pillars of A. Q, is a projection attached to D, and will stop this frame when the parts above directed are fixed to it in the manner directed, *fig. 1.* R, is a line attached to the shears of D, and passing through a small pulley fixed in the back rail of A, runs through another pulley fixed in a convenient situation over the frame of this said *fig. 3.* and by pulling its extre-

mity draws back the shears of D when they have cut their board of cloth. For working this machine, the cloth is wound on the upper roller of H, and round a small roller at the upper end of A, and extended down C, and under K, and to the other roller of H, where it is attached; the stop of the upper roller falling into its wheel, the cloth is tightened by the lower roller and the handles of the roller. L, their respective catches falling into the cogs of their wheels, which keep the cloth in a tight state, then throwing back the catch of G, the shears of D are let down to their work, when, by means of R, they are brought to their proper situation on B. Then lift up the lever of the stop-frame into its notch, as directed under letter S, *fig. 2.* and the machine works. When the machine stops, as before directed, and particularly described, *fig. 1.* under X, to shift the cloth for cutting another length, press down the near extremity of I of this third figure, and wind the cloth that is cut on H. When lifting up the said extremity of I, the cloth may be tightened as above described, and the shears of D shifted to continue their work. *Fig. 4.* For raising a shag on cloth preparatory to shearing. A, the side and end rails, legs and pillars, with its teale, frames, and cotters. B, the frames, one open and the other shut, which turn on hinges, and when shut ready for work, are fastened by buttons screwed loosely to C. C, is a frame mortised, to fit four sides of B, when shut; and by projections, or sides fixed to its four corners, rides in the groove of a third frame, fixed to the rails of F. D, a third frame in the inner grooves, or two sides of it; C rides this frame, is attached to F, its projection slides through the gutters or flutes of L, when working. E, the double crank, with its large pulley, which by a band goes to the working power. These cranks stand in contrary directions, on the same axle, that the frame may work alternately. F, working rails, fitted on the crank handles, and fastened on by screws. These rails have a working joint near the side of G, and on the further side of G are attached, by screws, to each end of D; and as E works the frames of D, which carry C and B, works round L, and so raise the shag. G, the pulleys, fixed in their frames, over which F rides. H, the board for raising, in its inclined posture, with the cloth passing over it from one roller of I to the other. I, the rollers, situated before and behind H, and attached to the legs of A, by screws, the gudgeons rising on steps; and at the upper end of H is a small roller, to guide the cloth round the end of H, with swells for both lifts of the cloth, after the manner of *fig. 2.* under the letter G. K, the check to the fore roller I, which at one end is attached to one of the legs of A, and near that end lies over the same roller, and hollowed to fit it, and at the other end carries a weight, as in drawing. L, two pieces of plank, situated on both sides H, at the upper termination of M. The inside of the said planks are fluted or guttered to the angles of L, which stands at the foot of A. The small projection at the top of L is a pattern of the slides fixed to the sides of B, which pass through the aforesaid angle when the frames are working, which raise them to and from the cloth.

