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A Snip of the Life of Edmund Cartwright

The year was 1784 and Cartwright was on holiday to Matlock, England which wasn't far from Richard Arkwright's water frame cotton mills. While there he ended up visiting Arkwright and talking about the trouble of the water frame and how it made string and yarn much faster than it could be woven with hand looms. being an inventor and all, he saw this as an inspiration and started to come up with ideas for a loom the moment he arrived home.

His first prototype for what would become the power loom was ineffective and clumsy, because the truth was he had never seen a loom to begin with. Although the loom was hardly working at all, he took out a patent and began to make adjustments. Hiring several local manufacturers as advisors, he came up with two more prototypes and had established a factory for his looms in 1786. By 1790 he had completed a mechanical loom that was able to weave wide cloth, such as calico.

While his earlier models did not bring much attention, the loom completed in 1790 caused the local weavers to worry and they began to fear (correctly) that the invention would replace them. Therefore, in 1791, the factory had burned down under "mysterious circumstances," and Cartwright found himself in debt. he attempted to offset this debt by inventing a wool-combing machine, however, this didn't set so well with local workers either and he ended up not collecting much from his patent. In 1793 he was forced to sell his factory along his patents.

Not to much later he moved to London and geared his mind and inventive abilities toward agriculture. He invented a reaper and won awards for his essays on husbandry and

manure use. He also created a rope making machine and an engine that ran on alcohol and got a patent for each of them. In 1804, when his patent for the loom had expired he petitioned the House of Commoners for restitution and was awarded a sum of 10,000 pounds. He continued to make new agricultural devices until his departure from this world in 1823.

Works Cited

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