

*PUBLICATIONS OF THE IPSWICH
HISTORICAL SOCIETY
XIII.*

FINE THREAD, LACE AND HOSIERY
IN IPSWICH

BY JESSE FEWKES

AND

IPSWICH MILLS AND FACTORIES

BY

T. FRANK WATERS

PROCEEDINGS AT THE ANNUAL MEETING

DECEMBER 7, 1903.

Salem Press:
THE SALEM PRESS CO., SALEM, MASS.
1904.



THE OLD LACE FACTORY IS THE FIRST DWELLING ON THE LEFT. IT WAS BUILT BY DR. PHILEMON DANE, BEFORE 1716.

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FINE THREAD, LACE AND HOSIERY.

A PAPER READ BEFORE THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY
OF IPSWICH, APRIL 13, 1903.

BY JESSE FEWKES.

THE history of the various industrial arts of New England, is a subject which comes within the scope and province of the Historical Society of this old manufacturing town. Ipswich, one of the old mother towns of New England, is also the mother of two industrial children, of which I propose to offer a few items of interest before this Honorable Society at this time. These two industries seem to have been born own sisters of the same family of the useful arts in our mother country England and were also twin children in Ipswich, during the decade from 1822 to 1832, when one, the finer and more beautiful, died a most unnatural and distressing death, and the other has grown more healthy, vigorous and prosperous, as the years have rolled on, up to the present day.

These two textile children of Ipswich, are the Manufacture of Hosiery and the Weaving of fine Laces by Machinery.

To understand the cause of this diversity of success in these two well projected, and well started schemes of labor, we must make a concise review of the origin and development of the machines connected therewith, and also give a sketch of that predecessor of the art of weaving fine cloths, the earlier art of spinning fine thread.

SPINNING.

There are pictures cut in flat relief upon some of the monuments and temples of ancient Egypt, more than

four thousand years before the Christian era, which represent among other occupations of that early people, the spinning of thread and the weaving of cloth. There are also representations on the monuments of prehistoric Central America, of women operating with the primitive loom and spinning apparatus. Squier's Nicaragua, Vol. 1, has a representation (copied from an ancient Mexican manuscript) of a woman weaving, and also of another woman spinning. Ancient records in China carry back the art of spinning and weaving to an antiquity discredited by many modern historians. These useful arts are prehistoric; they date before any written history.

About 550 B. C., Herodotus records, "Amasis the first plebeian King of Egypt, sent as a present to the Grecian temple at Lindus, a linen corslet of wonderful workmanship, each thread of which contained 300 filaments clearly to be distinguished. Figures were woven into the pattern of the linen and it was adorned with gold and cotton." Cotton was then a costly material lately introduced from India into Egypt and was used along with gold for the enrichment of the linen of this corslet. This is said to be the first historic reference to spinning and weaving; but there are in the Hebrew Bible references which may be older even than this. See Proverbs xxx, 19, Exodus xxxv, 25.* Spinning is alluded to by Homer.

The implements of the spinners' art have been developed from a very simple and crude beginning. The first spinning implement was probably only a pebble stone taken from the ground, uncut and unfashioned in any way. The filament of wool or grass, or perhaps the inner bark of some fibrous plant or tree, was tied to it and twirled around with the hand, then doubled back, and by the returning whirl of the rock, was made into a double and twisted string fit for the bow of a hunter. Then came to the front the oldtime skillful inventor, some aboriginal Edison or Marconi, and improved this simple device by cutting a knob upon one end of the pebble for the con-

* Exodus xxxv: 25, "And all the women that were wise-hearted did spin with their hands, and brought that which they had spun, both of blue and of purple, and of scarlet and of fine linen."

venience of fastening upon it the thread already spun, and of winding the same while another length could be added. This method of spinning with a rock is even brought down to the present day in some of the aboriginal tribes. The Alaskan Indian, and some tribes of the Laplanders use a rock similar to the abundant Indian net sinkers, so called, or plummet formed stones, which are seen in all collections of Indian implements.

From the primitive spinning rock, the next advance in the development of the implements of the spinners' art was the ancient spindle whorl, which is a round flat stone with a hole perforated in the centre to admit a wooden spindle. This spindle had a hook at the upper end upon which to

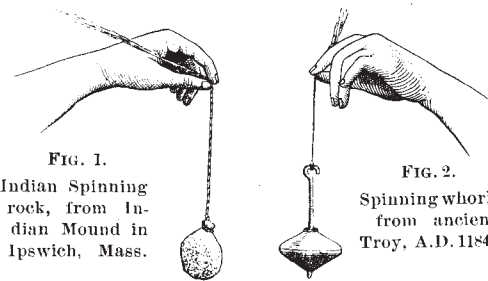


FIG. 1.
Indian Spinning
rock, from In-
dian Mound in
Ipswich, Mass.

FIG. 2.
Spinning whorl,
from ancient
Troy, A.D. 1184

fasten the thread, after that already spun had been wound upon the spindle. This was used in connection with the distaff, which is a staff of wood fastened to the girdle, on which was bound the wool, flax or fiber which remained unspun. The spindle whorl or weight was intended to give the proper momentum to the spindle, as shown in Egyptian, Mexican, Chinese, East Indian, Central American and Grecian representations of spinning. By this ancient method thread for fine lace was spun.

Dr. Henry Schliemann, who excavated the buried cities of ancient Troy and Tyrins, found in Troy, as many as 22,000 spindle whorls of stone and terra cotta, once used by the women of that ancient city. In Mycenum and Tyrins, he found them also in great abundance. In his works published in 1870-71 and 1873, he illustrates 180

different designs of ornamental spinning whorls, found by him. The markings pictured on these are probably the marks of ownership. The accompanying pen copy of the picture of a French fisherman's wife, spinning, gives a correct idea of the ancient method of spinning. The painting is by W. Slatterill.



FIG. 3.

Maya woman spinning, from Nicaragua, A. D. 1500.

From pictures cut upon the rock temples of ancient Egypt, it seems that there was an intermediate stage of the development of the spindle, between the simple rock and the metallic spindle whorl of the spinners of ancient Greece and Rome, in

which the weight is carried at the top of the spindle to give momentum.

In 1530 there was published a work called Dictionary of Palsgrave, in which is this phrase, "I spynne upon a Rock." Aubrey tells us that "in Wiltshire the nuns of

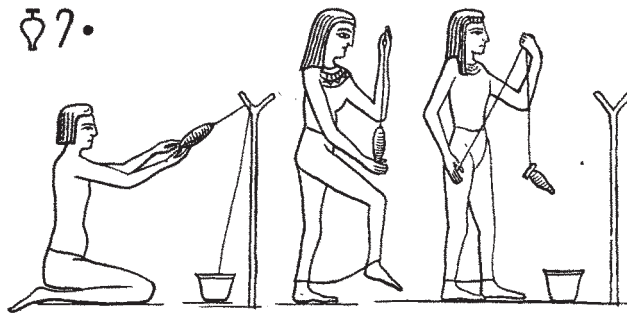


FIG. 4.

Egyptians Spinning, from Monuments in Ancient Thebes, Egypt, B. C. 4000.

St. Marys came forth with their rocks to spin." From the "Book of Days" I copy this: "St. Distaff's day, January 7th. The ordinary spindle was a turned pin of a few inches in length having a hook or nick at the small

or upper end to fasten the thread and a load of some sort at the lower end to make it hang rightly. In very early times and among such rude nations as the Laps until more recent times the load was a stone, many examples of which are in museums now." I take from another work called "Every Day Book:" "January 7th. St. Distaff's Day, or Rock Day. This day was so called in honor of the rock which is a distaff held in the hand from whence wool is spun by twirling a ball below." That ball may have been a rock, for Aubrey says, in a book called "The Natural History of Wiltshire:" "In old time they used to spin with rocks. In Staffordshire they use them still." In Scotland, when lads and lassies came together to spend a social evening, each lassie brought her spinning apparatus or rock, and the assemblage was called a "rocking." "On Fasten-e'en we had a rockin'."*

A German writer also calls it "Röcken," a French writer "Je file au roche." I have seen the picture of an Abyssinian woman which was drawn by a traveller in that country, in which she is shown as spinning with a crotched knot of wood, with her thread wound upon it; this she is twirling in the same manner as the lassies, in the time of Robert Burns, did with their rocks.

It would seem as if in Scotland the ancient name of "spinning rock," still clung to the spinning apparatus, even after the distaff and wheel were introduced, for we have, in the quaint verses of Robert Burns, several references to the rock in connection with the wheel. In "The Lass of Ecclefechan."

"O gat ye me wi' naething?
Rock and reel and spinnin' wheel,
A mickle quarter basin."

and again in "Bessy and her spinnin' wheel,"

"O leeze me on my spinnin' wheel,
O leeze me on my rock and reel;"

* Burns mentions the spinning rock in another of his verses "The Weary Pund o' Tow:"

"Quoth I For shame ye dirty dame,
Gae spin your tap o' tow!
She took the rock and wi' a knock
She brak it o'er my pow."

The next stage in the art is the wheel. There is in the British Museum a MS. written early in the fourteenth century, in which are several representations of a woman spinning with a wheel. From the Dictionary of Origins, we have: "A spinning wheel is said to have been invented in 1533 by a citizen of Brunswick, England," The first spinning wheel was called a "Tarn."*

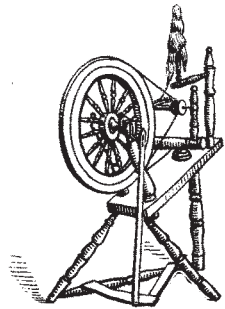


FIG. 5.
Spinning Wheel,
A. D. 1530.

