

CARPET, a species of woollen stuff made of various colours, which is part of the furniture of a house, and commonly used to cover the floor of rooms. The manufacture of carpets most probably originated in Asia, and the finest and most expensive of the ornamental kinds are distinguished by the name of Turkey carpets. They are now, and have long been, manufactured both in France and Italy, and those used in Britain, of our own manufacture, are equal both in fabric and design to any imported. In England they are generally called Wilton carpets, from the county which is the chief seat of that and the other finer branches of the woollen manufacture. A considerable manufacture of carpets is now established at Kidderminster, which yields to no place in England for the extent of its connections in the supply of this article, while the improvements in its manufacture promise that it will soon rival every other of the same kind in England. Some manufactures are, and have been long established in Scotland, of which Stirling and Kilmarnock are the chief seats, but they are generally confined to the coarser and low priced kinds.