

Thomas Goddard

1768 – 1929

The wheels of industry, the flight of time and the changes they have wrought

Thomas Goddard

Many are the records on the pages of history of the wonderful discoveries by our countrymen during the last 150 years and the consequent development of all our industries but probably none so interesting as the early inventions and the development of the cotton industry.

How strange it therefore appears that although the industry had been in existence for hundreds of years in other lands that it should have fallen to the lot of England to lay the foundations of its great and wonderful advancement and, though not even producing the raw material, to become the seat of the industry.

Nor does it appear strange as we consider the circumstances which led to its introduction into England, the distance the raw materials had to be brought at a time and transport as by the sea and land was that slow and costly and the fact that by it, chiefly, we became a great industrial and commercial nation.

It is true, as it has been stated, that the situation of our country, the suitability of our climate and vast deposits of coal and iron underlying the soil in most parts of our island have been an advantage, yet allowing for these advantages, the gifts of nature, in looking back to the early part of the 18th century at the backward state of the cotton industry when there was no machinery but such as was turned by hand and considering also the obstacles which confronted all kinds of progress, whether social, political or industrial, and compare them with the privileges we now enjoy and the enormous amount of hard trade and commerce we can truly say with a writer of old, our lives have fallen unto us in pleasant places.

There is every reason for believing that long before the Christian era and for hundreds of years before it was introduced into England or even on the Continent both the people of India and Africa has a system of spinning and weaving which during the whole of that vast period received little or no improvement and for a long period after the industry had been introduced by Arabs and had been flourishing on the continent England remained purely agricultural and for generations was content to be clothed with cotton goods spun and woven by the Indians, the Dutch and other continental people.

It was in the early part of the 17th century when the industry was introduced into England but for several centuries before that there had been and spinning and weaving of wool and flax.

King Edward III after a victorious war with France about 1340 did much for progress but the best thing he did for England was to bring over a cargo of Flemish artisans who taught our people to spin and weave flax.

Before the invention of the spinning frame by Sir Richard Arkwright in 1768 all cotton was spun by hand one thread at a time. When he conceived the idea of his invention, in order to avoid the same lawless mob that had driven other inventors out of Lancashire he removed from Preston, his native place, to Nottingham where he experimented with his machine by horse-power and where a very memorable event occurred in the association of Jedediah Strutt. From that meeting may be dated one of the greatest events in the history of the cotton industry for through that meeting the method of cotton spinning underwent a complete revolution.

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Jedediah Strutt and the brother of Mrs Strutt, a Samuel Need, were in business in the hosiery trade at Derby. Mr Strutt had invented a machine in 1758 for making ribbed hosiery known as the Derby ribbing machine whereby ribbed hosiery was first introduced. Arkwright and Strutt built a mill at Cromford which was turned by water by which the thread produced got the name of water twist. After Cromford they built a second mill as Masson Mill, Matlock where the original model of his machine is stored. In 1776 they built a mill at Belper and one at Milford. In course of time they dissolved the partnership, Strutt taking Belper and Milford and Arkwright Cromford and Masson.

No name is probably more famous than that of Sir Richard Arkwright in the record of England's industrial greatness and his invention is one of the greatest factors in the history of the cotton industry to which we owe the great advance of the industry at that particular time and through that chiefly the advance of all our industries which not only gave an impetus to the industrial wheel of our own country, but ultimately to the whole world.

Associated with that advance and the name of Arkwright must also be the name of Jedediah Strutt. Whatever the credit that may be due to Arkwright by his invention it must be shared by Strutt for the great part that he took in helping to launch the patent, introduction of the Factory System and the great advance which followed in the cotton industry and all our industries. Jedediah Strutt probably little thought that after his wonderful invention and his success in the hosiery business he was to take part in one of the greatest events in the history of the cotton industry.

Calver Mill is one of the mills that began to be erected soon after the expiration of Sir Richard Arkwright's patent rights in 1783 and may therefore be looked upon as a memento of the great changes that took place in the system of spinning and weaving, the passing away of the hand spinning wheel and the introduction of the factory system and as having taken part in the great advance and progress of the cotton industry which followed. Up to that time the hand spinning wheel and hand loom had been an article of furniture in almost every house.

The large mill is seven storeys high and is built of stone and the lesser mill behind also and is stated to have been built without scaffolding, each storey being complete as they went along. The roof was put together in the field known as the Stocking before being placed on the mill, the joiner being named as Ellis of Curbar. The building of the mill commenced May 1785 and was completed in 1786. Some of the masons lodged with my grandmother's parents and they took her when a girl to make pegs for the slaters, wood pegs then being in use.

