



SIR RICHARD ARKWRIGHT,
INVENTOR OF THE WATER FRAME.

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THE STORY
OF
THE EVOLUTION OF THE
SPINNING MACHINE

BY

B. PALIN DOBSON

A.M.I.MECH.E.

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PREFACE.

This little work is the outcome of two or three lectures delivered by me in Bolton and neighbourhood during the autumn of this year. Several people who were present were good enough to suggest that it should be printed, and in the hope that it may be of interest to cotton students and others, I have decided to carry their suggestion out.

The book does not lay claim to originality, except, perhaps, in one feature—that being the fact that each phase of the old methods of preparing and spinning cotton are regulated to chapters of their own, whereas usually the whole of the ancient methods are crowded into one chapter, generally as a preliminary to text books on modern cotton machinery.

In this case such mention and description of modern machinery is made in the appendix, so as not to interfere with the general motive of this little book, which I venture to think fills a gap in works on cotton spinning, being a short history of the early inventions and improvements in the machinery which were the forerunners of our wonderful modern mechanical methods of to-day, and which has made Lancashire the foremost in the cotton trade of the world.

There is a certain amount of technicality in the book which cannot be avoided, but I have tried to make it as interesting to those not technically versed in the spinning industry as to those whose daily task is connected with this mighty trade.

My readers may think that in my description of old spinning factories long since closed, I have devoted myself to one tiny corner of England, whereas many as interesting may exist

PREFACE.

in other places, but my excuse must be that living in North Lonsdale, where several of these old cotton spinning villages existed, I have had a better opportunity for exploring them and finding out their history.

In a work of this kind there must of necessity be much that has been said before. In cases where quotations are made from other writers, the paragraphs are reproduced exactly as made by the distinguished authors, and a complete list of such books from which quotations are made is published in the appendix, as well as being duly acknowledged in the footnotes.

My thanks are due to Mr. T. Midgley, F.R. Met. Soc., and the Rev. J. M. Collinson for several photographs used in the illustrations.

B. PALIN DOBSON.

Nov. 15th, 1910.