

COTTON. In the NATURAL HISTORY DIVISION of the ENGLISH CYCLOPEDIA, under the heading GOSSYPIUM, is given an account of the botanical characteristics of the genus of plants to which the cotton tree belongs; and under COTTON, in the same division, will be found a description of the most important among the many species of that genus. It now falls within the scope of the present division to continue the subject, by treating of the most gigantic manufacture, perhaps, which the world has ever witnessed in one single country—the cotton manufacture of Great Britain; together with the developments of the same system in other countries. To render this large subject intelligible to the reader, it will be necessary to adopt a certain mode of classification. First, will be presented a general view of the operations for maintaining and increasing the annual supply of raw cotton for the use of manufacturers; next, will be given a popular description of the machines and processes of manufacture; and lastly, will be noticed the trading operations connected with the manufactured goods, in relation to quantities, kinds, persons, and places. These subjects will be treated in three successive articles:—COTTON CULTIVATION AND SUPPLY; COTTON MANUFACTURE; COTTON TRADE AND CONSUMPTION.