

CALENDER, a machine used, in the manufactories, for pressing certain stuffs, silks, calicoes, and even linens; to make them smooth, even and glossy. It is also used for watering, or giving the waves to tabbies and mohairs.

The word is formed from the French *calandre*, or Spanish *calandra*, which signify the same; and which some derive further from the Latin *cylindrus*; because the whole effect of the machine depends upon a cylinder. Borel derives the name from that of a little bird, of the swallow kind; on account of the agreement between the feathers of the bird, and the impression of the machine.

The calender consists of two large wooden rollers, round which the pieces of stuff are wound: these are put between two large, close, polished planks of wood; or plates of iron, the lower serving as a fixed base, and the upper moveable; by means of a wheel like that of a crane; with a rope, fastened to a spindle, which makes its axis: this upper part is of a prodigious weight, sometimes twenty or thirty thousand pounds. It is the weight of this part, together with its alternate motion, that gives the polish, and makes the waves on the stuffs, by causing the cylinders on which they are put to roll with great force over the lowest board. The rollers are taken off, and put on again by inclining the machine.

At Paris they have an extraordinary machine of this kind, called the *royal calender*, made by order of M. Colbert; the lower table or plank of which is made of a block of smooth marble, and the upper lined at bottom with a plate of polished copper.

This is called the great calender; they have also a small one with two tables of polished iron or steel.

There are also calenders without wheels, which are wrought by a horse harnessed to a wooden bar, which turns a large arbor placed upright; at the top of which, on a kind of drum, is wound a rope, the two ends of which being fastened to the two extremities of the upper plank of the engine, give it motion. But the horse calendar is in less esteem than the wheel kind, as the motion of this latter is more equable and certain.

We read of calendering worsteds. To improve linen farther, the drapers get several sorts of their cloths calendered: whereby their threads are made to lie flatter and smoother.