Some of these ancient spinners, by hand methods, were extremely skillful in the manipulation of the wheel. Aubrey says, in *Book of Days*, "In the year 1745, a woman of East Dareham spun a single pound of wool into a thread 84,000 yards long, nearly 48 miles, upon a spinning wheel. Since that time a young lady of Norwich, England, has spun a pound of combed wool (or worsted) into a thread 168,000 yards long and another 203,000 yards, nearly 115 miles; this thread if woven would

make 200 yards of yard-wide muslin."

When the ladies of Ipswich are using thread numbering 100 or 150 they think it fine sewing. I had a letter sent me by a former editor of the *Ipswich Chronicle*, in which was contained a sample of cotton thread he had obtained from the Willimantic Cotton Mills, as a sample of the finest thread spun in this country. This was No. 250. The sample of the thread used by the factory, which wove lace in Ipswich seventy-five years ago and some of which I have brought for your inspection, is No. 365, three ply

* The spinning wheel of the fourteen century, called a "Tarn," was a simple wheel with a crank upon one side of the axle upon which it turned, and a spindle similar to the spindle used with the spindle whorl of the earlier times projecting from the opposite axle, upon which the fiber was twisted by the turning of the tarn.

The spinning wheel with its independent spindle driven by a band from the larger wheel did not develop until nearly a century after the "Tarn" came into use. Thus we have the progressive stages in the spinner's art: 1st, the rock; 2d, the plummet-formed rock; 3d, the spindle whorl of ancient Troy and Egypt; 4th, the tarn; 5th, the colonial spinning wheel; 6th, the modern spinning-jenny, and ring spinning machine turned by power.

linen thread. It rivals in fineness the work of the spider or the silkworm.

As the introduction of lace weaving into this country in 1820, and into this town of Ipswich in 1822, came to grief through the dependence of that art, upon the preliminary art of spinning extremely fine thread, we have given thus far, our attention to the implements for making the thread from which lace and cloths were woven in old times.

HOSIERY WEAVING.

I must now go back in time, and take up the evolution and development of the art of weaving hosiery, as that also leads into the lace, and into the hosiery industry of this town of Ipswich.

There were no woven stockings in England prior to the reign of Queen Elizabeth. The art of knitting stockings is supposed by some to have originated in Scotland, about A.D. 1500. Howell's History of the World, printed in 1680, says that "Henry the Eighth wore cloth stockings except there came from Spain by chance a pair of silk stockings." Spain therefore claims the art.

The first stockings knit in England were made by William Ryders in 1564. He had seen a pair of Italian knit stockings which he borrowed and copied. The first stocking machine was invented in 1595 by William Lee, a student in the college in Cambridge, England. Having broken a law of that institution by taking to himself a wife, he was expelled, and she, to keep them from starvation, like a true woman took up the then fashionable art of knitting stockings as a means of support. While watching her nimble fingers and clicking needles, he devised a machine which would knit all the stitches around the stocking in about the same time in which she was making a single stitch. This was in Nottingham in 1595. He applied to Queen Elizabeth for a patent, but could not obtain one, neither would King James grant a monopoly, as the pretext of taking work from the poor by the machine was offered in opposition. He therefore carried it to France. He established his machines at Rouen, but the

political troubles, which resulted in the murder of Henry IV of France, his patron, destroyed Lee's prospects there. He was proscribed as a Protestant, and was obliged to seek concealment in Paris, where he died in poverty and distress. Lee's brother and all the workmen but two returned to London, in 1621. These two retained a machine, which was afterwards sold to go to Venice for £500; but it could not be kept in repair, and the art came to a stand in that city.

England thereafter became the sole custodian of the art of making hosiery by machine. A patent was obtained in 1663. The Corporation for the working of this art established itself in London, and its work was carried on in Nottingham, Leicester and Derby, where subordinate companies were formed, and these towns became the center of the hosiery industry in England. These stockings of Nottingham, about 1768, began to make open-work with various devices attached to the stocking machine in imitation of pillow lace. One named Hammon was so successful that others were led to attempt lace making. In their leisure hours, they amused themselves trying to make the true hexagon mesh, a thing not yet accomplished by machinery.

In 1782 the "warp machine" was introduced by which a number of threads, corresponding to the number of needles, was wound upon a warp beam and this was attached to the ordinary stocking machine, which had hitherto used but a single thread. This, with the Dorson wheels attachment, which admitted a greater variety in the ornamentation of the work, and also the tickler attachment to the stocking machine, invented about the same time, brought into the markets of England a great quantity of cheap material in imitation of the more expensive pillow lace.

These experiments in making open-work upon the stocking machines, by the stocking weavers of Nottingham, created an intense feeling of jealousy among the pillow-lace makers of Nottingham and the surrounding towns. It occasioned the formation of labor societies, or guilds, as the labor unions were at that time called, and

the lace guild assumed a right to make upon the pillows all lace used in the British dominions, and they resolved to maintain this assumed right by force if necessary.

PILLOW LACE.

The origin of the manufacture of pillow lace is lost in the dim obscurity of the past. It may well be called one of the fine arts as it has exercised the refined taste and exquisite skill, of many of the most excellent minds since the beginning of history.

The monuments of ancient Egypt show female figures clothed in a fabric similar to modern lace, in which the outlines of the form are seen through the dress. Lace was worn by the ladies of ancient Greece and Rome. It is spoken of in English history in 1483. In 1614 the manufacture of lace was carried on in Nottingham and Bedfordshire in England. Some of the products of the pillow were extremely delicate and expensive. Almost the entire population of these towns was more or less interested in lace making upon the pillow, at this time.

The pillow for making lace was a cushion covered with a strip of parchment upon which a pattern was drawn. To form the mesh, pins were stuck into the pattern. To each pin, a thread was attached, wound upon a spool or bobbin. The bobbins were allowed to fall down on each side of the pillow, and were changed from side to side and intertwisted as the work progressed. As the meshes were made they were secured by pins, until the next meshes were made, and so on across the width of the piece of the lace. A piece of lace one inch wide would have fifty or sixty bobbins and threads, which would make twenty-five or thirty meshes, 625 meshes to each square inch, or 22,000 meshes to the yard. The different kinds of lace were called Brussels, Mechlin, Valenciennes, Lisle, Alençon blonde and Alençon point.

As I have before mentioned, it is said that lace was made by machines as early as 1768 by a stocking weaver named Hammon and his success led other stockingers to attempt making imitation lace on the stocking machines.

The warp machine for making imitation lace was introduced in 1782. In 1799 the first bobbin-net was made by

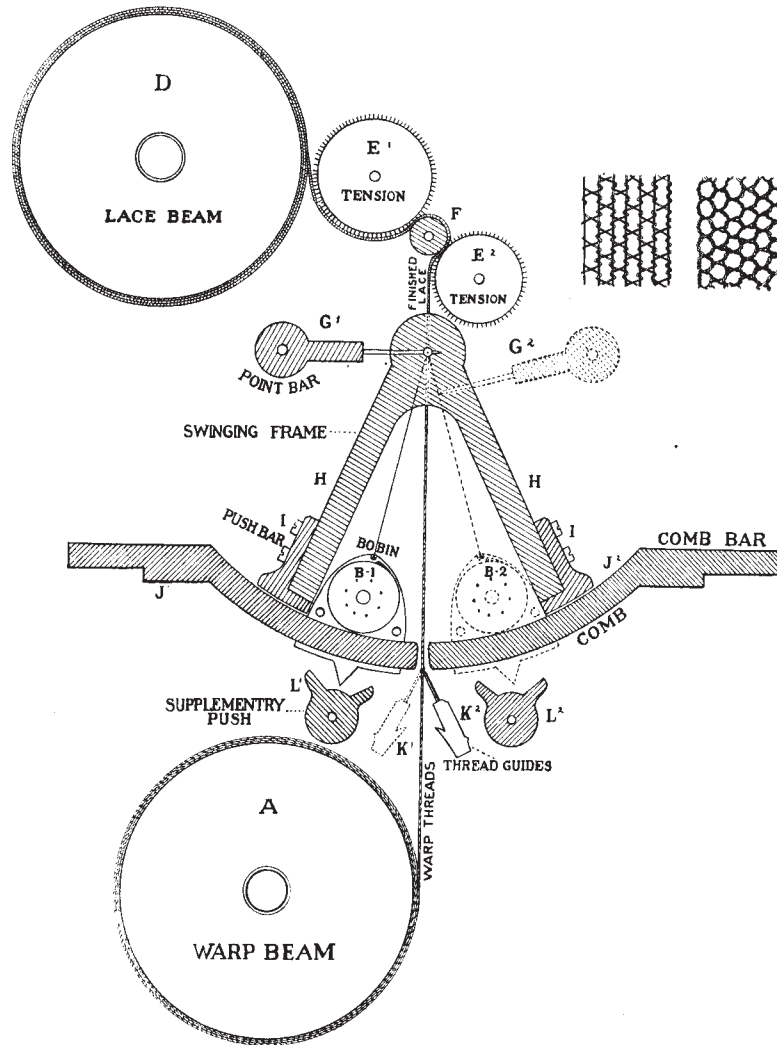


FIG. 6. SECTION OF LACE MACHINE ONE-THIRD FULL SIZE.

