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Cotton is King: A Plantation Scene with Pickers at Work, Georgia

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5678-Cotton is king—plantation scene with pickers at work, Georgia.
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This beautiful field, "white unto the harvest," is a scene to delight a painter, and at the same time, it is a condensed encyclopædia of one of the greatest industries of the whole world. This one state of Georgia alone devotes 3,500,000 acres to cotton-raising and her annual cotton crop is worth over \$44,000,000. The Southern States of America together produce eleven million bales of cotton, 85 per cent of the whole consumption of the world. It is the best cotton on earth. Here the soil is just right, the climate is just right; here agricultural science promptly and efficiently attacks every problem of insect pests and chemical fertilizers. American cotton goes literally everywhere around the globe to meet one of the three universal needs of life — food, shelter and clothing.

If you want to get an idea of the world-problem of clothing, try the experiment of twisting a handful of cotton-fibre into a continuous thread, and weave lengths of this thread back and forth over each other, basket-fashion, to produce a bit of crude "cloth." Then the task of clothing the world begins to show its vast proportions.

The cotton-plant belongs to the Mallow family — a cousin of the hollyhock. It is native to India, but its origin in the United States is not definitely known. It must have six months' exemption from frost, a moderate rain-fall during growth, and abundant sunshine during the six or seven weeks while the bolls or seed-pods are ripening. The "cotton" is nature's fibrous packing for the seed — packing so abundant that, when the boll is fully ripe, the spring of the fibres bursts the enclosing husk as we see here, and the white mass overflows like "pop-corn" from a parched kernel. The picking is usually done by negro laborers, as here, though experiments with harvesting machines are meeting with some success.

See encyclopædia articles on *Cotton*; *Cotton Manufactures*; *Cotton-seed Oil*, etc., etc.; also volumes like Carrol D. Wright's *Industrial Development of the United States*.

"Cotton is King." Plantation Scene, Georgia, U. S. A.

"Suprématie du Coton," Vue de Plantation, Georgie, É. U. d'A.

"Baumwolle ist Trumpf," Plantagen-Szene in Georgia, Ver. Staaten.

"El Soberano Algodón," Vista de una Plantación en Georgia, E. U. de A.

"Bomull är Kung"; plantage scen, Georgia, F. S. A.

Хлопчатобумажная Платація, А. С. Ш.