

(12) **United States Patent**
Pollard

(10) **Patent No.:** **X36**
(45) **Date of Patent:** **Dec. 30, 1791**

(54) **SPINNING COTTON**

(76) **Inventor:** **William Pollard**

To the Honorable Thos. Jefferson, Henry Knox, & Geo. Randolph Esqrs.

The Representation & Petition of Willm. Howard of Philadelphia respectfully sheweth

That your Petitioner about ^{twelve} months ago purchased a model of a machine for Reeling & Spinning of Cotton at the expense of several hundred pounds which was sold to him as a model of Sir Richard Arkwright's machine and was brought into this country at the request of vessel & cargo's Luncy & Co. on the Captain's order. Besides imprisonment he had as soon as your Petitioner obtained it, he perceived to be made a machine (on a small scale) in just proportion in every aspect to the said model but found it would not answer the purpose in consequence of this he wrote to the person he had purchased the model from on the 6th of Decr last and informed him that your Petitioner had made a machine after the model but that it would not spin, and that it was evident some mistake had been made either by the workman or the model or the design, but the Gentleman having obtained your Petitioner's Bond for the model without any reference to the consideration for which it was given was not thought proper to give your Petitioner with an answer but as he is informed has assigned the Bond over to a third Person. Your Petitioner having been tried in fact a manufacturer & being some judge of Spinning & of yarn made such alterations in the machine from time to time as were consistent with his own judgment & with new bought a machine to perfection for the Reeling and Spinning of Cotton; that the model purchased was complete as he received it and that of your Petitioner is also complete both are ready for inspection, the difference in them is visible and material. Your Petitioner's machine may or may not contain twenty spindles or twenty thousand of the steam of water or other force which is to work them with any of that number and the said house will contain them.

In order to convey some idea of the importance of these machines your Petitioner begs to refer your Board to a copy of a statement in Gory's museum published in Philad^a for Oct^r 1788, and which from his knowledge of Manchester Cotton goods he conceives to be a reasonable statement it is as follows.

An account of the Cotton Mills in Great Britain & an Estimate of the Cotton Manufactory of that Country.

One hundred and forty three cotton mills are now built & in progress in Great Britain of which nearly two thirds have been erected within these five years. Besides these there are above 20,000 hand mills or Jennies for spinning the staple for the twisted & yarn spun by the water mills.

The expense of Water Mills is	119,875.000
Expenses of hand Jennies houses buildings & auxiliary machinery supposed at least	255.000
The state of the raw materials & the progressive & astonishing increase of the manufacture with best ex- plained by what follows	
The Cotton & Wool applied to the manufacture was in	when manufactured supposed to be
Year.	lb
1781 . . . 5,161,922	39,000.000
1782 . . . 11,306,500	3,900.000
1783 . . . 9,846,179	3,200.000
1784 . . . 11,280,238	3,950.000
1785 . . . 17,992,888	5,900.000
1786 . . . 16,131,567	6,500.000
1787 . . . 22,000,000	7,500.000

From whence it appears that the cotton & wool applied to the hand and water machines in Great Britain in 1787 being 22,000,000 (worth in the raw state about \$2,250,000) was worth when manufactured \$7,500,000 yielding the immense profit to the owners of the Mills & Factories of \$5,250,000.

It may be observed in the foregoing statement that the Raw Cotton & Wool is valued at about 1/1125y. per lb. cotton can be purchased here from 18^d to 21^d per lb. Curran in the Southern States where young negroes & wretched & disabled Men & Women are put out to hire to their owners, they may in these Cotton Mills be employed to advantage, and the same observation may be extended to the poor white inhabitants in all our large towns, and your Petitioner conceives to a certain extent manufactures which can have the aid of such machines may be completed in this country as low as in England. One girl or boy from eight to fourteen years of age will tend from 30 to 50 spindles, & it is necessary to have a man or woman to every ten children, to keep in order the motion of the spindles required in the spinning apartment; It may be further observed on the con-

manufactured is only a little more than £17 5^s pr. lb weight and calicoes are worth from 6^s to 10^s 6^d pr. lb when finished & corded. Rags, Pellets, Pellets, Jeans, &c. are worth from 6^s to 10^s 6^d mus-
lin from 6^s to 10^s 6^d pr. lb so that if the statement had been made on cotton &c. at one year
Petitioner conceived that the saving to the Country would have been much more considerable
Your Petitioner therefore prays that in consideration of the expense & trouble he hath been
at in procuring the model of the English Machine, which never the less proved in a great
degree useless) but more especially for the materials & excellent improvement & alterations made
to discover by him, as to perfect a machine which promises such extensive advantages
to these United States &c. which he is now ready to lay a model before your Court together with
the model of the English Machine in order that the improvements and alterations may be
fully seen & understood, that your honorable Board will be pleased to grant him his writ
and assigns the sole and exclusive right and liberty of making constructing & using & of
vending to others to be used the said machine for fourteen years & in order to convince the
Board that your petitioner's wish is to encourage the using a machine of such consequence
to the Country & that he will not lose a large price pr. spindle he will submit to the
consideration of the Board the price pr. spindle he shall demand after observing that the
price pr. spindle of the machine which Sir Richard Arkwright obtained a Patent for
was five guineas & although his Patent is now expired your petitioner is well informed they
are still sold for one guinea pr. spindle & a Patent has lately been granted in England to Messrs
Henderson & Porthouse for a machine for spinning fine & long combed wool, these Gentlemen
sell their spindles at 24^s 6^d pr. spindle and that the work is higher here than in England

And your Petitioner shall ever pray

Philadelphia June 29th 1790.

Patent Office May 25th 1806.

The above is a true copy of Petition and Drawing

Henry S. Ellsworth
Superintendent

Exd. 1790

(copy of drawing made)

Recd. & Recorded June 14, 1841.

(1358 words)

