

# FROM THE CLASSICS.

"... WEAVING OF LINNEN CLOTH ..."

by Louis Crommelin, Dublin, 1705.

The way of dressing the Yarn in the Loom while it is weaving, is extremely bad in Ireland; for they make a fluff of Water and Meal, without Judgement wherewith they stiffen their Warp. Now in France and Flanders etc they are extremely curious in the making that Stuff wherewith they dress their Warp; I have therefore given them here the way of making it. They must take as much Wheat-flower and mingle it with cold Water, as will make the Water as thick as Paste; this they must boil on the Fire for two hours at the least, taking care all that time to keep it stirring, that it does not burn.

When it has boiled sufficiently, pour it into a clean Earthen Vessel, where you ought to let it stand till cold. When it is cold you may make a Hole therein sufficient for you to put some part of your old soure Dressing-Stuff, thereby to leaven the rest, which will set it a working. When it has fermented for five or six Days or more; then incorporate the whole together, and use it as you have Occasion. Note, that the older and staler your Dressing-Stuff is, it is so much the better, wherefore you ought always to have a Quantity beforehand of it.

There's but one thing more that is requisite to be spoken of in reference to the Weaving Part of fine Linnen, that at present occurs to my Memory, which is that each Weaver in this Kingdom, who designs to follow that way of Trade, ought to have a Cellar (or some such Place) under Ground to work in, for it is impossible for any Man (were he the best Artist in the World) to weave fine Linnen Yarn, unless it be in a close Place, but that the Weather shall affect such Yarn, and cause it to break and snap every moment.

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