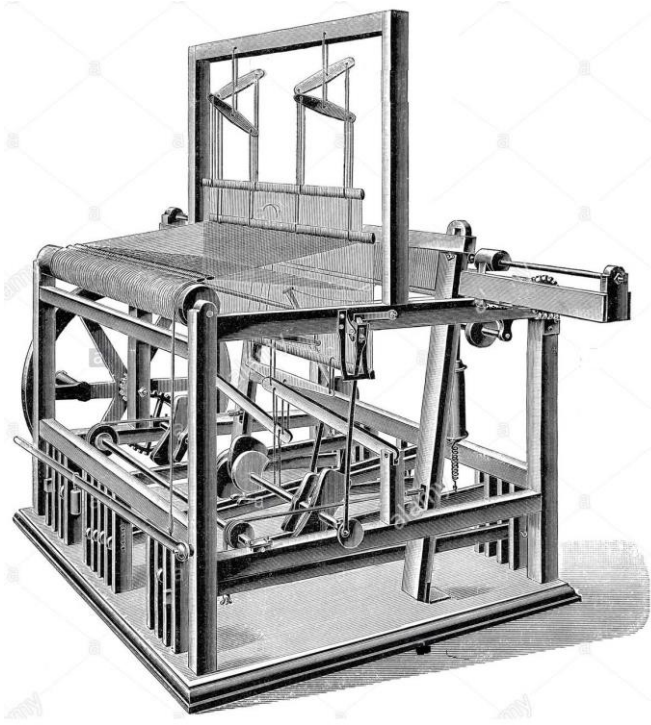




Joshua Cockshutt – The Last of the Cotton Spinners

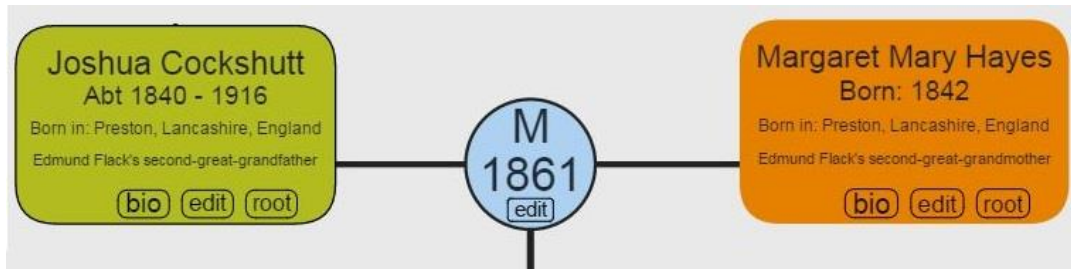
The end of a long
tradition in the
weaving industries

By Dr “Ted” E.D.H.Flack

Copyright 2017, Brisbane Australia

Our Cockshutt Family History ^ Joshua Cockshutt – the last of our Cotton Spinners

I remember in the late nineteen 50's my Uncle Edmund Cockshutt telling me that the Cockshutt family had always been in textiles. He had been involved in the silk industry in Macclesfield and he said that his grandfather had owned a cotton mill. In this family history, the facts and some interpretations of the facts are included to tell the story of how the Cockshutts had finally ended the family's long association with the weaving industries of North East Lancashire.



Uncle Edmund's father's father was Joshua Cockshutt, who was born on 2 January 1840 in Colne, Lancashire (PRO Reference: Vol. XX1, Page 605) to Edmund Cockshutt and Elizabeth (known as "Betty") Cockshutt nee Ashton. No record could be located of a religious baptism service. A year later, Joshua's family is recorded in the 1841 Census at 49 Saul Street, Preston as follows:

- Edmund Cockshott (sic), aged 30, Journeyman Mechanic, born in Lancashire.
- Betty Cockshott, aged 30, born in Lancashire.
- Mary Cockshott, aged 7, born in Lancashire.
- Elizabeth Cockshott, aged 3, born in Lancashire.
- **Joshua Cockshott, aged 1, born in Lancashire.**
- James Ashton, aged 70, Independent, born in Lancashire.
- Betty Ashton, aged 65, born in Lancashire.

In the 1851 Census, the family is made up of the same persons residing at the same address, however Joshua's father, Edmund Cockshut (sic) is recorded as "Iron Founder Employing Master, employing 8 men and 3 boys." Joshua's Grandmother, Betty Ashton, is no longer listed and her father, James Ashton is listed as a "Widower". Winifred Ashton, Joshua's Great Aunt, aged 85 is listed as a resident.

