

THE STORY OF BRITISH TRADE AND INDUSTRY

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The story of British trade and industry by James Burnley

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JAMES BURNLEY

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BRITISH TRADE
AND INDUSTRY**

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THE STORY OF BRITISH TRADE AND INDUSTRY.

BY

JAMES BURNLEY,

*Author of "The Romance of Invention,"
"The History of Wool and Wool-
combing," "Summits of Success," etc.*



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PREFACE.

IN the following pages I have endeavoured to sketch in outline the leading features of the History of British Trade and Industry. It has necessarily meant a rigid compression of facts, and has left little room for comment or deduction; still, the narrative will be found, I trust, to present sufficient of regular sequence to enable it to be followed with interest; and those who desire to investigate particular points more fully can easily do so by turning to special books covering those points.

At a time like the present, when so many are halted, as it were, at the fiscal cross roads, uncertain as to the way to take—whether backward or forward, or along some hazily defined middle course—it is well that the lesson of the industrial past should be studied, and if the story as here set down should act in some slight degree as an incentive to that study its purpose will have been served.

J. B.

GRAY'S INN CHAMBERS,
AUG., 1904.



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THE STORY OF BRITISH TRADE AND INDUSTRY.

CHAPTER I.

FROM BARBARISM TO FEUDALISM.

IT is from the discoveries of geology that we have to piece together our first dim picture of the earliest inhabitants of our islands. The fossilised records prove that our native wilds were, during the Palæolithic period, the home of certain of the larger carnivora, and that a rude and primitive race was there also, living by hunting and fishing, but having no knowledge of industrial arts, or of metals. In the Neolithic Age, which succeeded, a somewhat higher condition of existence was realised, when the people lived in cave dwellings.

From that period through the many centuries that elapsed before the pen of history took up the narrative of Britain's development, the progress towards civilisation must have been much the same as in other countries of Europe—slow, gradual, and difficult. Life was literally a fight for existence. The wants of the people were bounded by their rough