

*History of Silk, Cotton, Linen, Wool and other fibrous substances; including observations on Spinning, Dyeing and Weaving, also an account of the Pastoral Life of the Ancients, &c. &c.*—New York, Harper & Brothers, 82 Cliff-street.

We have before called attention to this valuable work, and think it deserves a more particular notice. In this commercial age the four "raw materials" of which it more especially treats, have come to be the powers which move and govern the world. Cotton alone forms a bond of peace and amity between the old and new worlds. The chicanery of politicians, and the bad ambition of the military are bound by the strong mutual interest which the two greatest nations of modern times have in the sale and purchase of cotton. The defence of New-Orleans, the last battle fought on this continent, affords not a bad illustration of the position cotton now holds in the commercial world. The myrmidons of England having overrun the Peninsula and driven back the veterans of France, under her ablest marshals, were hurled with desperate energy against the crescent city. The bales of cotton, defended by the indomitable heroism of western rifles, baffled the chosen troops of England, and they retired in disgrace. From that moment, Cotton has grown in importance, until England cannot dispense with it on any terms, and it has become a bond for her good behavior. The mercantile navy of the United States, is almost solely employed in its transportation. Linen and Wool, as well as Silk, have also become important items in national intercourse; and it is remarkable that in the last 30 years only, have these materials risen into great importance as articles of transportation. The ancient history of the now "rulers of the commercial world," if they may so be called, is exceedingly interesting. Their slow progress through the dark period anterior to the Christian era, is in the volume of which we treat, traced with great labor and admirable skill. The struggle of the infant manufactures against the rude oppression of haughty military governments, and aristocracies—the restrictions and regulations they underwent, through the jealous avarice of rulers, and the sufferings of the early manufactures in consequence of the utter contempt with which all useful employments were

regarded by the race of robbers, called nobles and princes, through long ages, are highly instructive; and the more so, when we reflect that "the age of chivalry is gone!" and that war and military glory are rapidly exchanging places with the manufacturing arts. The former falling into contempt, and the latter taking their proper place as the most honorable employments. On all these points, the noble volume published by the Harpers, affords a mine of instruction and entertainment.