Today Saul Street is predominately made up of modern business premises and number 49 Saul Street no longer exists, however it must once have been a relatively good address, close to the main street of Preston and the Cockshutt's neighbours were predominantly trades and small business people.

In 1861, Joshua Cockshutt, aged 21, married Margaret Mary Hayes (born 1842 in Preston) at Preston in the March quarter (PRO Reference: Vol 8e, page 679). No record can be located of a religious wedding service.

Tragedy struck Joshua Cockshutt's family on 14 December 1867 when their new born baby son Joshua Cockshutt, aged just 14 weeks, died. The death was reported in the Preston Chronical with a simple Death Notice stating "On the 8th instant, Joshua, son of Mr. Joshua Cockshutt, East View, aged 14 weeks."

In 1871, the Census records Joshua Cockshutt and family residents of 33 East View, Preston. Those resident are Joshua and his wife Margaret, Edmund aged 9, Nicholas aged 7, Joshua, aged 1 and Mary Cockshutt (?) who is listed as a General Servant, born in Ireland.

The East View address appears to have been a more sought after location with the Cockshutt's neighbours now including an "Actuary Savings Bank" and a "Property Owner".



33 East View, Preston today

By the 1881 Census, Joshua Cockshutt's business and family appear to have prospered. Joshua Cockshutt, now aged 41, is recorded as a Cotton Spinner (employing about 100 hands) resident with his wife Margaret, sons Edmund, aged 19, and Joseph, aged 6, daughters Mary, aged 4 and Margaret aged 5 months, and two servants at 17-18 Bairstow Street Preston.

The move to Bairstow Street marked a move up the social ladder for the Cockshutts. Next door at number 16 Bairstow Street there was a Dr. James N Nicol, listed in the Census documents as "General Practice. LRCS" and on the other side, Rev. Alfred B Bevan recorded as "Head Master Grammar School".

Joshua, now aged 41, was recorded as a "Cotton Spinner (employing about 100 hands)". It seems that Joshua's business interests had evolved from "Machine Maker" in 1861 (presumably in his father, Edmund Cockshutt's, Iron Foundry).

The 1891 Census documents can perhaps tell us a little about the business affairs of the family since on Census night, Sunday, 5 April 1891, Joshua, his wife Margaret and their 19 years old daughter Ellen (sic) [probably refers to Helen, b.1872] were on holiday in Blackpool. Several aspects of the document are of interest. First, to note that the Census return shows the Cockshutts were resident at a guest house just off the Blackpool Promenade at No.6 Chrystal Terrace on Census night. This was probably then, as now,

a Guest House on a street off the Promenade rather than a hotel on the Promenade, suggesting that they chose the more modest accommodation for their holiday. Second, that Joshua's occupation was again recorded as "Cotton Spinner", indicating perhaps that Joshua continued to be actively involved in the cotton industry in 1891.

In 1901, Joshua Cockshutt, wife Margaret, his three daughters still living at home, Helen, aged 29, Elizabeth, aged 28 and Mary, aged 24 both School Teachers and youngest son, James, aged 18, were living at No.1 West Cliff Terrace, Preston with two servants and their Granddaughter Alice Margaret Cockshutt, aged just 4. Joshua is described as a "Yarn Merchant" on "Own Account".

It will be noted that Alice Cockshutt, who was later to become Alice Flack, was recorded on Census night, Sunday 31 March 1901, as staying with her grandparents.



The 1911 Census reveals Joshua Cockshutt, now aged 71, Widower, "Yarn (Cotton) Agent" as resident with daughters Helen, aged 39, and Agnes, aged 25, both single, and a Servant at 3 Averham Colonade, Preston.

No.3 Averham Colonade, Preston is likely to have been seen as a prestigious address in 1911. The choice of this place of residence probably indicates that Joshua no longer required as large a home. Just when he moved to this address is unknown but perhaps the move following the death of his wife Margaret, aged 68, in the June quarter of 1909 (PRO Reference Vol. 8e, Page 383).



3 Averham Colonade, Preston today

Joshua Cockshutt's death was recorded in the Liverpool Daily of the 31 July as follows:

DEATHS.