Also two plans of the fabric, before and after it is stretched into proper shape, full size.

machinery. By these machines the stocking weavers made an inferior quality of lace, and could undersell the pillow lace makers, whereby the demand for this kind was increased and Nottingham became the center of a thriving trade in this class of goods. No successful attempt to make the true bobbin-net lace with the hexagonal mesh, was made until 1809, when Mr. Heathcoat patented a machine, which is said to have been suggested by a workman making fish nets. The idea occurred to him that, by using parallel warp threads and threads wound upon bobbins arranged to pass through between and twist around the threads of the warp, the true hexagonal mesh could be produced by machine.

DESCRIPTION OF LACE MACHINE.

To illustrate the action of the lace machine, I have made a rough drawing of the working parts of the machine, showing the manner in which the bobbins of the weft traversed from the comb on one side of the warp threads

EXPLANATION OF PARTS.

- A is a beam near the bottom of the machine upon which the warp threads are wound.
- B1 and B2 are the bobbins in their carriages upon which the threads of the weft are wound.
- J1 and J2 are combs into which the carriages with their bobbins traverse from the teeth of the comb on one side to the teeth of the opposite comb which are marked J1 and J2. These comb bars also traverse endwise.
- I and I are push-bars which are bolted to a swinging frame which pushes the carriages and their bobbins from the teeth of one comb to those of the opposite comb.
- G1 and G2 are points which enter the mesh as it is formed and close it to its proper size.
- E1, E2, and F are tension rollers to draw the finished lace from the machine as it is woven before it is wound on the lace beam which is marked D, on the plan.
- L1 and L2 are supplementary push bars which engage and hold the bobbin carriage at certain stages of the work.
- K1K2 are guides to conduct the warp threads into a proper position in the machine.
- H H Swinging frame to which push bars I I are fastened.

into the comb upon the opposite side of the warp threads, and then sidewise, like the change in a cotillion called "Back to back." This movement was repeated three times and then the bobbin and its carriage passed on again to repeat their "Back to back" movements with the next thread of the warp.

The partners in this textile cotillion, numbering, for yard wide lace, one thousand weft threads, and one thousand warp threads, all moved simultaneously and a yard of yard-

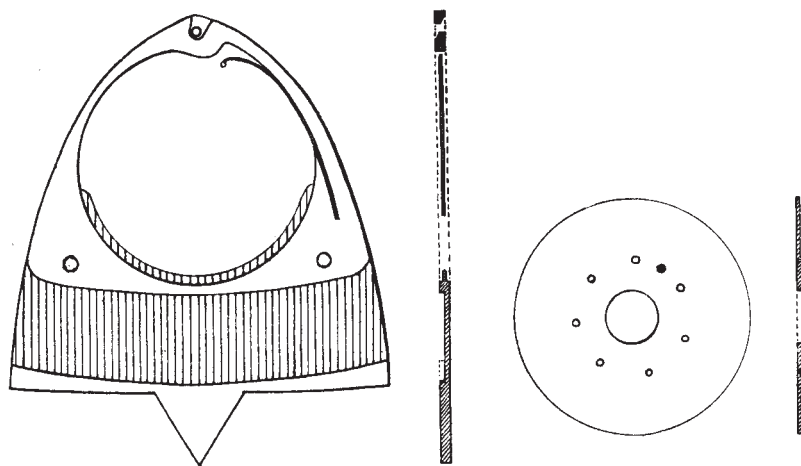


FIG. 5.

Bobbin Carriage, full size.

Section.

Lace Bobbin, full size.

Section.

The Bobbin and Bobbin Carriage marked B 1 and B 2 on Plan of the Lace Machine. These bobbins are wound with, and carry the threads of the weft through and around the threads of the warp to form the mesh or stitch of the Lace.

wide lace could be woven in the time taken to make by pillow, six inches of one-inch-wide lace. The warp beam upon which the threads of the warp were wound was placed near the bottom of the machine. These threads first passed through guide needles, then upwards to the center upon which the swinging frame of the push bars swung, near which the lace mesh was formed (marked H). The finished lace was then wound upon a beam near the top of the machine. This forward and back movement of the carriages with their bobbins, and this right and left

movement of the combs containing them were repeated to the end of the piece of yard wide lace woven. There was also a row of pointed needles upon each side near the place where the twist of the mesh was formed. Those upon one side entered below the twist last formed and, rising, closed it up, then held it until the next twist was formed, when the needles on the other side engaged in the same manner, each of these working alternately, and the size of the mesh conformed to the sectional size of the needles or points. The lace was therefore called "Point net lace" as the size of the mesh was governed by the size of the points of the machine which made it. There were two other machines which came out about this time varying somewhat, but using the same general arrangement of parts. This machine was successful and so far affected the pillowlace makers, that they organized themselves into a society to suppress by force the making of lace by machinery.

The lace makers and stocking weavers who came to Ipswich in 1818 and 1822 were men who were employed in the two factories of Mr. Heathcoat in Nottingham in 1816, in making lace upon the new lace machines, and were subject to the enmity, annoyance and crime of this Secret Society.

THE LUDDITES

It has been truly said that history repeats itself. I will quote an account of the Luddite labor troubles in Nottingham, which influenced the lace weavers to emigrate to this country in 1818-22.*

"The Luddite riots in Nottinghamshire, England, commenced March 11, 1811 and continued through a period of five years. The first was at Arnold, near Nottingham, where the unemployed stocking knitters were, for a paltry sum, employed to sweep the streets, and do menial work. By the 11th of March, their patience being exhausted, they assembled at midnight and smashed 60 frames, and 200

* "Book of Days, March 11, page 357."

other frames were destroyed in a similar manner during the succeeding three weeks.

“ These riotous stockings assumed the name of Luddites, a name said to be derived from a boy named Ludlam, who, when his father, a framework weaver, in Leicestershire, ordered him to ‘square his needles,’ took his hammer and beat them into a heap.”

The usual plan of operation was to assemble at night armed with swords and pistols, hammers and axes, under the leadership of one man who was styled “Ned Ludd.” Each man was distinguished by a number, instead of name, and all were disguised. They proceeded to the place of destruction and those armed with weapons surrounded and guarded the place, while those with hammers entered and smashed the needles and sinkers of the frames with unsparing hands. When this destruction was completed, they would reassemble at a short distance and call a roll of the numbers, each answering to his number. If all were there a pistol was fired and, removing the black handkerchiefs from their faces, they departed to their homes, keeping the most profound secrecy.

To detect the ringleaders of these rioters, the Government organized a secret committee, which was supplied with a large sum of money, for the purpose of obtaining information, but in spite of these efforts the devastations continued from time to time.

On Sunday night Nov. 10, a party of Luddites proceeded to the village of Bulwell, to destroy the frames of Mr. Hollingsworth, who, in anticipation of their visit, assembled some of his friends with fire arms to defend the property. Many shots were fired, and one John Westly was mortally wounded, which so enraged the mob that they forced an entrance, and soon destroyed not only the frames, but every article of furniture about the place. Soon after that at Sutton, 37 frames were destroyed. The military took several prisoners here, four of whom were committed for trial. On Sunday Nov. 24, at Baskford, 34 frames were destroyed, and 11 more the following day. On Dec. 6, a proclamation ordered all persons to remain in their homes after 10 o’clock, and all public

houses closed, and the streets were patrolled by police and military. Notwithstanding these precautions, there were 36 frames destroyed in the villages around Nottingham, during the next six days.

A reward of £50 for the apprehension of any of the offenders was offered by the Government, but this only excited these men to further deeds of daring. They began to rob and plunder, declaring they could not starve in a land of plenty. On the 30th of July, 1812, these labor troubles had compelled no less than 4,348 families, 15,350 persons, nearly one-half of the inhabitants of Nottingham, to be applicants for relief out of the poor rates. A large subscription was raised to offer more liberal rewards for the suppression of these daring outrages, and seven of the rioters were apprehended and sent to Botany Bay, or transported.

In March, 1812, an Act of Parliament was passed, making it an offence punishable with death to break a stocking or lace machine. In April, a Mr. Trentham, a manufacturer, was shot while standing at his own door; but the wound did not prove fatal. The offender was never brought to justice, although £600 were offered for his apprehension. These riotous proceedings continued until October 1816, when they finally ceased.

Upwards of 1000 stocking frames and a number of lace machines were destroyed by these organized stocking knitters and pillow-lace makers in Nottinghamshire alone; and in Derby, Leicestershire and York counties, also there were many destroyed. One of Mr. Heathcote's factories was entered by the Luddites. The machines were all destroyed, and the watchman shot and killed.

Many of the skilled workmen, who had formerly been employed by him in making machine lace, being thrown out of employment, resolved to emigrate to this country, and to start for themselves this new industry in this free country, leaving behind them, forever, these troublesome conditions of the trade, in which they had passed the early part of their lives, to take with them the tools of their trade, and to become naturalized citizens of the country of their adoption. This resolution was carried

out to the letter. They could not do otherwise. They arrived in 1818-20 and 1822.

Many of the hosiery weavers as well, thrown out of employment by this wholesale slaughter of their stocking frames, not finding sufficient protection from riotous mobs of unemployed stocking knitters and pillow-lace weavers, resolved to emigrate to America. Had the wealthy gentlemen and nobility of England devoted the funds collected to punish these poor knitters to charitable efforts to furnish employment for them, at more than starvation prices, these labor outrages could not have happened.

