

GREAT INVENTORS AND THEIR INVENTIONS

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Great Inventors and Their Inventions by Frank P. Bachman

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FRANK P. BACHMAN

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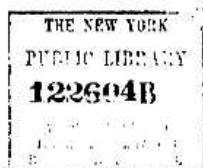
GREAT INVENTORS
AND
THEIR INVENTIONS

BY
FRANK P. BACHMAN, PH.D.

*Formerly Professor of the Principles of Education,
Ohio University; and Assistant Superintendent of
Cleveland Public Schools*



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GREAT INVENTORS
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PREFACE

THIS book contains twelve stories of great inventions, with a concluding chapter on famous inventors of to-day. Each of the inventions described has added to the comforts and joys of the world. Each of these inventions has brought about new industries in which many men and women have found employment. These stories, therefore, offer an easy approach to an understanding of the origin of certain parts of our civilization, and of the rise of important industries.

The story of each invention is interwoven with that of the life of its inventor. The lives of inventors furnish materials of the highest educative value. These materials are not only interesting, but they convey their own vivid lessons on how big things are brought about, and on the traits of mind and heart which make for success.

It is hoped that this book will set its readers to thinking how the conveniences of life have been obtained, and how progress has been made in the industrial world. While appealing to their interest in inventions and in men who accomplish great things, may it also bring them into contact with ideas which will grip their hearts, fire the imagination, and mold their ideals into worthier forms.

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JAMES WATT

PART I

INVENTIONS OF STEAM AND
ELECTRIC POWER

I

JAMES WATT AND THE INVENTION OF
THE STEAM ENGINE

UNTIL a little more than one hundred years ago, the chief power used in the production of food, clothing, and shelter was hand power. Cattle and horses were used to cultivate the fields. Windmills and water wheels were employed to grind corn and wheat. But most tools and machines were worked by hand.

Men had, for many years, dreamed of a new power which would be more useful than either work animals, sails, windmills, or water wheels. This new power was steam. Yet no one had been able to apply the power of steam so that it would grind corn and wheat, spin and weave cotton and wool, or do any useful thing at all. The man who succeeded in giving to the world this new power was James Watt. Steam now propels ships over the Atlantic in less than a week. It speeds express trains across our continent in ninety hours, and it does a thousand other wonderful and useful things.