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Hand Loom Weaving.

When we consider how much has been done for the multiplying of products by improvements in machinery, we are at a loss to know what branch of science and art has been most benefitted, or to know what part of the human race has been benefitted at all. If it is true that within the past sixty years the products of manufacture have been multiplied five hundred fold and the agricultural one hundred, how is it that there is still a very large portion of mankind in those countries most famous for mechanical produce, that are frequently subject to suffering and want. Yea, even the great minds, Fitch, for example. It certainly appears strange, and yet the fault is not in the amount produced, for that surely is a blessing. The evil, however, must be somewhere, and the evil and the remedy for it, should engage the attention of every thinking man. In the invention of the power loom, an evil was experienced by the hand loom weavers with whom it came immediately in contact, and in Great Britain they were reduced to a most deplorable state of suffering on that account. No remedy could be satisfactorily proposed for them only emigration, and that by a committee sent to examine into their condition. *This was a sad feature in the prospects of a class of men who were very ill adapted for any other kind of life than weaving, but it was the only feasible one that presented itself for their immediate benefit.* But the tables are now turned. If the power loom took away the trade of the hand loom weaver the hand loom is destined again to maintain a respectable standing. A Frenchman by the name of Clausenne has invented a hand loom to be turned by a simple crank, which can weave about five times as much as the old loom and make better cloth, and the tying of a thread and the turning of the crank seems to be all the apprenticeship required to learn the art. *This might seem preposterous and partaking of the marvellous, but the fact is stated upon the authority of J. S. Robertson, Esq. Editor of the London Mechanics Magazine, who turned out a handsome yard of cloth himself and who never had thrown a shot with the fly-pin in his life.* This loom would be a most invaluable machine for this country, especially in rural villages, for as food and clothing make up the sum total of our necessary wants, it would at once place a rural operative above the necessity of depending on much capital, to be independent in manufacturing. It is thought that it will be a great blessing to Ireland and also in regard to the health of the weaver, as it can operate much better in any climate than the old hand loom. We may at some future period recur to this invention and present, after bringing it thus into notice, a more detailed accounts of its operations.