BALL.—July 28, at 86, Ramilies-road, Wavertree, Edward Arthur, the dearly-beloved husband of Margaret (Moll) Ball. Service at Mossley Hill Church, to-morrow (Tuesday), at 2.15 p.m.; interment at Allerton Cemetery at 3 p.m. (Friends please accept this—the only—intimation.)

BAYLY.—July 12, at 558, St. Joseph-street, Lachine, Montreal, Canada, aged 54 years, after 18 months' illness, Edward James Bayly, the dear husband of Emma Bayly, and only son of the late Rev. H. R. Bayly, of Mountjoy-square, Dublin, and Ballancarry, Co. Limerick. (Irish papers please copy.)

COCKSHUTT.—At his residence, The Colonade, Preston, in his 76th year, Joshua Cockshutt. (Fortified with the rites of Holy Church.) R.I.P. Interred at Preston on Saturday.

A search of the available records for significant events in the lives of the Joshua Cockshutt, and his son Edmund (Alice's father) is made more complex by several factors as follows:

First, Joshua Cockshutt, born 2 January 1840 in Preston and died 12 July 1916 at Preston had two other close relatives by the same name who both lived during at least part of the same period. There were:

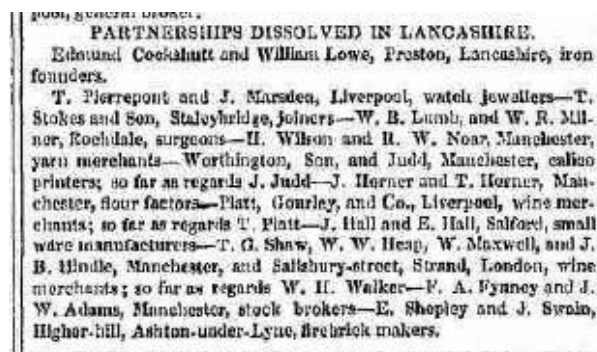
- Joshua Cockshutt (born 1814 in Colne, Lancashire), who was the younger son of Edmund Cockshutt "The Younger" of Ball Gove, Colne, and our Joshua's Great Uncle.
- Joshua Cockshutt (born 1785 in Colne, Lancashire), younger son of Edmund Cockshutt of Ball Grove, Colne, and our Joshua Cockshutt's, great great uncle.

Second, the Joshua Cockshutt who was our Joshua's great great uncle, lived into his 70's and was active in the Cotton industry in Lancashire at much the same time as Joshua began describing himself in the Census documents as a "Cotton Spinner".

Third, many of the contemporary sources do not provide any identifying particulars that would allow differentiation between the three Joshua Cockshutts.

These difficulties, make it possible that at least some of the following findings refer to our Joshua Cockshutt and help explain his business career:

From The Preston Chronical and Lancashire Advertiser, 11 October 1845.



From this notice it seems likely that Joshua's father, Edmund Cockshutt (born 1809 in Colne), who had moved from Colne to live with his new wife in Preston in about 1833, had been in an Iron Foundry business partnership from at least the time of Joshua's birth in 1840. Since our Joshua's father was recorded as being a "Journeyman Mechanic" in the 1841 Census and an "Iron Foundry Master" in the 1851 Census, it seems reasonable to suggest that Joshua had spent all of his early working life in the Iron Foundry business.

NOTICE is hereby given, that the Partnership heretofore subsisting between us, as Iron and Brass Founders and Machine Makers, carried on at the Bridge-street Foundry, in Preston, in the county of Lancaster, under the firm of Cockshutt and Goodier, is this day dissolved by mutual consent; and by the like consent all debts due from or to our late firm will be paid and received by the undersigned Edmund Cockshutt, who in future will carry on the said business upon his sole credit and account.—Dated this 6th day of June 1845.

Edmund Cockshutt.
Thomas Goodier.

It also seems reasonable to suggest that the Iron Foundry business may have been originally set up in the early 1800s to supply the cotton mills in Colne owned by Edmund's family. Joshua's Great Uncle Joshua (born 1785) appears to have managed the sale of many of the properties and business left to Edmund Cockshutt, The Younger by Edmund Cockshutt of Ball Grove (Colne) in his Will. The following references provide some insight into the extent of the Cockshutt business interests:

- 22 August 1823, Joseph Fryer of Scorton agrees to buy shares from Edmund Cockshutt of "Ballgreave" in the Mallum Mill in Kirby Mallamdale (Reference: Lancashire Archives Ref No. DDSP/19/14) ;
- Extract from the Rent Rolls for Colne 1831.