Prior to 1818 there were no stocking machines in this country, although strenuous efforts were made to get them. In 1776 the Committee of Safety had appropriated £300 to Mr. Coxendfer of Maryland, Frederic County, to establish a stocking factory, and the Society of Arts in New York had offered a prize of £10 for the first three stocking frames of iron set up in that year. The prizes were not claimed.

The British government, ever extremely careful of its textile industries was especially so of its hosiery, and of its newly introduced lace manufacture at Nottingham. In order to keep these in England, excessive duties had been put upon the exportation of the machinery required in these industries. These had been from time to time increased, until they amounted to actual prohibition.

Every obstacle was placed in the way of skilled workers in these branches of industry, to prevent them from leaving the country, and especially their emigration to the United States of America. A penalty of £40 for the exportation of a stocking machine existed till 1788. It was then increased from time to time till it amounted to a prohibitory duty and the penalty for exporting lace machinery in 1818 amounted to an excessive fine of £500, much beyond the means of the ordinary workman to pay, and transportation for a term of years if payment was not made. The agitation of the labor question, at about this time, and the recent Luddite troubles furnished a pretext for extremely stringent laws in this respect.

In the face of all this, as we have said, some of the better class of the lace weavers and stocking weavers resolved to come and bring the tools of their trade with them, even if these excessive fines had to be paid. The first delegation of these men had enough of King George's pictures in yellow metal, in their pockets, to brave the consequences. It is an open secret, that some of these golden pictures were actually used to facilitate the transportation of the tools and effects of these skillful men to America. I have heard it boldly said that the bobbins, points, guides and needles of lace stocking machines came into Boston in 1818 and 1822, secreted in pots of good Yorkshire butter. Whether these pots of butter paid an export duty to the British Government I am unable to tell.

The first stocking machine, which reached this part of the country, came out of England from Liverpool, in 1818. Some incidents in the history of this machine are interesting. It was first bought in Nottingham, then packed in two boxes and sent to a framesmith to be repaired and repacked for its trip to America. It was then sent to Liverpool and left upon the wharf where an old brig was lying, being laden with salt stowed loosely in bulk. It was taken by a stevedore and placed upon the keelson away up in the bows of the ship, and packed deep in the salt. The brig dropped down to the mouth of the harbor, and was overhauled and inspected thoroughly (as they thought) by the Custom House men. Trunks and boxes were inspected and long sticks run into the salt but these two boxes with the adventurous machine escaped detection.

Its passage in the brig, which was destined to a southern port, was a stormy one. She was driven out of her course several times, by adverse winds, for over sixty days. Then, when some miles outside of Massachusetts Bay, she was spoken by a schooner bound for Boston, to which the machine and its adventurous owners were transferred, and the brig, with her lost reckoning rectified, and her mechanical "Jonah" not overboard, but reshipped on an American schooner, went on her southbound way

rejoicing, no doubt. The schooner arrived in Boston on Sept. 4, 1818. The boxes were put upon a produce wagon, carted to Watertown, and carefully unloaded at a little house by the river, near the present Etna Mills. When the boxes were opened it was found that one of the most important parts of the machine was missing. Its sinker bar and all its sinkers had been left behind in England.

By the ingenuity and skill of one of its owners, these were replaced during the first winter in its new home; then it was used under the management of its two owners, six hours on and six hours off, through the day and night, for the greater part of its two first years in this country. It was then there came the lace makers, and the starting of the Lace Factory in Watertown, which gave it a long time of rest, but it finally reached Ipswich to do duty while the New England lace company was getting a foothold in this good old town.

This machine was brought to Ipswich in 1822 by Benjamin Fewkes and George Warner, its joint owners. I have been told that the first pair of stockings, woven upon this machine in Ipswich, were made by Mr. Benjamin Fewkes, Sr., in the kitchen of a house, which then stood upon the site of the present South Congregational meeting house.

The successful transfer of this first stocking machine furnished a clew to others, who were anxious to get the lace machines introduced into this country. The essential and more delicate parts of the lace machines were brought over concealed in the effects of the lace weavers from Heathcoat's factories, who came in numbers soon after this time. In this instance the more bulky heavy bars and frame work of the lace machines were constructed here, from drawings and ideas of skilled machinists who came over about the same time. A factory was brought into successful operation in Watertown near the Newton boundary line, by the capital engaged in the enterprise, and the lace machines were in working order in the spring of 1820, where they continued till 1822.

A gentleman of Ipswich, Mr. Augustine Heard, and others, becoming interested in the enterprise, the machines

were removed to Ipswich, and located in the building nearest the mill dam and foot bridge, on the south side of the river in 1824. This company was called the Boston and Ipswich Lace Company. Another rival company, of which Dr. Thomas Manning and others were promoters and stockholders, was started in 1828. This was called the New England Lace Company. This new company located itself upon the old Dr. Manning homestead on High street, the site of the residence of the late Joseph Ross, Esq. This building has been remodelled and beautified with architectural elegance by the its recent proprietor. The west front room was used for the weaving room; the front chamber over this was used for warping, winding and mending the lace; the rear lower rooms, west, were used for washing and for a machine shop. The east rooms were the residence of Mr. Clark the superintendent. Mr. Fewkes was a stockholder and worked in each of these three factories.

The names of the persons employed by this lace enterprise in Ipswich were as follows:—

Sup't, John Clark; machinists, James Peatfield, Joseph Peatfield, Sanford Peatfield; lace weavers, Benjamin Fewkes, Samuel Gadd, George Gadd, James Clark, John Trueman, Mr. Watts, George Warner, Samuel Hunt, Sr., John Morley, James Cartwright, Sr., Charles Bamford, Sr., and Mr. Harrison. The warpers and winders were young men and boys as follows: Thomas and William Gadd, William and Henry Fewkes, Samuel Hunt, Jr., Charles Bamford, Jr., and others. There were also employed many women and girls, mending, embroidering and washing lace, who were mostly the wives and daughters of the workmen and some others of Ipswich birth whose names I am unable to give.

The managers of the lace enterprise also made an effort looking to the introduction of a silk industry in Ipswich.

Mr. Augustine Heard (I have been told), who was one of the first movers of the Lace Company, imported from China in one of his vessels some eggs of the mulberry Moth (*Bombyx mori*). The transportation of the eggs was accomplished by packing them in small silk bags which were worn about the person of the Chinaman who brought

them. This was done to ensure the proper temperature for them on the voyage, as the temperature during some of the colder days was too low to ensure their safe transportation without this precaution. These were put in charge of Mr. Clark the superintendent of the lace factory, and a room was set apart for them in the factory and kept at the proper temperature to hatch the eggs. Prior to this time, a nurseryman in Newton, Mr. William Kendrick, had planted a large stock of white mulberry trees (*Morus alba*), a native tree of China, and had advertised the same largely in all the papers of the day. In fact a furor for silk raising had been created, not unlike the celebrated Tulip mania in Holland several years previous. Great quantities of these trees were sold and, among others, Dr. Manning became interested. He had the side hill in the rear of the Old Manning homestead graded and terraced, and planted with these trees of the white mulberry. When the eggs of the mulberry moth came into town these trees had attained two or three years of growth.

When the writer was a small boy, I think it was in the spring of 1832, his father took him with others to the lace factory, now the estate of the late Joseph Ross, to see the machines weaving lace. Mr. Clark escorted the party through the works, showing and describing the different machines and processes by which the lace was woven, cleansed, mended and wrought, to get it into a marketable condition. He then took them into a room set apart from the others, in which were a number of cases containing trays, the bottoms of which were made of lace. These were covered with young and tender green leaves, upon which were innumerable worms like caterpillars, all voraciously eating the leaves. In some of the trays the worms were as large as an ordinary appletree caterpillar, nearly one and a half inches long. From this size they varied, in other trays, to about one quarter of an inch in length. Each tray seemed to be occupied with similar worms representing different ages of the hatch. Mr. Clark said the larger worms were fed with the older leaves, while the younger required the more delicate, younger foliage. As I remember their appearance, the

more mature and larger worms, scattered over the green leaves, were of a golden yellow color. In some of the trays the worms had nearly finished eating and would soon begin to spin their cocoons. He also showed the party cocoons all formed and showed how readily the silk could be unwound from the cocoon in one continuous thread. The temperature of the room in which these silkworms were kept was much higher than that of other rooms. He then escorted the party out through the garden in the rear of the factory to a terrace at the foot of the hill where the young mulberry trees were growing and showed them where the tender leaves had been gathered. I cannot tell how many seasons this experiment was continued; probably it was abandoned at the time the lace works closed, I think in the winter of 1832-3.

This Company continued its factory in operation till 1832, when it failed to procure the usual supply of thread, which had been imported from England. Linen thread of sufficient fineness for the work could not at that time be spun in this country, owing chiefly to the dry atmosphere. It was always spun by secret methods in damp cellars in England and France. The British government, finding that the lace machines and workmen had really escaped to this country, and that lace was being woven from imported thread, put an excessive export duty upon thread, and allowed manufactured lace to go out free. This ruined the industry of lace weaving in Ipswich, and its promoters lost their investment.

