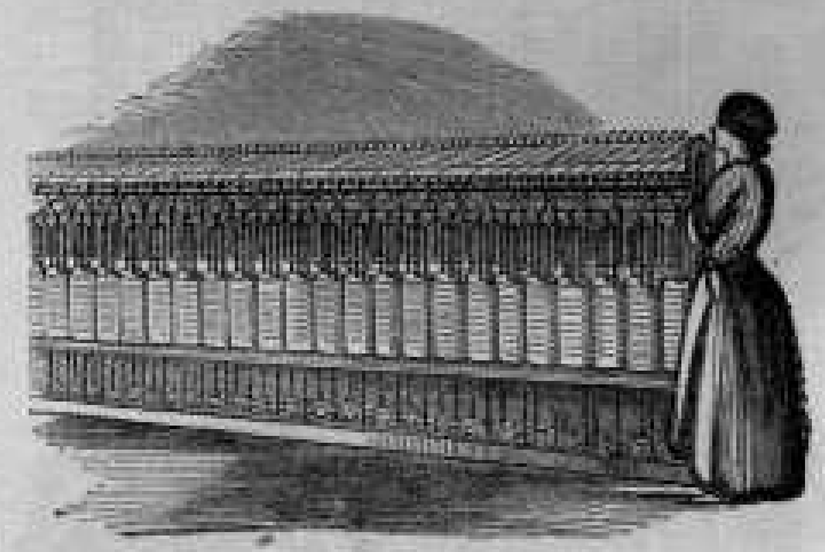
status, but for the ingenuity and enterprise of a few then obscure individuals, who devoted their lives to improvements in the manufacture of cotton. Before the spinning frame, which was invented in 1767, came into operation, the imports of cotton wool did not amount to 4,000,000 lbs. a year, and the value of the exports seldom exceeded £200,000. Since that time the increase of the cotton manufacture has been rapid beyond all precedent. Its progress was not impeded by the long war, to the successful termination of which it contributed more, perhaps, than anything else; and what is no less extraordinary, it has increased eightfold since the peace. "Of this gigantic manufacture," says an able writer, "Manchester is the grand centre, absorbing within its neighbourhood fully three-fourths of the trade, and comprising, besides spinning mills, most extensive power-loom factories and large dyeing and printing establishments. The manufacture of silk goods also, which was introduced in 1816, has generally been in a flourishing state since the removal, in 1826, of the oppressive import duty on raw silk. Mixed goods of silk and cotton occupy many hands, and many hundred persons are engaged in various branches of handicraft subordinate to the principal object of industry. In some cotton factories the process of spinning only is carried forward; but in others, the whole process is undertaken, from the first carding to the ultimate dressing of the woven and bleached fabric. Many of them are buildings of extraordinary size —comprising seven or eight storeys, erected at a heavy expense, and filled with costly machinery. The rooms are kept in the most perfect state of cleanliness, and the strictest order, regularity, and silence prevail throughout the establishments. Several thousands of spindles are at work in each of the principal factories, and, in many of them, upwards of six hundred power-looms are in action, each producing from fifteen to twenty pieces of fabric, of twenty-four yards each, per week. Besides the population connected with the factories which almost absorb the plain goods trade, including jaconets, twilled cloths, and fustians, upwards of nine thousand hand-loom weavers are

employed in Manchester and its neighbourhood in weaving cotton, silk, and mixed goods."

Among other remarkable results of the rise and progress of the cotton manufacture has been the extraordinary growth of Liverpool, which, from an obscure village, has become one of the largest ports in the world. No doubt the facilities afforded to trade by the noble river on which it stands have contributed to the rapidity of its progress as a mart of commerce, but it is indebted chiefly to cotton for its present importance. "In 1858," says a recent



WINDING MACHINE.

writer, "the registered tonnage of Liverpool was 4,441,943 tons, and the dues paid amounted to £347,899. The increase in the imports of cotton afford a measure of the increase in the wealth, trade, and population of Lancashire generally. In 1758, the total imports of cotton wool into all England, principally from the Levant and the West Indies, did not amount to three millions of pounds weight; the principal portion of the cotton thus imported being consumed in candle-works. In 1858, just one century later, the quantity imported, principally into Liverpool, was upwards of a thousand millions of pounds!"

If anything were wanting to show the importance of

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