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TILLAGE, TRADE  
AND INVENTION

# TILLAGE, TRADE AND INVENTION

AN OUTLINE OF INDUSTRIAL  
HISTORY

BY

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## PREFACE.

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One striking feature of Great Britain of to-day is the number of its busy industrial and commercial towns, thronged with inhabitants, and occupied with the manufacture of goods for home and abroad. Another feature—perhaps no less striking—is the vast ramification of the British Empire, with its possessions scattered in every continent, yet constantly linked to the little island by that mysterious force which is called patriotism. History tells us how that Empire has grown out of the sum of the efforts and sacrifices, the successes, and sometimes the failures which Britons have made. For so is a great state built up; it is won by work and not bought by wealth. Yet though money cannot buy greatness for a state any more than for a man, it can give a wider opportunity whether it be for good or for ill. It is the fashion to study much the political framework of our country: our Throne, our Parliament, our Constitution have been the models for many European states. Rightly also we study the lives of great men, who have guided the people in emergency, or saved the state in the storms of war. But there is another side to our history, less striking, but with an importance of its own—the story of the development of our land, the revealing and using of its material resources, the way in which one occupation has followed another in bringing prosperity to our people.

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For behind the industrial and commercial activities of to-day lie the inventions; behind the colonist lie the dead explorers and sailors of earlier times; behind the Empire lies Britain; behind the world-wide trade lie the simple beginnings of our home industries; and at the back of all lies the land, with its sheep and its corn, which for so many centuries occupied the bulk of our people.

It is the simple story of how these things grew into greatness, or changed, or declined; of how men of the past worked to make a living, or to win wealth; of new commercial opportunities and increasing industrial knowledge, that this book endeavours to tell.

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