Finding themselves out of employment, the lace-makers returned to their old business of weaving hosiery. Many of them went to Germantown, Pa., where some imported frames were in use, and others to Portsmouth, N. H., where some frames had been introduced, during the term of the lace industry in Ipswich. Some of the most skillful remained in Ipswich, and in 1832, the Peatfield brothers made for Mr. Benjamin Fewkes two new stocking frames, which were the first made in New England, and I think the first made in this country. He began the manufacture of hosiery in a small shop on High St. near his dwelling. Mr. George Warner established a similar shop on the site of the Damon Block, directly opposite

the B. & M. R. R. station. He bought the interest of Mr. Fewkes in the original machine, but sold it to Mr. John Bilson, with whom it went back to Newton in 1840. Mr. Samuel Hunt, Sen., began work in a shop on East St. in the rear of his dwelling, and Mr. Charles Bamford, Sen., in the shop still standing in the rear of his dwelling, the old Frisbie house on County St. Each of these stocking makers had only two machines.

It is said that Timothy Bayley, of Albany was the first to put power to the Lee frame, in 1831. I know that in 1834 James and Sanford Peatfield of Ipswich had a rotary warp frame in successful operation in the Old Saw Mill building by the Cove in Ipswich. Jesse Fewkes at that time was their "Winder Lad" and can vouch for the age of this great improvement in warp machines. They also invented a round knitting machine in 1841 or about that time.

The Census Report of 1900 says, "The only stocking factory in the United States in 1831 was the Newburyport Hose Manufacturing Company." Ipswich I think is entitled to the credit of manufacturing stockings by machine nine years prior to this first recorded date, and in 1833 there were four well-started hosiery manufactories in this town. It is true that these were small but they were the seed from which has grown a mighty creation, a textile giant. The total amount invested in this industry in the United States in 1900 was \$95,482,556. There were employed in that year 69,829 machines, operated by 83,387 persons and the value of its production for that year was \$95,482,566. In Massachusetts alone the capital employed was \$6,288,675. There were 6,667 workmen employed and 5,003 machines, and they produced \$6,620,257 worth of hosiery goods, in 54 establishments or factories.

The American inventor has made great improvements on the old English method of hosiery making. The American "Latch Needle" which came out somewhere in the forties of the last century, was a most simple and effective device, which completely revolutionized the machines for the manufacture of hosiery. The Lee stocking frame had remained for nearly 250 years in practically

the same stage of development; all improvements on the original device during this time had been merely accessories to the old machine, but the introduction of the latch needle made possible the rotary knitting machine and, consequently, automatic action in all its parts, and steam power for its motive.

The census of 1900 gives the entire number of Latch needle machines in this country at that time as 55,816, while the entire number of machines weaving hosiery with the old-fashioned Beard needle was 14,013, which fact speaks well for the American inventor's work.

The more beautiful and artistic industry, the weaving of fine laces by machines, has never recovered in Ipswich from the disastrous failure it experienced and it remains an unexplored but inviting field of industry on this side the Atlantic.

IPSWICH MILLS AND FACTORIES.

At the very beginning of the settlement of our Town, a grist mill was an imperative necessity, and at the first Town meeting of which definite record remains in 1634, "Itt is concluded and consented unto that Mr. John Spencer and Mr. Nicholas Easton shall have libertye to build a Mill and a Ware uppon the Town River, about the falles of it uppon this condicon, that they shall pte with an equal share of theire Fish to all the inhabitants of this Town if they bee demanded att five shill. a thousand more or less according to the comon price of the Countrye." The "Falls" alluded to, were probably only rapids, but various allusions to removing rocks about the dam indicate that in its natural state, our River ran rapidly in a rocky bed, where the large dam stands, and lower down, in the rocky gulch by the saw mill. This was the natural location for a dam, and the fish "ware" was established for the taking of the shad and alewives which ascended the stream in great numbers. The original grantees left the Town, perhaps before the dam and grist mill were built, and Mr. Richard Saltonstall, son of Sir Richard, and one of the most important citizens of our Town succeeded to the grant. The dam was constructed at about the place where the new dam stands, we may suppose, and the grist mill was probably near the spot now occupied by the old stone mill. For many years, Mr. Saltonstall enjoyed a monopoly of the business. Corn was brought to mill from the whole great township to be ground into Indian meal, the great food staple of the time. At length complaints were made about the miller, that he was unskillful, and disobliging, and a communication from the "Worshipful Richard Saltonstall Esq." then in England was received and entered on the Town Record in 1671, promising that a skillful and acceptable miller, should be

sent. But there were many apparently, who were not so easily satisfied, and the Town declared that the number of inhabitants was too great for one Indian corn mill. In reference to this demand, Mr. Saltonstall asked and received liberty in April 1682, to build another grist mill, near Sergeant Clark's. Thos. Clark owned and occupied the northeast corner of Summer and Water Sts. by the river side, and the scheme of a mill contemplated a dam across the river at this point, and the utilizing of the tides. The privilege was granted "provided he have gates eighteen or twenty feet wide, to let up canoes or boats loaded into the cove and to let out boats and canoes when the tide serves."

Jonathan Wade and others opposed this, and the reason may have been that he had received in 1673, "that little island of rocks at the falls, in exchange for so much to enlarge the highway by the windmill* provided he hinder no man from taking away loose rocks, nor hinder fish ways, nor making of a bridge, nor prejudice the mills," and in 1649, he had received permission to set up a saw mill, which may have been built at this point. Cornet Whipple had also received permission in 1673 to build a fulling mill, "at the smaller falls, by Ezekiel Woodward's house," provided Mr. Saltonstall's grist mill at the upper falls and another fulling mill already begun, at the upper fall probably, were not "prejudiced." A dam lower down the river naturally threatened the privileges of the mills on the island. Nothing resulted from this scheme of a tide mill, and in 1686, as the need of another mill was increasingly pressing, the selectmen granted liberty to any one to build a grist mill at the falls, "by or near Goodman Rust," "provided they damnify not the upper grist mills."

In March 1686/7, "Sar. Nicholas Wallis" received permission "to improve the water by damming in the river against his own land, not exceeding three foot for the building a fulling mill or mills, provided he do it within a year and a half." He lived near the present Norwood mills. In 1667, for the convenience of this neighbor-

* The windmill was built undoubtedly on "Wind-mill Hill." The date of its erection is not known.

hood, "John Addams, Nath. Addams, Samuel Addams, Joseph Safford, Nicholas Wallis and Thomas Stace, upon consideration of there building a bridge over the river at there own expense," were "freed from working in the common highway for 7 years to come." A corn mill was erected as well, perhaps by John Adams, as John Adams, Sen., conveyed his property to John, Jun., including "half the land the corn mill stands" in April, 1698. The deed mentions "the little dam." The grist mill and a saw mill, known as "Adams's Mills," were sold by the widow to Paul Dodge in 1750.

His son Barnabas succeeded him, and David, son of Barnabas, sold to Ammi Smith in 1827, and the Smith heirs to Caleb and Jerome Norwood in 1868. The sawing of fine veneers was carried on with success. The fulling mill was operated by the Warners, and William Warner added a carding machine prior to 1794. This property was conveyed by the Warner heirs to Ammi Smith, in 1858. The water power once utilized for the fulling and scouring mill, and the carding of wool, is now used by the isinglass factory. A saw mill also is still in use.

In the year 1687, Nehemiah Jewet was granted leave to dam the Egypt River and build a grist mill, and in 1691, Thomas Boreman received permission to set a grist mill on Labour-in-vain Creek, provided he built within two years. The mill on Egypt river was built, near the residence of Mr. John Tenney, and some faint remains are still visible. There is no evidence of which I am aware, that Mr. Boreman ever built.

The presumption is rather against this, as Col. Saltonstall, son of Richard, received permission anew in June, 1695, to utilize the location by Sergeant Clark's. Renewed opposition was made to this project in a written document signed by many, who protested that this grant should not be voted.

- "1. Because it stops a navigable river.
- "2. Because it will damnifie Col. Saltonstall's grant. (*i. e.* the upper mill privilege, I presume).
- "3. Because severall other places which will answer ye Town's ends are proposed, which will do less damage to proprietors."

Apparently no further steps were taken by Col. Saltonstall, as permission was granted March 24, 1696, to Edmund Potter and others to set up a dam and grist mill on Mile Brook, "not to damnify Col. Appleton's saw-mill." The grist mill was located on the spot where the old mill still stands on the Oliver Smith farm. Col. Appleton's saw mill was a little to the eastward of the bridge over Mile River. Still there was a cry for a mill by Sergeant Clark's, and again, on Nov. 4, 1696, it was voted, "Two or three persons that are so minded shall have liberty to erect a mill and raise a dam across ye River by or near ye house where John Clark, Carpenter, formerly lived." But no mill was built, and eventually the privilege at the Lower Falls was improved by Robert Calef who received permission in March 1714/15.

William Dodge purchased the mill and privilege at the Lower Falls, but he was not content and in 1730, he repeated the old plea for a location "at the end of Green Lane," "near Sergeant Clark's formerly so called." He proposed to build a dam with gates 20 feet wide to permit boats to pass, and then "throw up his works at the Falls and remove the grist mill he had lately built there down to the place petitioned for." This was negatived and no further attempt was made to place a mill at this spot.

The Saltonstall heirs continued to hold an interest in the upper Mills until 1729. In that year they sold to John Waite and Samuel Dutch, their interest in two grist mills and a fulling mill, dye-house, house for the miller etc., and a saw mill which had been built on the east side of the river, near the residence of Mr. Clark Abell. Dutch sold his interest in the grist mills and fulling mill, to Waite. In 1746, Benj. Dutch bought of Philemon Dean a half interest in the mill property. The mills had been operated for many years by Michael Farley and his sons, and they acquired ownership. He had come from England in 1675, as a skilled miller, to take charge, and his immediate descendants were concerned in the mills for more than a hundred and fifty years.

