

reductions have been decided upon which will bring the wages paid in the velvet department of Lister and Co. to figures that are generally the same or a little higher than those paid by the best Bradford firms. If the hands decline to accept the lower rate of wages proposed, the directors intend to close the department until such time as the rate of wages can be agreed upon, and this time of year, being between the seasons, is peculiarly adapted for such a re-arrangement.

We have no wish to enlarge upon this matter in the present stage of what has hardly yet become a dispute. But in a general way it may be remarked that these reductions are inevitable in the present condition of things. The life of England is her commerce—that is, her foreign trade. That trade, as we have shown, is being steadily and successfully attacked, not by one, or two, or three, but by every civilized nation in the world, with the exception of a few of the sparsely peopled Australian colonies. And yet when new and more stringent tariffs are proposed, any attempt to obtain an enquiry is resented as if it would imperil the whole system of our commercial policy, which is not the case. Now that the working men of the country are threatened with a reduction in their incomes, owing to the unfair tariffs imposed upon British goods abroad, they may be induced to take an intelligent interest in the question, and support the demand for an investigation. Such a course would prove far more profitable to them than many subjects to which they give attention.

Leaving this important subject, we turn to another current aspect of the labour question, this time abroad. Last week a delegation of Tourcoing millowners and working-men representatives was received by the French Board of Trade in order to submit their respective schemes for eliminating the differences between capital and labour set forth so prominently this year by the Roubaix-Tourcoing strikes. The employers urge that it is necessary, firstly, to come to some understanding with Germany to institute a ten hours working day; secondly, that night labour be abolished; thirdly, that a local Government inspector be nominated, with power to grant overtime permissions when it may be deemed advisable, and to ensure the proper working of the Labour Bill. The working-men representatives advocate, firstly, the suppression of night labour; secondly, a ten hours working day, or even an eight hours day, if other Powers will promise to adopt the same course at once; thirdly, a rise of from 10 to 15 per cent. in wages; fourthly, that no foreigner be employed in French mills; fifthly, that overtime be authorised by an inspector, appointed by the working-men's syndicate, only when accidental stoppages have occurred. As the parties still disagree upon certain points, the Board of Trade intend to consider their claims individually, and decide what steps ought to be taken to call the attention of the Legislature to the importance of the labour problem and its solution. It is a fact well worth the notice of manufacturers here that their French competitors should have taken up the question of hours of labour. It is necessary, however, to point out that this country cannot submit itself to the operation of any international arrangement on the subject so long as operatives here work less hours and get better wages than those on the Continent. Whether the French and Germans will consent to compete on fair terms is open to question. In any case, the decision of the French Board of Trade will be awaited with interest.

Foreign Correspondence.

TEXTILE MATTERS IN THE UNITED STATES.

ENGLISH V. AMERICAN CARDING.—AMERICAN TEXTILES OF SEVENTY YEARS AGO.—JAY GOULD'S GIGANTIC MONOPOLY.

NEW YORK, NOV. 29TH.

There is not much being done by importers just now. The tendency of prices continues to be upwards, and there is a general disposition to charge in all cases the full additions imposed by the tariff. Retailers are transacting a very heavy trade, as is usual at this season, and the orders placed with wholesale firms are quite up to the average.

A patent has just been issued to Mr. Schaum, of Schaum and Uhlinger, No. 440,370, dated November 11th, 1890, referring to a "glass beam bracket for looms for weaving silk ribbons." The peculiar advantage of the bracket is that it is adjustable without any trouble whatever, and is to supersede the old style wooden glass and breast beam bracket on the ribbon looms. Where the old bracket is used it is necessary to remove several wood screws and bore new holes in the glass beam and breast beam, and move the bracket along to the proper place. By the use of this bracket it is only necessary to loosen one thumbscrew on the bottom and move the bracket along to the desired place. It will not require any more time to adjust the brackets for the entire loom by the use of this new bracket than it would to adjust a single bracket of the old style.

Handkerchief houses on your side will be interested to know that Mr. Thomas O'Neil, formerly a salesman with Messrs. T. Hood, Foulkrod and Co., is now identified with the new firm of H. and T. H. O'Neil, importers of embroideries, handkerchiefs, etc., 72, Green-street, New York.