When the building was complete and the balcony put on the mill which was on up to about 1918 the workmen took her up to the top of the mill and put her in the balcony and told her that when she got grown up she could say that she was the first to go up there besides the workmen.

The bell and balcony were not taken down until about 1918 but if either the owners or the tenant had considered the service of the bell to the workpeople and the three or four villages, Curbar, Calver, Froggatt and Stoney Middleton and how it had served as a Greenwich by the ringing of the bell at certain times of the day for nearly 150 years it would surely not have been taken down.

The small building in front of the large mill is the wheelhouse which contains two large waterwheels of 56 horse power. These wheels have turned the two mills by water power supplied by the River Derwent for nearly 150 years. They have turned away without fireman or engineer and only the occasional attention of a labourer, and without coal except for heating the mill, which proves clearly that as a nation we have neglected to make greater use of our water power. The same water which turned Calver Mill would have turned other mills lower down the river all along its course and thereby have had the advantage of cheaper production. The last tenant ran it for 21 years nearly night and day with little more expense for turning power.

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A model of the water wheels and of the wheelhouse was made by a man named Bradley soon after the mill was built, who lived where the post office now is. The model was stored in the mill up to the time of it closing. The building of the wheelhouse and the construction of the Goit to convey the water from New Bridge cost £1600.

My grandfather Ellis who was a stone cutter got stone from the weir at New Bridge at a later date. I remember a carriage coming for him about 1858 to take him to Rowsley Station for Derby Assizes to give evidence in a law case in reference to the water rights.



Mr Gardom if not the first to work the Mill was the master in the early part of the 19th century and also a Mr Mason. Mr Gardom belonged to a well-known Baslow family and lived in Bubnell Hall and later at Cliff House, Curbar. I have often conversed with William Marples of Curbar who worked in the office at the Mill in Mr Gardom's time and went to Baslow Post Office for the letters every morning.

During Mr Gardom's time at the Mill he built the row of houses at the top of Curbar Lane known as London Row for the work people. The houses were sold about 1860 to Calver Friendly Society.

After Gardom and Mason the mill was work by Heygate and Bentley for a number of years. They built the Newburgh Terrace, Calver for the work people which was connected with the Mill until 1927 and it was also bought by the Calver Friendly Society. The contract for the building of the 12 houses was £600 which the firm borrowed from the Earl of Newburgh and the contract was given to William Hallam joiner and George Ellis of Curbar, mason. The Mill Company advanced them £150 towards the £600 with the understanding that the work would proceed at once and be complete in the year 1845 but the houses were not completed until November 2, 1846 and were passed by Mr Heygate March 15, 1847.

The rent of the Mill at that time, including the master's house, a farm of 50 acres and a number of houses in Calver, was £300 per year paid to the Earl of Newburgh.

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Previous to that time a man named George Buxton who kept the Bridge Inn carted the cotton to and from Manchester for the mill. The journey occupied two days and a night. His charges together with expenses in Manchester and toll bars amounted to from £4 to £5 per journey.

Although gas was introduced in 1802 it was not introduced at the mill until 1846 the reason for the delay been evidently financial difficulties for there is evidence of such being the firm's position at that time. The gasworks was not built until 1846. Three of my uncles built the Retort House, the chimney and the pit for the gas ??? The pit, the retort house and chimney only to be the property of the landlord, the fittings for 300 lights being the property of the firm.

The wages of my three uncles John Ellis, Joshua Ellis and Richard Ellis being at the rate of 28 shillings per week, masons' wages that time ranging from 24 to 28 shillings, the whole cost of the gasworks being £1100.

The first time the mill was illuminated with gas light there was great rejoicing. The Baslow Band, then famous, was engaged to take part in the celebrations. My father was a trombone player in Baslow Band and took part in the celebrations. It is no wonder the work people being jubilant when we consider that the mill up to that time had been miserably lighted with candles.

Neither is it any wonder at the operatives' opposition in those days to inventions of machinery when we consider the changes the Factory System had brought about. Up to that time they had to a certain extent been their own masters by the hand spinning and weaving in their own homes. They could commence work when they chose and give over when they chose. They were not obliged to leave their homes to do the work as they were when the factory system was introduced although wages were very low for hand spinners and weavers.

