superintendence, proved to be necessary by the disclosure of much mismanagement and oppression. Objections may be urged against some of their details, but not to their prin­ciple. Children should be under the guardianship of the state ; and however bad in principle it may be to interfere with the contract between the employer and employed, that rule must be broken through, or rather does not apply, where one of the parties is morally and legally unable to contract. It is certainly an evil of the factory system that the child is taken from his home, and converted into little better than a portion of the machine which he attends. Under improved regulations however this evil may be re­medied, by withdrawing the younger children from the fac­tory, and transferring them to their proper position, the school. This has been half done already ; and if the state of opinion of the people themselves demanded such a step, the legislature might take it at once. But a government can never be much in advance of popular opinion, and it is generally behind it. Neither the employers nor the em­ployed saw any thing disgraceful in working the tender in­fant instead of educating him ; and no sound legislation can take place, no efficient public guardianship can be esta­blished, until the working people themselves believe that the employment of a child is disgraceful. When that be­lief becomes universal, as we are convinced it will, the fac­tory age may as easily be limited to fourteen as to eight ; but if it were now to be attempted, it would only be to throw the child upon the labour of the hand-loom, to the still further depression of the parents’ already too scanty wages.

In all other respects, machinery has done much for the improvement of the operatives, and that in two ways. First, the better tool gives Setter wages ; and, second, cheap pro­duction daily gives the working millions an increased com­mand over the necessaries and comforts of life. It has been the fate of every machine to be opposed at its introduc­tion ; but as the working classes are almost always honest in their opposition, many of the machines which were most opposed are now most cherished. Nor ought this to excite surprise. The first view of a machine seems to threaten the displacement of labour, and it is only at a second and closer view that the labourer himself finds labour facilitated, production increased, and, in one way or another, fresh la­bour employed by more than the labour at first displaced ; and as all improvements are adopted gradually, it generally happens that the increased employment anticipates the la­bour displaced. Can any one doubt that this has been the case with regard to the improvements in spinning? It is to these great improvements that we owe our pre-emi­nence in the cotton manufacture.

The woollen manufacture is certainly in a less organized state. The machinery employed is not so highly improved. The application of power is recent and imperfect ; the jenny still performs much work that should be done by the self-acting mule ; the whole work of preparing, including slab­bing, is susceptible of great improvement. In every branch of the manufacture there is room for more economical ar­rangements. When the woollen manufacture has attained the perfection of machinery, and, above all, of organization, of which it is susceptible, the result must be a greatly in­creased trade. In the manufacture of woollens we cannot attain that extraordinary supremacy which we enjoy in the cotton manufacture, because cloth-making is to be found among the occupations of almost every people on the face of the earth. Still we see every prospect of an improved trade ; and should increased freedom of commerce be con­current with improved economy of manufactures, we believe that it is on the woollen and worsted manufacture of the west riding of Yorkshire that the increase would be most conspicuous. (d. l.)

WOOLER, a small town in the east division of Glen­dale, in the ward of Coquetdale and county of Northumber­land. It stands on a gentle eminence, on the eastern decli­vity of the Cheviot Hills, at the foot of which runs the river Wooler, which falls into the Till about a mile below. It is a town of considerable antiquity ; but all that now re­mains of its ancient state is a fragment or two of the castle walls. This vicinity is considered as healthy, and at one time was much frequented by invalids, many of whom were accustomed to drink goats’ milk. The sole trade of Wooler depends on the articles required for the consumption of its inhabitants and those of the neighbourhood. Near to it are the remains of Roman and Scotish camps. It possesses a plain church, and several places of worship for Presbyte­rians. There is also a dispensary, with two subscription libraries. The market-day is on Thursday. The popula­tion in 1821 amounted to 1830, and in 1831 to 1926.

WOOLSTON, Thomas, was born at Northampton in 1669, and educated at Sidney College, Cambridge. He was chosen a fellow, and proceeded to the degree of B. D. His first appearance in the learned world was in 1705, in a work entitled “ The old Apology for the Truth of the Christian Religion, against the Jews and Gentiles, re­vived.” He afterwards wrote many pieces ; but what made the most noise were his six Discourses on the Mi­racles of Christ, which occasioned a great number of books and pamphlets upon the subject, and raised a prosecution against him. At his trial in Guildhall, before the lord chief justice Raymond, he spoke several times himself; and urged, that “ he thought it very hard that he should be tried by a set of men who, though otherwise very learned and worthy persons, were no more judges of the subjects on which he wrote, than himself was a judge of the most crabbed points of the law.” He was sentenced to a year’s imprisonment, and to pay a fine of L.100. He purchased the liberty of the rules of the king’s bench, where he continued after the expiration of the year, being unable to pay the fine. The greatest obstruction to his deliverance from confinement was the obligation of giving security not to offend by any future writings, he being resolved to write again as freely as before. While some supposed him to have written with the settled intention of subverting Christianity under the pretence of defending it, others believed him disor­dered in his mind ; and many circumstances concurred which gave countenance to this opinion. He died Ja­nuary 27, 1732-3, after an illness of four days ; and, a few minutes before his death, uttered these words : “ This is a struggle which all men must go through, and which I bear not only patiently, but with willingness.” His body was interred in St George’s church-yard, Southwark.

WOOLWICH, a large town and parish of the county of Kent, in the lathe of Sutton and the hundred of Black-heath, eight miles from London. It stands on the banks of the river Thames, and contains buildings of great extent connected with the public service, both naval and military. The dock-yard is well calculated for building and equipping ships of war of the largest size. It has attached to it an extensive rope-walk ; the building called the Red House, for curing meat for the use of the navy ; the government bake-house, a most extensive gun-yard, and magazines for securing in time of peace, and for arranging for immediate service, every thing requisite for fitting out a large fleet in a few days. The barrack for the artillery is a vast and magnificent pile of building, and near to a large field call­ed the *Warren,* in which cannon and mortars are exer­cised, and experiments made in the practice of gunnery.