

**FRANK BENNET: A STORY  
OF THE STOCKING-LOOM  
AND OF THE LACE-FRAME,  
IN 1811**

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Frank Bennet: A Story of the Stocking-Loom and of the Lace-Frame, in 1811 by Mrs. Cuthbert Orlebar

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**MRS. CUTHBERT ORLEBAR**

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AND OF THE LACE-FRAME,  
IN 1811**



FRANK BENNET.



"The boiler was quickly unset, and behind it was found a narrow passage."—Page 159.

# FRANK BENNET:

A STORY OF THE

Stocking-Loom and of the Lace-Frame,

IN 1811.

BY

MRS. CUTHBERT ORLEBAR.

—  
"TO SAVE LIFE: NOT TO KILL."  
—



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# FRANK BENNET:

A TALE OF THE STOCKING-LOOM AND OF THE  
LACE-FRAME IN 1811.

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## CHAPTER I.

### THE RAVEN-TOWER.

**T**HE old town of Dunnington, by the river Trent, stands in the midst of the hosiery district, of which Nottingham, Derby, and Leicester, may be considered as the three capitals.

It had been a place of some strength during the Wars of the Roses, and after sinking into insignificance in more peaceful times, it regained its reputation when Colonel Ogle, of Halsmead, defended its half-ruinous castle on behalf of Charles the First, with a handful of veterans, who had learnt the art of war under Maurice, Prince of Orange, twenty years before; and such townsmen as his zeal had converted into soldiers.

On the establishment of Cromwell's authority, the fortifications were partially demolished, but one tall and slender tower was left on its rocky foundation, to serve, as it had done, through many a day of hard fighting, for a landmark across the wastes of Sherwood Forest, and down the long windings of the river. The castle yard was restored to its former use as the playground belonging to St. Bertha's school; and the Dominie and his family occupied again the old school-house, which had been converted into barracks; and was re-opened with great solemnity by a descendant of Colonel Ogle's, who at the same time presented the town with a scholarship at Cambridge, of the annual value of thirty pounds, to be held for three years by the best scholar, who was chosen every six years from the boys educated at St. Bertha's.

Dunnington, with its grey ivied walls, and its handsome parish church, and its Ogle scholarship, which tended greatly to promote education amongst the inhabitants generally, was a quaint, sleepy little town between fifty and sixty years ago. There was little trade there except amongst the stocking-weavers, who generally sold the produce of their looms to hosiers at Leicester, until a canal was opened, which then immediately connected its timber-wharves with the Trent, and furnished a ready means of transit for its woven goods to Gainsborough and Hull, as well as to many inland districts.