Ben Brierley, the Lancashire dialect writer, tells a story of a handloom weaver he once called upon who had a family of little children and at his side at the handloom he had a picture book and every time a child came in and asked for a butty the weaver cut her a picture out of the book. At that time the handloom weavers when they had woven a piece of cloth had to go with it to the warehouse in Manchester to get paid and bring back other work.

On the occasion referred to a child came in to the loom house and asked for a butty and the weaver cut her a picture out of the book and gave it to her, saying to Brierley "that will satisfy her until dinner time and then I shall cut another out. There will not be anything to eat in this house until I have woven this piece and been to the warehouse" which would be from 5 to 6 o'clock.

The murder of William Wood of Eyam is evidence of their having been handloom weaving in the locality before the invention of the power loom by the Rev Dr Cartwright. It is on record that William Wood of Eyam, a manufacturer, had been to Manchester to the warehouse. On returning he was overtaken by three men between Disley and Whaley Bridge who murdered him by stoning him to death and robbed him of his money. A memorial stone is in the wall by the roadside where he was murdered with the inscription "Prepare to meet thy God". The inhabitants have tried to get the stone removed but so far failed.

The factory operatives of the present day have no idea of the hardships endured up to about 1840 or 1850. There was scarcely any limit to the hours of labour. They commenced work at 6 in the morning until 7 30 or 8 at night and 4 30 on a Saturday. Winter time was a dreary time in the mills in those days. Matches not been invented and they had to depend on the flint and stick to obtain a light in the morning. There were no street lamps or conveyances to convey them to their work if they lived a distance away and they had to put up with many inconveniences. The operatives of today have no idea of.

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The Factory System also created a demand for child labour and children were sent to work at seven and eight years of age. They were sent from workhouses and bound prentice to mill owners until they were 21 years of age and in some cases never saw their parents any more. They were sent from London workhouses into Derbyshire, Lancashire and Yorkshire and very probably the row of houses at Curbar built by Mr Gardom got its name London Row because doubtlessly London people were living in the Row at one time. In some cases the children were fairly well treated: in other cases they were shamefully abused but there is evidence that they were fairly well treated at Calver Mill with the exception of the long hours at that period.

The mill masters paid doctors' fees for medical attendance for both children and adults and school fees for half timers and it is interesting to look over the names of those work people who had medical attendance, some gone to Australia 60 or 70 years ago and some to other parts and others are continued to work at the mill until old age compelled them to retire. The following is a list of names treated by Dr Fenton of Eyam in 1850:-

Catherine Price	15-6
William Wright	2-6
Elizabeth Rowbotham	17-6
Martha Hambleton	10-6
R Frith	14-6
Ann Unwin	7-6
Elizabeth Goddard	7-0
John Mc Findlay	2-0
Mary Gregory	8-0
Ellen Blankley	13-6
Joseph Brocklehurst	12-0
Sarah Benson	2-0
Jane Mills	6-6
Mary Unwin	5-0
Clemantine Glossop	17-0
Ellen Hallam	1-4-0
Catherine Furness	17-0
Sarah Sellers	1-8-0
Joseph Harris	1-10-0
Fanny Hall	4-0
Nichols	3-6
Samuel Berisford	18-0
Mary Froggatt	7-0
Ellen Hibbert	10-0
Joseph Hall	2-6

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Ann Frogatt	13-6
Ellen Hibbert	8-0
Ann Harrison	3-0
John Hibbert	8-0
Mary Ann Walker	6-0
Elizabeth Unwin	7-0
John Barns	5-0
Mary Marshall	1-10-0
Jane Wright	19-6
Joseph Broomhead	4-0
John Kirk	7-0
M A W Cocker	7-0
Ann Heginbotham	8-0
Ann Makin	3-0
David Croft	10-0
Hannah Sykes	10-0

1851 Dr Condale to Calver Mill Co

Blagden Joseph	1-10-0
Goddard Elizabeth	10-0
Mrs Neil	17-6
Bowring	2-2-0
Rigby Lucy	10-6
Hallam Lucy	9-6
Barber's daughter	8-0
Wignal J	10-6
Butcher's daughter	10-6
Young Wm son	12-6
Mary Marples	2-6
Garlick	1-18-0
Brocklehurst Bessy	5-0
Richardson Hannah	5-0
Froggat Ann	7-0
Slack Elizabeth	10-6