Grist mills and saw mills had now been erected to meet the needs of the people, but before the century ended a new enterprise of a different character engaged the atten-

tion of our town's folk. Cloth of every kind was still woven on handlooms. Not a few men were weavers by trade, and they produced the necessary woolen and linen fabrics, for such as could not weave for themselves, and their work was probably upon the finer quality of broadcloths and other fine fabrics for the expensive garments of the gentry. But the great bulk of woolen and cotton or linen stuffs, homespun cloths, flannels, quilts, blankets, towelling, and table linen, and plain cotton for family wear, were made by the busy housewives on the family loom.

In 1785, Edmund Cartwright, an Oxford graduate and a minister of the Established Church, exhibited in England a power-loom, which he had invented. It was a rude machine, but it embodied an idea of the profoundest significance. It established the fact that the slow and laborious hand labor at the loom, was destined to give place to the more rapid and economical work of machines. His invention met the fate of all great and revolutionary discoveries. The introduction of it was vehemently opposed as disastrous to the handicraft of multitudes, and a mill which had been erected and fitted up with 500 of his looms was maliciously burned down. There was living in Ipswich at that time a man of remarkably progressive mind, Dr. John Manning. He had introduced inoculation as a preventive of small pox some years before, on his return from England, and had faced a storm of calumny and reproach for his determined conduct in inoculating some members of his own family. He was quick to see the great value of Cartwright's invention, and in 1792, only seven years after the invention was exhibited, he had received a grant of a piece of land, where Caldwell's Block stands today, that he might erect a building for a woolen manufactory. Mrs. Elizabeth Brown's house was sacrificed, but the public was greatly benefited. The mill was erected, and the manufacture of coarse cloths and blankets was begun in 1794. The business proved unprofitable and was given up in 1800, but this modest venture is a towering landmark in the industrial history of our town and of the Commonwealth. Dr. Manning's woolen factory must have been one of the earliest of tex-

tile manufactories on this side the Atlantic. The building was subsequently purchased by Mr. Stephen Coburn and was destroyed by fire.

The decade 1820 to 1830 was a period of extraordinary interest in industrial affairs. For many years the making of pillow lace had engaged the leisure of girls and women. It was a local industry, as it would seem, and its origin is unknown. Referring to Ipswich in 1692, a writer says, "Silk and thread lace of an elegant and lasting texture are manufactured in large quantities by women and children and sold for use and exportation."* The industry had attained such large proportions in 1790 that more than 40,000 yards of lace were produced each year, according to Mr. Felt, the annalist of our Town.

In 1824, the Boston and Ipswich Lace Co. was incorporated with a capital of \$150,000. The house near the Foot Bridge, still known as the old Lace Factory, was bought and the manufacture of machine lace was begun. The New England Lace Co., with a capital of \$50,000, was established in 1827, on High St., in the building now included in the Joseph Ross homestead. Mr. Fewkes has told the story of the inception of these industries and their untimely ruin, in lucid fashion. The Boston and Ipswich Co. closed its affairs in 1827, and the New England in 1833. But the ancient industry of pillow lace manufacture had been completely supplanted, and never attained its former volume.

The influx of skilled English artisans that has been of the greatest industrial value to our Town began probably about the year 1822, when Benjamin Fewkes and George Warner came with their "frame" for the machine knitting of hosiery. Mr. Fewkes' confident assertion that stockings were knit in old Ipswich in 1822, suggests that Ipswich men were in the van of this great industry, as Dr. Manning had been with his power looms in the woolen manufacture. But the lace-making and stocking-knitting were to be supplemented by another fruitful industry. Joseph Farley, the last in the line of millers, was not content with the ancestral business of grinding

*Mr. M. V. B. Perley in his History of Ipswich, in History of Essex County Mass., Boston, 1878.

corn. He conceived the scheme of utilizing the water power, hitherto used for the grist mills and fulling mill and the saw mill, for a cotton mill. A company was organized and work was begun on an extensive scale.

A new dam was built in 1827, an ancient fordway across the river near the old Lace Factory was closed by permission of the Town, and the stone mill was erected at large expense. The machinery was started in 1830. In 1832 it had 3000 spindles and 260 looms. It spun Nos. 30 and 32 yarn, used 80,000 lbs. of cotton, made 450,000 yards of cloth annually, worth from $9\frac{1}{2}$ to 10 cents. It employed on an average 18 males and 63 females.* The Ipswich Manufacturing Company, with Joseph Farley as its President, operated boldly. The lower grist mills, and other buildings on the Island were secured. Land on Elm St. was bought, and permission of the owners of the estate now owned by Mr. Clark Abell was secured, preliminary to building a canal from the River above the upper dam, across the Heard estate to the river. The Asa Andrews estate and the old Lace Factory were purchased and other lands, including the saw mill.† But financial difficulties arose, and in 1836 Mr. Farley conveyed his interests to the Company. In 1846, a new Company, known as the Dane Manufacturing Co., purchased the mills and other properties from the Ipswich Manufacturing Co. The manufacture of drilling was continued.

Meanwhile the hosiery manufacture and kindred industries were coming into greater prominence. The four small manufactories, mentioned by Mr. Fewkes, in which stockings were knit on hand frames, were supplemented by a larger industry, as early as 1834. In a building, erected by the Heards at the Lower Mills, James Peatfield and his brother Sanford, were engaged in knitting shirts and drawers upon a warp frame, invented by James, at least as early as that year.

Encouraged by their success, the Peatfield brothers bought the land in 1840, and proceeded to build the brick

*Felt: Hist. of Ipswich, p. 101.

† This old saw mill fell into ruin, but a new building for veneer sawing was built by Mr. Benjamin C. Hoyt, about 1843. This was removed by Mr. James M. Wellington about the year 1859, to its present location on County Street.

factory, now known as "Hayes Tavern." It was equipped with machinery invented by James, and began at once a prosperous business in the production of underwear. Mr. Geo. W. Heard was the warm friend of the enterprise and advanced money for the new manufactory. But the business had been established only a few years, when Mr. Heard was obliged to go into bankruptcy and the Peatfields were hopelessly involved. Mr. Heard began the knitting business in the building at the Lower Mills about 1845, with Mr. Jabez Mann as Superintendent. He secured the help of Mr. James Glover, who came from England with a long warp machine. Mr. John Birch and other skilled workmen were engaged as well.

The Peatfield brothers lost their building and business for a time, but recovered in a few years. Sanford Peatfield sold his share of building and land, but James Peatfield began the manufacture of the nets then in vogue for women's wear, and continued it profitably for years. In a building in the rear of the brick one, which was removed from the County House land, a new corporation, known as the Lincoln Manufacturing Co., carried on a business first of weaving flannel, and later of hosiery making.

At Willowdale, within the bounds of Hamilton, Dr. Thomas Manning had built a dam in 1829 and a wooden saw mill. The mill was soon burned and another was erected, which was used in part for the sawing of veneers and for turning. The more permanent stone buildings, the factory and the boarding-house on the hill slope, were in process of erection, and about the year 1834, the looms were installed and the weaving of woolen goods began. The factory was owned by Dr. Manning and it was called "Manning's Mills." During the War of the Rebellion hosiery machinery was in operation and in 1864, there were manufactured 55,000 pairs of army socks and woolen goods to the value of \$135,000.

The hosiery making gave way to the manufacture of blankets, by the Willowdale Manufacturing Co., and many houses had been erected for the operatives. The Mill was destroyed by fire, January 12, 1884, and was not rebuilt. The stone house has been taken down and except a tem-

porary use of a wooden building built on the ruins of the old mill, no use has since been made of the water power at this spot.

The decade 1860 to 1870 was the period of another great advance in the textile industry of the Town. In 1863, Henry L. Ordway and Sylvanus F. Canney bought a piece of land on County St., intending to establish a saw mill. It was proposed that a yarn mill should be erected instead. A capital stock of \$40,000 was secured, about half in our Town, and the Company was organized with N. W. Pierce and George G. Colman of Boston, Joseph Ross, Capt. Thomas Dodge and Henry L. Ordway of Ipswich as Directors, and the firm of Pierce, Hardy & Co., as selling agents.

After about five years, the Corporation decided to use its yarn. The capital was increased to \$50,000, knitting machinery was introduced and the manufacture of hosiery was begun. A few years of great prosperity followed. The capital was increased to \$75,000, and the building was enlarged and equipped with the most improved machines. The work produced was of the finest quality, and the most skilful operatives earned ten and twelve dollars a week. Employment was also furnished to three shops, where skilled English hosiery makers worked on hand frames. Burrows & Hunt, Chas. Bamford & Son, employing eight men, and John Birch, with twelve men in his employ, were constantly engaged on work for this Mill. The stockholders rejoiced in ten per cent. dividends, and ninety per cent. of the original investment had been paid to investors, when sudden calamity befell this prosperous and promising business. The great fire in Boston in the fall of 1873 consumed a large amount of finished goods. The insurance companies were bankrupt and only 38 cents on a dollar were realized by the Company. From this time the business was conducted in the face of great difficulties, but with less and less success, until the doors were closed in January, 1885.