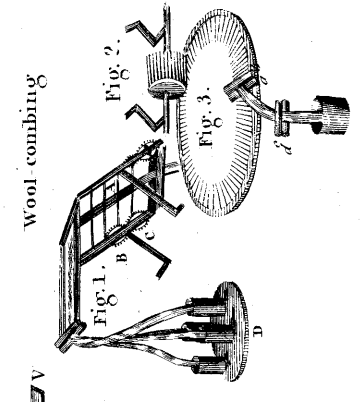
To effect the revolution of the slides that carry C, the top piece of L is fastened to the side of its plank, at or near the upper end, by a screw, on which it moves, and at or near the bottom end it is fastened to its plank, but with the liberty to play. Now when D, by its slides, has passed through the gutter, the lower end of the top piece of L falls, and forms a bridge, to carry the slides of L to the top of the gutter, for the making of another revolution. M, are small swords, terminating in L, and fastened with pins, and passing through sockets fixed to the rail of A, and mortised at the lower extremity into N, where they move on pins. N, a strong rail, extending along the side of A, having a joint in it, and turning on pins in a mortise fixed to the pillars of A. O, an axle, with small projections at its ends, in steps, lying on the lower rail of A, extending from one side of the machine to the other. P, small swords, one tenoned into the projection of O, and the other admitting the near extremity of N, through a mortise where it moves upon a pin. Q, an upright leg, fastened at the lower end to the axle of O, near the lower rail of A. Now by turning this leg to right or left, it moves O, and O, by its projection, raises and lowers the near extremity of N, and N raises and sinks L, which has a like effect on B, C, D; so that, by these mediums, B is brought into contact with H in all necessary degrees. R, is a cog-wheel, its situation is on the further extremity of the back roller of I. S, two catches, for carrying forwards R, attached to I at one end in mortises, and moving on pins, and the other working the cogs of R. T, the working leg, fixed to the further pillar of A by a screw, as in drawing. The upper extremity of the said leg goes through a socket, fixed to the further rail of F, near the upper part of it. Now, by the vibration of this said extremity of T, in its socket, by E working F, S carries round R, and by varying the pins of S nearer to, or more distant from, the centre of its motion, the said R is carried forwards either faster or slower. For shifting B and C to right and left of H, for the purpose of raising more regularly, U, a cog-wheel and stop of the under side, with a handle near the periphery of the said cog-wheel, to act as a crank on the top-side. V, three rails. The rail that crosses the top of H is tenoned into the extremities of those that form or lie to the right and left of it. W, the steps on which V rides, with pins to keep the rails of V in their place. X, bands fastened at one end to C, and the other extremity passing through nuts fixed to V, where they are fastened by the end screws working through the side of their nuts against them. Y, two legs, fastened together at the lower end by a working joint at the upper ends. The further is attached to the near rail of F, and that nearer works upon a pin, a little short of its extremity, with a catch falling into the teeth of W; and as it works U round, there is another catch on the same side, which prevents the said U from working back. Now F works Y, and Y works U, and U works by its crank V, and X shifts C from right to left by turns in the degree necessary by tightening and slackening the band X. Z, is the near stop of E, screwed to a short rail at one end, te-

noned into the near pillar of A, near which the stop of A is situated. The other extremity of the said rail is fixed under a pin, on a short upright leg, which at the lower is screwed to the inside of the near rail of A, near which the stop of A is situated. Now to set this machine to work, or to stop it when working; for the latter, move the said rail from under its pin, and by raising it the band on E slackens, and the machine stops; and having extended the cloth from the near roller I, on which it is wound, to that behind H, and fixed the handles in B, with its cutters, and buttoned them down, you must then bring the extremity of Z under its said pin, and the machine works.

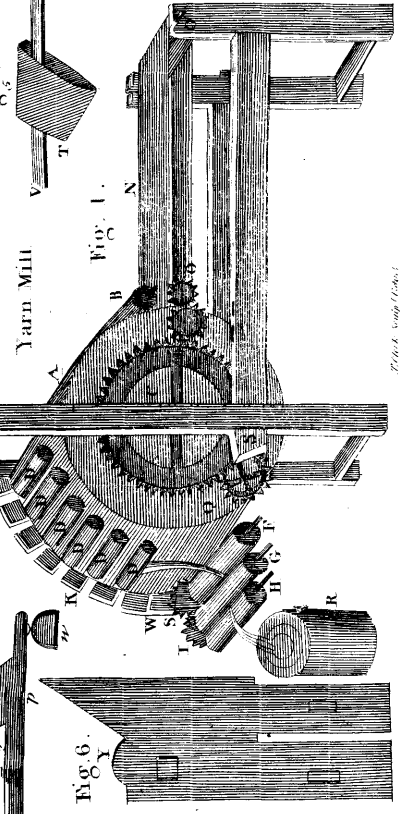
M^r Harmar's Machine for Dressing Woollen-Cloth &c.



Wool-combing



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