wearied look, watching his good wife plying her busy fingers in the homely exercise of knitting stockings. He looked to the future and saw nothing hopeful. The friends who had promised much performed little. He began to accuse himself of having led his poor wife into a life of penury; but when he looked into her face and saw her bright smile, and read, plainly as print, the language of the loving eyes that looked up into his, he knew very well that *she* did not wish herself unmarried again, and might fairly have claimed the famous Dunmow Flitch.

One day as he sat watching her busy fingers, an idea occurred to him—it came suddenly as a flash of lightning—and he half doubted whether it could be true. "Why," said the voice that spoke within him, "why not effect by a machine the very same result that those fingers are producing? See—so and so—see here and there; see, it may be done." And William Lee listened to the voice and wondered could it be true.

Many men would have stopped there; instead of this he turned the idea to practical account. He made a knitting machine, and had the satisfaction of seeing stich after stich, row after row, deftly wrought out by its fingers of wood and iron.

With this machine thoroughly perfected William Lee set up in business, near Nottingham, as a stocking weaver. But his invention excited little interest. Queen Elizabeth cared little; James cared less; courtiers followed suit; and Lee, who could find no patronage at home, crossed the channel and found friends warm and true in Henry of Navarre and Sully the Wise. For a time everything went on very prosperously; but days of trouble followed; Henry was assassinated; the English stocking weaver fell into disrepute; and there he languished and died. But his invention did not perish with him. One of his apprentices years afterwards came to England and set up his loom, and from that time to this the trade has been rapidly progressing, and Nottingham and Leicester have become important seats of manufacture.

Worsted hosiery is chiefly made in Leicestershire, silk hosiery in Derby and Nottingham, and cotton hosiery

throughout the counties of Nottingham and Derby, at Hinckley, and at Tewkesbury. The following analysis may serve to show the kinds and qualities of goods upon which the frames are at present employed:—

Plain cotton, 14 to 22 gauge, 1,600; 24 to 28 gauge, 1,600; 30 to 34 gauge, 2,790; 36 to 60 gauge, 1,600 frames	7,590
Gauge 600, gloves, and caps, 1,000; drawers, 500; sundries, 500	2,000
Wide frames, making cut-ups and various other kinds	6,030
Worsted, 12 to 20 gauge, 4,400; 22 to 26 gauge, 3,600; 28 to 34 gauge, 1,450 frames	9,450
Angola, 1,350; lambswool, 1,900; shirts, 500 frames	3,750
Wide frames; or with worsted goods	520
Silk, 2,300; gloves, 350; and knots, 350 . . .	3,000
Total of frames	33,000

In the above no account is taken of the hosiery made in Westmoreland and Cumberland, and in Scotland, where, however it is rather extensively produced. In fact there are at present between 700 and 800 stocking frames at work in Dumfries and its vicinity, and about 1,350 at Hawick, exclusive of a further number in Aberdeen, and of the knitted stockings made in the Orkney and Shetland Isles.

"In our customs returns," says M'Culloch, "cotton hosiery and lace are mixed up together, so that the value of the exports of each cannot be separately specified. The exports of both have, however, increased considerably of late years, and we are well assured that the increase has been as great in the hosiery as in the lace branch. The Germans, it is true, have succeeded in disposing of considerable quantities of hosiery in South America, particularly in Brazil—in consequence partly of the low prices at which the goods are produced in the cottages of peasants, who derive the principal part of their subsistence from other sources. The value of the cotton hosiery annually made is, however, estimated at £880,000; that of

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