The manufacture of cotton cloth was continued in the Stone Mill until 1868 or thereabout. In that year, Mr. Amos A. Lawrence of Boston having purchased for \$70,000 the mills and other property owned by that cor-

poration, transferred the property to the Ipswich Mills Co. The cotton looms were removed and hosiery machinery was introduced. For a time, business was conducted at a loss. The Company was unfortunate in its superintendents, and the secret of profitable manufacture was not attained. The loss was so great, that Mr. Lawrence was on the verge of abandoning the enterprise, when a young Nottingham manufacturer, Mr. Everard H. Martin, was chosen superintendent. With his coming, an era of prosperity dawned, and for many years, this Corporation has been the chief industrial enterprise of the town. When reverse overtook the Woolen Mills, that property was purchased and has since been operated by the Ipswich Mills. The plant has been enlarged from time to time, and all branches of the business, even to the making of the paper boxes, and the wooden shipping cases, are now carried on, and a branch Mill is operated in South Boston. At present, the superintendent is Mr. Harry B. Brown. About 800 operatives are employed. The annual product is estimated at a million dollars, and the pay roll is from eight to ten thousand dollars a week.

The hand frame business prospered for many years. James Glover manufactured nets, the Hallams produced fine knit goods, and single frames were operated here and there by a few expert workmen. But this line of manufacture has become unprofitable, and at the present time it is said that the hand frame weaving which began with the operation of the English loom, in 1822, has ceased and the whole textile production of the Town is the output of the Ipswich Mills.

The saw mills, once numerous, have suffered similar decline. The Island, granted to Jonathan Wade, became a busy centre of industry. A fulling mill, two saw mills and a grist mill flourished in the 18th century. A manufactory of knit goods was added in the 19th century. This building was used as a saw mill by the Damon heirs and was burned some years ago. A single building, used for a grist mill, originally, now stands unused. One small saw mill and one grist mill, are the only representatives today of these ancient and important industries.

ANNUAL MEETING.

The Annual Meeting of the Ipswich Historical Society was held December 7, 1903, at the House of the Society. The following officers were elected.

President.—T. Frank Waters.

Vice Presidents.—John B. Brown,
Francis R. Appleton.

Directors.—Charles A. Sayward,
John H. Cogswell,
John W. Nourse.

Clerk.—John W. Goodhue.

Correspond'g Sec. and Treasurer.—T. Frank Waters.

Librarian.—John J. Sullivan.

SOCIAL COMMITTEE.

Mrs. J. J. Sullivan,
Mrs. Chas. A. Sayward,
Mrs. Edward F. Brown,
Mrs. Cordelia Damon,
Miss Susan C. Whipple,
Miss Lucy Slade Lord,
Miss C. Bertha Dobson.

The Committee was authorized to add three members of their own choosing.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT, DEC. 7, 1903.

The year just closed has been devoid of any striking features, yet it has been full of interest.

Our House continues to attract large numbers of visitors, who are always enthusiastic in their admiration of the ancient mansion. By a singular coincidence, the number of names recorded is very uniform. In 1901, there were 1,008 names, in 1902, 1,052, and in 1903, 1,097. The gain, though slight, is gratifying. Of these, only 173 were names of Ipswich citizens. 483 were residents of other cities and towns in Massachusetts, and 402 were from other States, including representatives from nearly every State, and a few from foreign lands. The most noteworthy of our foreign visitors was Ali Kuli Khan of Teheran, Persia, who appended, to his well written English autograph, the indecipherable signs and symbols of his native language.

The small number of Ipswich visitors is hardly a fair test of the interest of our town's folk. Many come to the house on social occasions, when names are not registered, and it is encouraging to note that the names of our members and town's people are invariably recorded with the names of strangers. This indicates that visiting friends are brought to the House, and reveals a real appreciation of its interest and value.

The Woman's Club utilized the House on March 6th, for their Reception to Visitors. The Old South Chapter of the D. A. R. came on May 26, and the South Boston Chapter of the D. R. on June 13th. The large Art Class of Mr. Dow came for an evening lecture by the President on July 31st. The most significant gathering, however, was the Annual Meeting of the Daniel Hovey Association on Aug. 6th. By permission of the Society,

a fine bronze tablet had been placed on the wall of the Cabinet Room, bearing this inscription :

In
 loving and reverent
 memory
 of
 Daniel Hovey
 born in England 1618
 died in Ipswich, 1692

This tablet is erected
 by his descendants
 at the beginning of the
 twentieth century.

He was
 a patriotic citizen
 a righteous man
 and a
 sincere and consistent
 Christian.

Services of dedication were held on that day. We welcome this as a forerunner of other memorials, which will come in due time, we hope, and which will enhance the interest and value of our rooms in marked degree.

By the kindness of Mr. Alvin Langdon Coburn of Boston, a photographic artist of rare skill, an exhibition of his photographs of old houses in this vicinity, and other specimens of his art, was held in September.

The usual suppers were spread, and in addition, a Mid-summer Tea was devised, to afford opportunity for a gathering of the summer contingent, many of whom are members of the Society. This was largely attended, and resulted in a handsome addition to our Treasury.

On nearly all these occasions, as well as the suppers, our Social Committee served most appetizing lunches, and our Society is greatly indebted to the ladies of this Committee for their enthusiasm and zeal. It is a source of especial gratification to them that the receipts from these spreads have amounted to a total of \$142. A por-

tion of this has been spent wisely in purchasing an abundant supply of plated ware of good quality for table service and some necessary kitchen ware.

The financial record of the year has been encouraging. The total receipts were \$747.33 against \$648.64 in 1902 and \$649.04 in 1901. Membership fees contributed \$408.50 to this sum. Door fees amounted to \$143.98, the sale of photographs brought \$9.26 and the revenue from publications amounted to \$19.82. A venture has been made also with a line of stationery which has been fairly remunerative.

The expenses of the year have been unusually large. The necessity of providing an acting curator last winter, and the high price of fuel enlarged the house expenses materially. A substantial fence, strong though not beautiful, has been built around our grounds to prevent the constant travel across our land. An old-fashioned well-sweep has been erected, and the chimneys have been topped out to help the draught.

These are all permanent improvements, and we need not anticipate any further expense in this direction. Notwithstanding these expenditures, the year has closed with \$142.25 in hand, and only one small account is outstanding.

By the kindness of the late Mrs. Elizabeth M. Brown, always a sincere friend of the Society, a legacy of \$500 will be paid by her executors within a few months. The balance already in hand, added to this legacy will enable the Society to make a considerable reduction in the debt before another year has passed.

By the death of Daniel Fuller Appleton, Esq., the Society has lost a generous and enthusiastic friend. He has always encouraged new measures and contributed liberally to the funds needed to accomplish them. His gifts to the Library have been of exceptional value. The ancient manuscripts and rare books, intrinsically valuable, and of especial interest to Ipswich, which he has bestowed, will be a lasting memorial of his regard.

We regret to announce that Mr. and Mrs. Ralph W. Burnham have ceased to be our curators. Mr. Burnham's

collection of rare china and beautiful old furniture has added greatly to the attractiveness of the House. He has always proved an affable host, and he has done especially good service for the Society during the last year by a carefully written description of the House with excellent illustrations, which was published in the September number of "The House Beautiful." Mrs. Burnham has been an official of ideal excellence, painstaking in her care of the rooms, gracious in her welcome of visitors, and ready at all times to sacrifice her own convenience, if the Society could gain any advantage. The Society was singularly fortunate in securing their services at the time when Miss Gray removed her furnishings, and we have reason to regret their departure sincerely. Mr. Burnham's furniture will remain until spring and in the meantime, a vigorous effort should be made to secure the permanent furnishing of the Parlor. Our Town is rich in fine antiques, and it would seem that some generous, public spirited people might contribute pieces of furniture that would restore again the glory to Israel.

Mr. and Mrs. Washington Pickard were installed in the House by Mr. Burnham, as substitute care-takers before his business affairs led him to decide on removal. They will continue in charge through the winter.

The Bay State League of Historical Societies of Essex and Middlesex, has been organized during the past year, and this Society has become a member. Conference with the representatives of other Societies at the meetings of this body has made it plain that few Societies have accomplished as much as ours in securing permanent homes for themselves and rousing a stronger historic spirit in their communities. I have had the pleasure of a careful inspection of the great collections of the Concord Historical Society, and the unrivalled Museum of the Deerfield Society, the life-work of Hon. George Sheldon, the venerable President. Our Society may never attain such wealth of historic treasures as these, but our House is of unique and unapproachable value. As the burden of our mortgage is lightened, we may soon have larger funds for the work of publication, and when our Memorial Hall is

erected on our land near by, we shall have room for a collection, which will be worthy of our ancient and honored Town.

The gradual increase of our membership will furnish us an increasing working fund, and some rich and generous friends, proud of their Ipswich blood, will soon rise up, we trust, to bestow on us a building for memorial, and for use, which will enable us to make our Society all that we desire. Already our Home has come to wide recognition. The finest tribute to its value has recently been paid by the State Historical Society of Wisconsin. This Society wished to establish an historical museum in the fine building erected for its use and a colonial kitchen was a principal item of their plan. The Secretary, Mr. Reuben G. Thwaites, formerly of Dorchester, arranged for the construction of such a room within the long east hall of the Museum. The "Madison Democrat" of February 4, 1904, reports the results of his efforts.