It is now admitted by practical men that English cards have grown into favour in this country. Five years ago there were probably only a few hundred English cards, of the large make, in the country; to-day there cannot be much less than 5,000. If these average 800 pounds per week, the whole product will amount to 10,000 bales per week (400 pounds each). Such progress as this shows that there are a large number of very influential believers in English cards. One large field of operation for these cards has remained so far untouched. For some reason many carders and superintendents have almost taken it for granted that for double carding the old American system is the only possible way of doing this. Very few have ever tried double carding on English cards. A writer in *Fibre and Fabric* advises their trial. "I often hear it said," he remarks, "that there is no double carding done in England on revolving flat cards. That I believe is quite true, and yet a large portion of the very best celebrated Bolton yarns, Nos. 50, 60, 70, is single carded. How is it done? First of all, cards in America with United States duty cost 50 per cent. more than in England, and they card probably 50 per cent. more here than in England. Second, for these counts English spinners use Egyptian cotton, which has its own peculiarities, but it is very easy to card compared to the irregular nippy 'Peeler,' 'Allen,' and long Texas cottons in use in New England for the same counts of yarn. It is therefore easy to see that by using cotton 30 per cent. more difficult to card, and carding say even 30 per cent. more than is done with Egyptian cotton in England, the difficulty of getting a good result is very obvious. I believe for superior fine yarns, 50, 60, 70, 80, uncombed, that double carding is absolutely necessary when using the native cottons referred to, and to do this successfully, there are no cards made that will accomplish a larger quantity and better quality than the English revolving flat cards, and I recommend your very intelligent writers on this subject, who are evidently practical men and desirous to arrive at the best solution of all mill problems, to try

this experiment, to carry it entirely separately through into yarn, and I am sure they will admit that they had little conception of the capability of revolving flat cards in the direction of double carding. For carrying out this system an English Derby doubler is required, but the experiment can easily be made in many different ways for a trial, that will be suggested to the mind of any intelligent carder."

A correspondent of the *Times* of this city had some interesting remarks to make recently on the prices of clothing in the United States in the early years of the country's history. If land were high in the old days compared with prices obtaining at present, other things were cheap. Clothing certainly had no fancy values put upon it when it came into the hands of the appraisers of estates. Here is the sample list of the personal decorations of a prosperous farmer who died not far from 1812:—

	s. d.
1 pair buckskin breeches	1 0
1 bottle-green coat	6 0
1 vest	0 8½
1 great coat	3 0

About 1820 there died a woman, among whose effects were the following:—One 'dimity petticoat,' valued at 1s. 6d.; 'ribbons,' worth 3d.; a pair of morocco shoes, worth 3s., and a pair of coarse, valued at 1s. 5d. The lady's umbrella was worth 17 cents. In another list a 'calico gound' was put at 34 cents, a petticoat at 75 cents, and a blue flannel gown at 1 dol. The quilt habit evidently had many victims in those good old days. Quilts were plenty. One administrator found that he was called upon to look after the estate of a person who had died possessed of eleven of these protectors against winter draughts. Modern quilt-makers may be pleased to know that the lot of eleven was worth 9 dols. 89 cents in the year of grace 1821. Some of the entries as to male attire are as follows:—One blue pantaloons, 1 dol. 50 cents; one pair pantaloons, 75 cents; one pair short breeches, 33 cents; "one plain chest" to keep things in was worth 12 cents.

It would be difficult in such a aristocratic country as England for any one man to acquire such vast power, as that now possessed by little Jay Gould. Business men in Great Britain would not for a moment tolerate such a monopoly as that implied say by the union under one control of the North-Western, Midland, Great Northern, Great Western, and other trunk lines. In this country, however, the public are at the mercy of Goulds, Vanderbilts, and other men of a similar stamp, whose existence is a greater drawback to the welfare of the nation at large than a whole army of the blue-blooded peers for whom Americans profess to entertain such feelings of profound contempt. By clever manipulation of the vast funds at his disposal Gould has now obtained control of the lines of traffic between the East-coast of China and the Atlantic seaboard of the United States. He controls the Pacific Mail Steamship Company, of which his son George has been elected president; has a commanding voice in the Northern Pacific, Union Pacific, the Southern Pacific, and, in fact, all the trans-Continental railroads. The country is at his mercy, and he can juggle with its interests as he pleases. Fortunately for European shippers who desire to utilise the North American route for Asiatic shipments there is still the Canadian Pacific route in British territory, over which the Little Wizard's malign influence has not been cast.