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Makin Mrs	10-6
Hallam Sarah	10-0
Betany Rosehannah	2-6
Cocker Ann	10-0
Ann Brocklehurst	10-0
Boden R	2-6
Bereton A	5-0
Campbell E	19-6
Beswick E	5-0
Frost mary	5-0
Mrs Young	7-0
Carter Sarah	14-0
Barnes Jane	16-0
Asker E	1-0-0
Siddal Martha	5-0
Eades Ann	7-0
Frost Frances	5-0
Saxby F	10-6
Harris Eliza	5-0
Furnes Catherine	5-0
Harrison Fanny	5-0 15-6
Timperley James	4-17-6
Astifany	2-10-6
	31-13-0

1852 Dr Fenton Second Bill

Elizabeth Goddard	18-6
Thomas Hibbert	3-0
Ann Gregory	8-0
Elizabeth Green	1-4-0
Martha Harris	11-0
Rachel Frogatt	11-0
Ann Rowbotham	8-0
Henry Hibbert	14-0

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Lucy Hallam	4-0
Margaret Frogatt	1-14-6
Valentine Hall	7-0
Ann Hambleton	1-1-0
Hannah Benson	3-0
Briget Gilman	7-0
John Howarth	1-0-0
Mary Kirk	7-0
Elizabeth Rowbotham	17-0
Elizabeth Plant	17-0
Elizabeth Cocker	8-0
Sarah Gregory	14-0
Ann Benson	7-0
Hannah Bamford	8-9
Gill Berisford	3-6
Sushanah Wilson	16-0
Mary Marples	7-0
Martha Ellis	6-6
John Hallam	1-1-0
H Brocklehurst	3-6
Ann Goddard	1-8-0
Eliza Ellis	10-0
Jane Sellers	10-6
Elizabeth Swift	16-6
Ann Weeldon	1-18-6
Dorothy Harris	6-6
Sarah Layman	9-0
Francis Frost	11-6
William Randle	3-0
Ellen Woodhouse	1-1-6
Mary Ann Hancock	4-6
Joseph Broomhead	9-6
Charlot Heeds	2-5-6
Catherine Price	7-0
Samuel Hibbert	15-0

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E A Wright

3-6

41-18-6

The following items of a few other bills are also interesting. The first is a bill from Mr Edward Moore, Stanton Ford School for teaching half timers which may be taken as evidence of the Stocking School not having been up to the time Mr Fletcher coming to the Mill.

1849 Stanton Ford School to Calver Mill Co

To Edward Moore for instructing 29 boys @ 3d per week 7-3

1849 30 boys @3d 7-6

Mary Kay's book 5d

Thomas Rowbotham's book 5d

George Benson's book 5d

29 boys and girls 7-3

Ann Goddard's book 3d

George Stevenson's book 3d

7-9

Edward Moore

Received from Mr Bentley 2/4 Half year's property tax

John Marshall, Curbar

Bought of Earl of Newburgh

2 loads of cordwood 9/- Ralph Ashton

Calver poor rate on £333 assessment £6-18-0

William Gregory

Froggatt Church rate for land at New Bridge at 3d in the pound £4-3-0

Samuel Smith

Mr Fletcher's first subscription to the Chatsworth Fishing for part of the year 1852
15/-

For 1853 paid in advance £3-0-0

Mary Broomhead, Baslow

This proves that Mr Fletcher took the place of Mr Bentley at the Mill

Messrs Bentley and Greg

To Richard White 1848 & 1850 £6-10-0

1846 Paid to R Mason £294 for cotton

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To Messrs Bentley, Calver Mill

½ stone of tallow “- 2/ 7½

Thomas Goddard, Stoney Middleton

Mr Heygate retired in 1847 and his place was taken by Mr Gregg. There was several complaints at the time of delay in payment of accounts which Mr Bentley explained be owing to the retirement of Mr Heygate and the arrangements for Mr Gregg to take his place this which was in the hands of the lawyer and also owing to bad trade.

Mr Bentley retired in 1850 and a letter from him in London is sufficient proof that he had ceased to reside at the Master's house at the mill. Whether he had any share in the business or not but he received £7.10.00 for half year's interest on £300 due 12 month previous all of which proves the financial position of the firm at that time.

Mr Bentley's place was taken by Mr Fletcher in 1850. As managing partner he resided at the Master's house and was highly respected and Mrs Fletcher was also respected in all the three villages.

The commencement of the church services in the room over the stables belonging to the mill in the Stocking and the Sunday school class was due to the efforts of Mr Fletcher before which time there was not any Church of England service for the three villages nearer than Baslow or Stoney Middleton neither was there any day school except the private school belonging to Mr Moore at Stanton Ford, Curbar.