"After a visit of inspection early in November, to the several ancient houses in the neighborhood of Boston, which are now maintained as museums, he decided to take as a model the kitchen of the Whipple homestead in the quaint and beautiful old town of Ipswich, this carefully-restored building being now the property of the Ipswich Historical society. Ideas were also obtained at other old houses particularly the famous Hancock-Clark house at Lexington, and the much visited Antiquarian house at Concord; and numerous photographs were obtained of all of these."

"The attempt to produce in our museum the general effect of the Ipswich kitchen has been eminently successful. Prof. Joseph Jastrow, president of the Madison Art association, early became interested in the project and from beginning to end devoted to it much time and thought. To him is due a large share of the credit attaching to the artistic result. The old oak beams of the original, now blackened with age (for the Whipple house was built "in part at least before 1642"), have been carefully reproduced; the spacious fireplace, constructed of blackened brick obtained from Indiana, looks as though it had seen centuries

of service ; and the walls and shelves are hung with just such articles of the olden time as would have been daily needed in a kitchen of our forefathers in colonial days. Interesting, indeed, are the two façades, front and rear—the former being fitted with a two-seated porch ; while opening through the latter is the sort of battened door used in ancient days, and fastened by a wooden latch with the latch-string hanging without.”

Photographs of this kitchen have been received, which show a remarkably fine reproduction. We anticipate an increase of interest in our venerable House from this source.

REPORT OF CURATOR.

DEC. 1: 1902-DEC. 1, 1903.

Total names registered, - - - - -	1097
Ipswich residents, - - - - -	173
Other towns and cities in Massachusetts,	483
From other states, - - - - -	402

Total registration, - - - - -	1899	1,134
“ “ - - - - -	1900	1,513
“ “ - - - - -	1901	1,008
“ “ - - - - -	1902	1,052
“ “ - - - - -	1903	1,097

REPORT OF THE TREASURER FOR THE YEAR
ENDING DEC. 1, 1903.

T. Frank Waters in account with Ipswich Historical Society.

Dr.			
Membership fees, - - - - -		\$408	50
House account:			
Fees at door, - - - - -	\$143		98
Sale of Photos, - - - - -		9	26
Sale of publications, - - - - -		19	82
Sale of stationery, - - - - -		6	70
Suppers and Teas (Feb. supper \$39.34; Old South D. A. R., \$15.06; South Boston D. R. \$10.80; Midsummer Tea, \$42.65; Tea and Pho. exhibition \$9.50; Dec. supper, \$26.20) - - - - -		143	55
	323		31
Gustavus Kinsman, one half fence, - - - - -			15 52
			747 33
Balance, June 1902, - - - - -			215 02
			\$962 35
Cr.			
Running expense of house, including fuel, care of grounds, and repairs, - - - - -		\$152	53
Work on chimneys, - - - - -	17		25
Plated ware, etc., - - - - -	39		00
Fence and well sweep, - - - - -	84		53
	140		78
Printing account, - - - - -			131 63
Interest account, - - - - -			111 08
Stationery, postage, etc., - - - - -			32 77
Incidentals, - - - - -			36 04
Cash in hand, - - - - -			142 50
			747 33
Cash, June 1902, - - - - -			215 02
			\$962 35

DONATIONS TO THE IPSWICH HISTORICAL
SOCIETY FOR THE YEAR ENDING
DECEMBER 1, 1903.

- JOHN ALBREE, JR. The Traditions of the Old Weaver's
Clock.
- AMERICAN ANTIQUARIAN SOCIETY. Proceedings, 1903.
- DANIEL FULLER APPLETON. *Magnalia Christi Americana*,
by Cotton Mather, A.M. London, 1702. A Di-
rectory for the Publique Worship of God throughout
the three kingdoms of England, Scotland and Ire-
land, with an Ordinance of Parliament taking away
the Book of Common Prayer. London, 1644. A
View of the new Directory and a Vindication of the
ancient Liturgy of the Church of England. Second
Edition. Oxford, 1646.
- BROOKLINE (The) MAGAZINE.
- RUFUS CHOATE. Bible—carried at the battle of Bunker
Hill by Francis Merrifield (Loan).
- PHILIP E. CLARKE. *First Principles of Astronomy and
Geography*. Isaac Watts, D.D. London, 1736.
- BENJAMIN H. CONANT. Wenham Town Report, 1902-3.
- DUDLEY (Gov. Thomas) FAMILY ASSOCIATION. Pam-
phlet No. 1. Governor Thomas Dudley.
- MRS. ELLIS. Old Flag of William Chapman, with 18 Stars.
- ESSEX INSTITUTE. Historical Collections, 1903.
- FRIEND. Cane owned and carried by Daniel Webster.
- JOHN S. GLOVER. Cane made from a piece of the
Kearsarge, with a head, turned from a fragment of
the old Constitution.
- MRS. JOHN S. GLOVER. Veil from the brig Falconer,
wrecked on Ipswich Beach. Taken from the wreck
by David Spiller. Given by him to Mrs. William
Rust, mother of Mrs. Glover.
- LUTHER S. HERRICK. Beverly Annual Reports.
- AUGUSTINE JONES. *Life of Governor Thomas Dudley.
George Fox in New England in 1672*. William
Rotch of Nantucket.
- KIMBALL FAMILY NEWS.
- MRS. EDWARD P. KIMBALL. Woven Rug.
- HOWARD LANE. Paper Weight, Ellery House.

44 DONATIONS TO THE IPSWICH HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

- MANCHESTER HISTORIC ASSOCIATION, Manchester, N. H.
The Historic Quarterly.
- MEDFORD HISTORICAL SOCIETY. Historical Register,
Vol. VI: No. 2.
- ONEIDA HISTORICAL SOCIETY. Transactions, 1903.
- PEABODY HISTORICAL SOCIETY. Exercises attending the
unveiling of the tablet at the Birthplace of George
Peabody.
- MRS. RICHARDS. Part of old Lamp.
- NATHAN P. SANBORN. Capt. John Glover and his Mar-
blehead Regiment.
- CHARLES A. SAYWARD. Deed of John Rogers, 1693.
- GEORGE SHELDON. Publications of Poquumtuck Valley
Association. Vols. I and II.
- CHARLES C. SMITH. Memoir of William Sumner Ap-
pleton.
- MRS. ELLEN M. SMITH. Works of Rev. John Flavel.
Vol. I. London, 1701.
- J. G. R. SMITH. MS. Sermons by Rev. Nathaniel
Rogers. Commission of Capt. Samuel Rogers, 1739.
Deeds—Norton to Wise, 1723. Continental
money. Essex Gazette—1771—with an account of
the Boston Massacre.
- TOPSFIELD HISTORICAL SOCIETY. Publications. Vols. VIII
and IX.
- BAYARD TUCKERMAN. Palfrey's History of New Eng-
land. Calef's Wonders of the Invisible World.
- WILLIAM P. UPHAM. John Cotton's, "Moses His Ju-
dicials."
- DANIEL WADE. Supplement to the Year Book of 1899,
of the Society of Sons of the Revolution in the
State of New York, 1903.
- WATERTOWN HISTORICAL SOCIETY. Memorial discourse
on the Life and Character of its late President, Rev.
Edward A. Rand.
- MRS. JOSEPH WILLCOMB. Indian Implements collected
by the late Capt. Joseph Willcomb.
- OLIVER C. WILLCOMB. Willcomb Family, Sketch of
History of Ipswich.
- WISCONSIN STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY. Memorial
Volume 1901.

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... PUBLICATIONS ...

OF THE

IPSWICH HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

-
- I. The Oration by Rev. Washington Choate and the Poem by Rev. Edgar F. Davis, on the 200th Anniversary of the Resistance to the Andros Tax, 1887. Price 25 cents.
 - II. The President's Address and other Proceedings at the Dedication of their new room, Feb. 3, 1896. Price 10 cents.
 - { III. Unveiling of the Memorial Tablets at the South Common and
IV. Proceedings at the Annual Meeting, Dec. 7, 1896. Price 25 cents.
 - V. The Early Homes of the Puritans and Some Old Ipswich Houses with Proceedings at the Annual Meeting, 1897. Price 50 cents. (Out of print.)
 - VI. Exercises at the Dedication of the Ancient House with a History of the House, and Proceedings at the Annual Meeting, 1898. Out of print, but the History of the House is reprinted in Number X.
 - VII. A Sketch of the Life of John Winthrop the Younger, with portrait and valuable reproductions of ancient documents and autographs, by T. Frank Waters. Price \$2.50. Postage 13 cents.
 - VIII. "The Development of our Town Government" and "Common Lands and Commonage," with the Proceedings at the Annual Meeting, 1899. Price 25 cents.
 - IX. A History of the Old Argilla Road in Ipswich, Massachusetts, by T. Frank Waters. Price 25 cents.
 - X. "The Hotel Cluny of a New England Village," by Sylvester Baxter, and the History of the Ancient House, with Proceedings at the Annual Meeting, 1900. Price 25 cents.
 - XI. The Meeting House Green and a Study of Houses and Lands in that vicinity, with Proceedings at the Annual Meeting, Dec. 2, 1901. Price, 25 cents.
 - XII. Thomas Dudley and Simon and Ann Bradstreet. A Study of House-Lots to Determine the Location of Their Homes, and, the Exercises at the Dedication of Tablets, July 31, 1902, with Proceedings at the Annual Meeting, Dec. 1, 1902.
 - XIII. "Fine Thread, Lace and Hosiery in Ipswich" by Jesse Fewkes, and "Ipswich Mills and Factories," by T. Frank Waters, with Proceedings at the Annual Meeting. Price 25 cents.