Designing.

NEW DESIGNS.

REVERSIBLE SATINS.

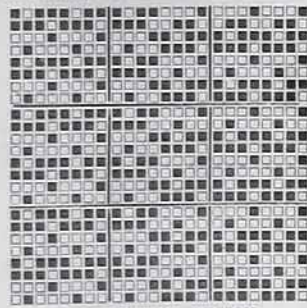
This design is a suggestion, and may be applied to a variety of cloths. It is a perfect five-end satin on ten ends, warped end and end, of any colours, thus producing an equal surface finish on each side of two distinct colours. The weft may be any colour, seeing it is almost buried, or as nearly as possible out of sight; for tugs, mauds, shawls, and many other fabrics it

will be found a neat and appropriate method of combining colours which contrast and harmonise, because the shades or tints may be made to change places either in solid or broken patches, and all changes in this way can be very easily effected in the warping pattern; an infinite amount of stripes in combination with plain or figured ones can be produced, and it will be found serviceable for shawl borders. A very simple one is given herewith, merely as an illustration; say body of shawl end and end of black and white, one side would be all black, the other side white; by reversing the order of warping for the borders, the black side would have a solid border of white, and the white side a solid border of black. From this it will at once be seen how the changes are obtained in a cheap expeditious manner, and at the same time without requiring any great amount of skill.

SPRING VESTINGS.

This design is extremely simple, being reducible to 4 shafts, 24 to the round (see pegging plan). A very suitable, pretty, and neat cloth for vestings may be made by using a 30 reed, 4 in a dent, or 120 ends per inch; a 60 reed 2 in a dent would give a better appearance to the cloth, although the former reed is more convenient; two-fold 40's twist for warp and 12's single weft, 60 picks per inch. These quantities can be varied according as heavy, medium, or light cloths are required, though ranges in the three classes would be very desirable. The following colourings for warps are enquired about, and likely to be in favour:—

No. 1.—4 black, 4 white, 4 slate, 4 white, 4 slate, 4 white, 4 slate: 28 ends warped double, two in a heald, two healds in a dent.



No. 2 VESTING DESIGN.



No. 1. PEGGING PLAN.

No. 2.—4 brown, 4 light straw, 4 lavender, 4 light straw, 4 lavender, 4 light straw, 4 lavender. This pattern is also 28 ends, all doubled as in No. 1. It will readily be seen how varieties may be obtained and the size of a pattern increased by enlarging the warp pattern and the round; the weft also may be changed from black to any dark shade.

A very light make of this design would be effective for linen dress goods. Take No. 1 pattern in a 40 reed 2 in a dent, or 80 ends per inch of 60's linen for warp and 30 linen or tow weft with 40 picks. No. 2 pattern with a two-fold yarn of blue and orange twist in place of light straw would give a very satisfactory result.

NOVELTIES IN LOW WOOLLENS AND WORSTEDS.

In our last issue endeavours were made to suggest novelties obtained by modifications of the methods of backing worsteds in general use. This week we direct attention to the production of novelties by the use of cotton warp and woollen, worsted, and mohair wefts, either combined or separate; and in order to satisfy the requirements of those who have asked for suggestions in this direction, our remarks shall be confined to shaft work.

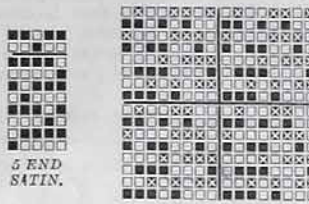
Design 209 demonstrates as simply as possible the method of using a cotton warp and two better class wefts, these latter covering entirely the cotton warp both back and face, and yet

producing a small shaded effect which will of necessity be developed on both back and face of the cloths, since these effects are practically reversibles.

Now it will be observed that in this design four, three, and two threads respectively, work together throughout the piece. This may be objectionable owing to the threads failing always together to retain their relative positions, and therefore it is often deemed advisable to bind such threads into position, at the same time producing a firmer cloth.

