(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, Edmd Randolph Esqrs.

The Representation & Petition of Wm Irvine of Philadelphia respectfully sheweth

That your Petitioner about [illegible] months ago purchased a model of a machine for Roving & Spinning of Cotton at the expence of several hundred pounds which was sold to him as a model of Sir Richard Arkwrights machine and was brought into this country at the risque of vessel & cargo, heavy amercements on the Captain besides imprisonment &c that as soon as your Petitioner obtained it, he perceived it to be made a machine too small (tho in just proportion in every respect to the said model) and found it would not answer the purpose in consequence of this he spoke to the person he had purchased the model from on the 8th of Octr last and informed him that your petitioner had made a machine after the model but that it would not spin, and that he was confident some mistake had been made either by the workmen who made it or by design, but the Gentleman having obtained your Petitioners Bond for the model without any reference to the consideration for which it was given was not thought proper to favor your Petitioner with an answer but as is is informed has assigned the Bond over to a third Person. Your Petitioner having been bred in part a manufacturer & being some judge of Spinning &c of yarn made such alterations in the machine from time to time as were consistent with his own judgment & with new ones got a machine to perfection for the Roving and Spinning of Cotton; that the model he purchased was compleat as he received it and that of your Petitioners is also compleat both are ready for inspection, the difference in them is visible and material. Your Petitioners machine may be made to contain two only spindles or twenty thousand if the steam or water or other power used is to work them is necessary that number and the said house is to contain them.

In order to convey some idea of the importance of these machines your petitioner begs leave to refer your board to a copy of a statement in Carys museum published in Philada per Vol: 1st, 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 from Estimates 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 shute for the twisted yarn spun by the water mills.

The expence of Water Mills is . . . . . Stg £715. 000

Expence of hand Jennies houses buildings & ancellary machines supposed at least 255. 000

The state of the raw materials & the progressive & astonishing increase of the manufacture will be best explained by what follows

The Cotton & Wool applied to the manufacture is in Year. lb } when manufactured supposed to be

Year.	lb	
1781	5,101,972	£9,000,000
1782	11,306,500	8,900,000
1783	9,546,179	8,200,000
1784	11,250,238	8,950,000
1785	17,992,888	8,900,000
1786	16,151,567	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 lb (worth in the raw state about £2,250,000) was worth when manufactured £7,500,000 yielding the immense profit to the Owners & 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 1/11 stg pr. lb cotton can be purchased here from 18d to 21d pr. lb but in the Southern States where young negroes & cheap diseased Men & Women are employed cut & Burthen to their owners, they may in those Cotton mills be employed to advantage, and the same observation, may be extended to the poor white inhabitants in our large towns, and your Petitioner conceives to a certain extent manufactures which can have the aid of such machines may be compleated 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 order no exertion of strength is required in this spinning apartment; It may be further observed on this occa-

nfactured is only a little more than £17 3 pr. ℔ weight and calicoes are worth from £1 to 10 Stg. pr. ℔ when finished & cord de Roys. Velvets, Velverets, Jeans, &c are worth from £1 to £1 5s manufactured from £1 to 35 Stg pr ℔ so that if the statement had been made on oath Gentlemen your Petitioner conceives that the saving to the Country would have been much more considerable Your Petitioner therefore prays that in consideration of the expence & trouble he has had in bringing the model of the English Machine, which nevertheless proved in a great degree useless, but more especially for the materials & effectual improvement & alterations made & discovered by him so as to perfect a machine which promises such extensive advantages to these United States & which he is now ready to lay a model before your Board together with the model of the English Machine in order that the improvements and alterations may be fully seen & understood, that your honourable Board will be pleased to grant him his heirs 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 petitioners wish is to encourage the useful machine of such consequence to the Country & that he will not exhort a high 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 & Patent has lately been granted in England to Messrs Henderson & Partners for a machine for spinning Flax & long combed wool these Gentlemen sell their spindles at 2½ Stg pr spindle and that brass work is higher here than in England

And your Petitioner shall ever pray

Wm McClard

Philadelphia June 29th 1790.

Patent Office May 25th 1806.

The above is a true Copy of Petition and Drawing

Henry S. Ellsworth

Superintendent

Exd. HSE

(Copy of Drawing made)

(1353 words)

Rec'd & Recorded June 11th 1806

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