Mr Fletcher took a very active part in both Church and Sunday schools and until the day schools commenced in the Stocking school the half-timers at the mill had to attend Mr Moore's school.

Mr Gregg and Mr Fletcher retired from the mill in 1865 and Mr Fletcher left the neighbourhood and was greatly missed at the church and school. The services were conducted by the Vicar of Baslow on a Sunday afternoon.

From 1865 the mill was worked by Messrs Tolson and Gibb, Mr Tolson residing in the Master's house. After a few years Mr Tolson retired and Mr Gibb carried on the business himself until 1902. Mr Massy then took the mill on a 21 year lease and worked it a great part of the nearly night and day. On his retirement in 1922 the machinery was sold instead of being let as a going concern as formerly and the mill was closed. The Hassop Estate was sold shortly after and the Mill was sold and has not worked since 1922. It had been the means of the living of a good number of people in three or four villages for nearly 150 years. Man's inhumanity to man makes countless millions ?...

Joseph Halls was an overlooker in No 3 and had been brought up at the mill from childhood. When Curbar Church was being built he often looked over the churchyard wall when going home at night and several times he was heard to say "I wonder who will the first to be interred there" and, strange as it may appear, he was the first.

Curbar Church was built in 1868 and schools and the Stocking school and church services were held afterwards at Curbar Church and schools. Joseph Halls's grave is close to the entrance to the schoolyard from churchyard.

There have been very few accidents at the mill but one fatal accident occurred when taking down the blowing room portion of the mill. A beam fell and killed Joseph Baguley, a well-respected workman, which was deeply regretted. Another fatal accident though a long time ago was that of a girl named Hadfield being late one morning when mills commenced work at 6 o'clock. She took a shortcut one

dark morning and by some means missed her away and walked into the Goit which turned the mill wheels and she was drowned.

I shall always remember being in one accident at the mill along with William Richardson in 1867 in which we was very fortunate to avoid being seriously injured. We was loading the lift with the warps and just as they were lifting one in the rope connected with the lift broke. We were fortunate in two ways. We had both just got clear inside the lift when the rope broke but the lift crashed down the whole five storeys at a rapid rate in No 2. The top part of the sash to the entrance of the room was open and a number of women working right opposite could see what was taking place and they rushed down the staircase to the bottom of the lift. As the lift was heavily laden it did rebound and we escaped more frightened than hurt. It was not a joyride but joy when it was over. I shall never forget the appearance of the women when they got to the bottom of the lift and me and Richardson were out of the lift and walking about uninjured. The terrified appearance of the women turned to joy.

I have a pike in my possession dated 1842 which I store as a relic. It is one of a number found in the storeroom which Mr Massey gave to me. These pikes were made to defend the mill at the time of the plug drawing in Lancashire. The riots arose out of the Chartist movements, their object being a fair day's pay for a fair day's work. They passed a resolution that they would stop all work until their charter was granted.

The reason the movement began to be known as the plug riots was that all steam boilers were fitted with a taper plug which was the only means of letting off the steam or cleaning the boilers. A mob of several thousand went round to all the mills in Stalybridge, Hyde and Ashton and surrounding mills compelling the operatives to cease work. On August 11, 1842 a mob of 300 armed with sticks entered Stockport. They entered the mills and extinguished the fires. Owing to the mob not proceeding any further than Stockport these pikes at Calver Mill were not required and also a large quantity of stones stored in the top room of the mill and they remained undisturbed until the last tenant. A pike is a piece of bright steel tapered to a point about half a yard long and embedded in a wooden staff a yard long with 1842 on spear?

In 1902 a flag staff was also found in a top room of the mill which made at the close of the Crimean war to elevate the flag at the top of the mill that was then unfurled in manifestation of the joy of the masters and operatives at the declaration of peace. Thus whilst the mill had several times changed tenants and several employers have tried hand at fortune-making the flagstaff had remained undisturbed to be bought and sold and to become the property of the various tenants without their knowledge of such a relic. The man that made it had long passed from the stage of action but the flagstaff so long hidden from view had come forth to do service for another generation and at a very important event in the history of the nation. The master of the mill at the time refused the offer of an operative to purchase it and he had it painted and I bought a flag for him in Manchester and he had it hoisted for the coronation of King Edward. Amongst the many flags which were hoisted in the villages at that time there was probably none in which so much interest was taken as in that unfurled on top of Calver Mill.