Design 210 demonstrates one method of effecting this, a flush of more than three being avoided, and one of the four threads producing each stripe being up each pick, thus preventing any wrapping over.

It will at once be perceived that if either of these designs be wetted 1 pick dark, 1 pick light, or 1 pick woollen, 1 pick mohair, stripes of light and dark or of woollen and mohair will appear both back and face. On this system



DESIGN 210.

both the succeeding designs are intended to be developed.

Design 211 practically consists of two portions, viz., a twill and a stripe effect. The twill effect may of course be used alone, and may be extended as required, using the principle demonstrated in Design 210.

The following is a suitable sett:—

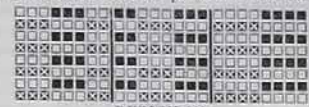
- Warp. All 2/40's cotton. 24's reed 2's.
- Weft. 20 sk. woollen, or, as a finer worsted sett:—
- Warp. All 2/60's cotton. 32's reed 2's.
- Weft. 20's worsted.

If a lustrous effect is desired, 15s—20's mohair may be used.

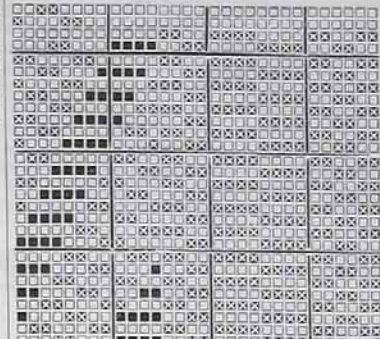
Design 212 is a novel effect, that may be developed with comparatively little trouble. It consists of a figured stripe effect on 8 threads, which may be developed any breadth by drafting, and a twill effect on 24 threads.

As the design is given here 32 shafts are required for its production, but if the twill effect be brought on to 12 threads, then only 20 shafts are required, as indicated in the draft. There is a fault, however, in this design which may require correcting, namely, that owing to the peculiar form of the eight-end stripe there is the likelihood of bars being

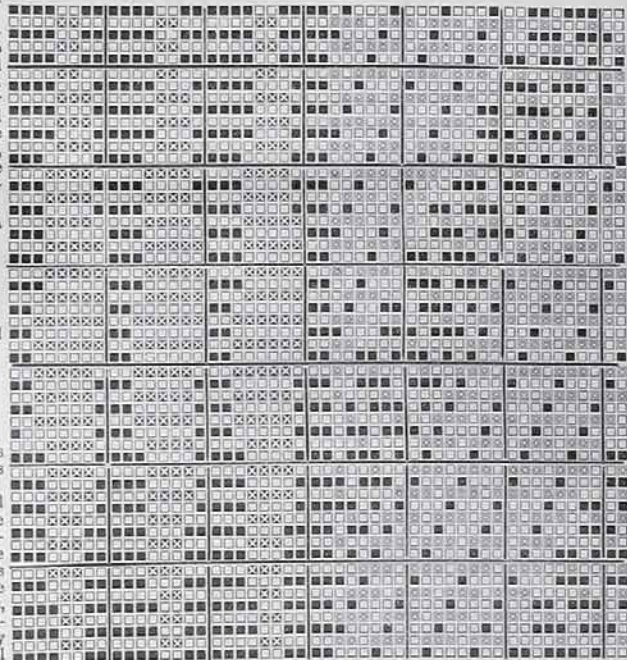
developed across the piece, unless the stripe effect lengthways be strong enough to counteract this tendency. If, however, the similar effect in the next stripe be made to oppose the first, all tendency to show bars will be avoided. Cotton warp and mohair and woollen weft will produce an effective pattern in this case.



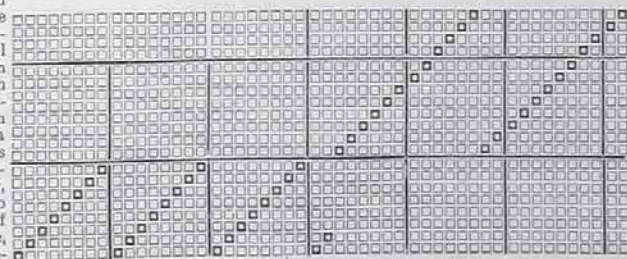
DESIGN 209.



DESIGN 211.



DESIGN 212.



DRAFT FOR DESIGN 212.