To those who were by the heat and burden of the day no longer able to turn at the industrial wheel, whose thread of life was nearly spun, the reappearance of the flagstaff was very interesting bringing back to their memories many happy events of long ago. To those who belong to a younger generation it promoted a spirit of enquiry into the history of the mill on which the flag was unfurled, which building is a credit to our forefathers both in design and construction and for the comfort and convenience of all concerned. Compared to some of the mills of the present-day construction it is scarcely possible to find a mill so pleasantly situated, being in the midst of scenery scarcely possible to find it equal in England.

The scene from inside of the mill on either side is beautiful thus affording relief from the usual dismal outlook and dreariness of mill life and it will be found to have had a great part in the progress of the cotton industry and it stands today as a monument reminding us of the great changes that have taken place during its 150 years existence and the many privileges we enjoy today compared to the early days of the Factory System.

It is an ornament to the neighbourhood and a great pity that such a fine mill so well adapted for the purpose for which it was built and which has been the principal support of a great many of the inhabitants of three or four villages should have been empty for so long instead of being of service to the villages and by its water in production have rendered service to the nation. It is greatly to be regretted that the last tenant did not let the mill as a going concern as the former tenants had done instead of selling out all the machinery.

In connection with the progress of the industry there are two or three important matters worthy of note. First the advance was so rapid that in a few years after the introduction of the early inventions in addition to supplying our own wants we were putting down at the very doors of the people who had been supplying us for centuries and the very doors of the people who were growing the raw material thousands of miles away.

Second that what we owe to our only inventors it is impossible to estimate, yet our own machinists in an eagerness for trade have made machines such as these men have invented and sent them abroad into countries to which we have been large importers of manufactured goods. They have only sent machines but also men to teach the people how to work them. Consequently owing to cheap labour and longer hours and so forth those countries have now become our competitors in many parts and although it may have helped the machinists to employ a brisk trade for a time yet the cotton industry in our own country is beginning to suffer in consequence an effect which may not only be for a limited period like the benefit enjoyed by the machinist but may be a permanent disadvantage to the cotton industry in our own country. We are beginning to realise the truth of the old adage that "we can't have the cake and halfpenny also". What the ultimate result will be time alone will tell.

Thirdly another important matter in reference to the advance of the industry in our country and the early inventions is also worthy of note. Lancashire is generally looked upon as the home of the cotton industry in this country but it ought to be remembered that Derbyshire provided a home for Sir Richard Arkwright and his wonderful invention when he found it not safe to proceed with his invention in his native county, Lancashire, to further experiment with his machine and he was therefore able to work it to success unmolested at Cromford and Masson where the great advance may be said to have commenced. The Rev Mr Cartwright, inventor of the power loom, was living at Brampton, Derbyshire when he conceived the idea of the power loom. These two important inventions did not meet with any opposition in Derbyshire.

Crompton was disheartened by the opposition to his invention in Lancashire.

John Key, the inventor of the fly shuttle, was obliged to leave his native county Lancashire and died in exile in France.

Hargreaves had his machine broken into pieces in Lancashire by the mob.

But Arkwright was allowed to proceed unmolested in Derbyshire. The first shipment of American cotton in 1784 was sold and delivered to Jedediah Strutt, Belper and the name and fame together with Arkwright will be lasting in the annals of the British industry.

Queen Victoria visited Strutt's mill at Belper in 1856. A great advance which commenced in 1771 may truly be said to have had its origin in Derbyshire and Calver Mill may be looked upon as a monument.

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For a great many miles around there is not a mill
to be found compared to the fine old mill standing at the bottom of the hill.
The beautiful stream keeps rippling along
which turned those wheels so long,
the sound of which was as music to those depending on their turning.
The bell is gone which of the time gave warning
and which will not warn us any more
but the fine old mill at the foot of the hill
Reminds us of the days of yore
And although we look back upon the past
and think of operatives that are no more
For the fine old mill still standing
May yet serve us as of yore

We admire our stately mansions. Why please not admire such buildings as Calver Mill which has been the foundation of England's industrial greatness and where people have toiled for a livelihood at the same time helped to produce the wealth by which the stately mansions have been raised and are maintained.

I have worked in 35 mills in Lancashire and four times at Calver Mill owing chiefly to the fluctuations in that particular branch of the trade in which I worked. I have worked in some of the oldest mills in existence and some of the most modern and therefore claim to have an experience not only of the various customs and regulations but of the structure, the design, the convenience and accommodation for the workpeople. I cannot do otherwise but admire Calver Mill, both for its ancient history, its beautiful surroundings and the splendid building, both in design and workmanship.

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1929