LANDOWNERS.	OCCUPIERS.	Numbers referring to the Plan.	NAME AND DESCRIPTION OF LANDS AND PREMISES.	STATE OF CULTIVATION.	QUANTITIES IN STATUTE MEASURE.		
<i>Cockshutt Joshua</i>	<i>Himself</i>	1979	<i>Ball Grove House Garden and Parn</i>		"	1	2
		1976	<i>Intake</i>	<i>Pasture</i>	1	"	26
		1977	<i>Little Meadow</i>	<i>Meadow</i>	1	1	12
		1978	<i>Road</i>		"	2	6
		1980	<i>Great Meadow</i>	<i>Meadow</i>	4	2	18
		1981	<i>New Field</i>	<i>Pasture</i>	2	1	8
		1991	<i>Grove Hay</i>	<i>do</i>	1	1	"
		1992	<i>Long field</i>	<i>do</i>	2	2	28
		1993	<i>do</i>	<i>do</i>	3	"	6
		2015	<i>part of Baugh Gap Mill</i>		"	"	50
		2016	<i>Piece below Gate</i>		"	"	14
		2017	<i>part of Mill Dam</i>		"	"	26
		2034	<i>Strip adjoining River</i>		"	"	20
		2032	<i>Mill Dam</i>		2	"	10

The following newspaper clippings suggest that the financial affairs of the Cockshutt families descended from Edmund Cockshutt of Ball Grove were strongly associated with the Cotton industry and that there were both good times and bad. It appears that after several generations being involved in the Cotton industry, first as Mill owners, then as manufacturers and then as engineers supplying the industry, Joshua Cockshutt, our Great Uncle Edmund's father, was the last of the "Cotton Spinners" in the family.

TO COTTON AND WORSTED SPINNERS.—
TO BE SOLD, OR LET, BY PRIVATE TREATY, and may be entered to on the 25th of May next, all that COTTON MILL or FACTORY, known by the name of BOUGH GAP MILL, within the Forest of Trawden, in the Chapelry of Colne, and County of Lancaster, comprising a good Stone Building, Three Stories High, 116 Feet in Length within, including Engine House, and Rooms over it, with a good and Powerful Water Wheel, 27 Feet in Diameter, by 8 Feet within the Buckets, and all the Heavy Gearing; Four Cottages adjoining, and 1a. 3r. 37p. of good Land lying up to the Mill, now in the Occupation of Mr. N. England, and also Five other Cottage Houses, recently erected for the convenience of the Mill Hands, situate at a short distance.—There is a powerful Stream of Water connected with the Mill, capable of turning 18 or 20-Horse power, during Nine or Ten Months in the Year, and in order to secure a better supply, upwards of Three Acres of Land is covered with Water, in Lodges and Goits.—The Mill is at present used for the Spinning of Cotton-Twist and Weft, and may at a moderate expense be adapted to the Spinning of Worsted, and stands very near the line of the Turnpike Road leading from Colne to Keighley, about One-and-a-Half Miles distant from Colne, whence Coal may be had.—For a view of the Premises, and for other Particulars, apply to Joshua Cockshutt, of Ballgrove, near Colne, the Owner, who will Treat for the same.
 Ballgrove, March 31st. 1842.

Ashton under-Lyne.
 Worston, near Clithero.
 By JOHN BINNS, at the house of Ann Badger, the Calfe Head Inn, in the village of Worston, near Clithero, in the county of Lancaster, on the 31st of the 5th month, called May, 1849, at six o'clock in the Evening, subject to such conditions as will be then and there produced,
THE Very Eligible ESTATE, called
 Worsaw Hill, situate in the township of Worston, in the parish of Whalley, in the county of Lancaster, now in the occupation of Richard Harrison, as tenant from year to year, comprising a farm-house, barn, stable, shipoon, and other convenient outbuildings, all in very good repair, and the following closes of arable, meadow, and pasture land, in a good state of cultivation, containing about 79 statute acres, equivalent to 48½ customary acres, or thereabouts, more or less; together with an extensive right of common on Worston Moor, viz. :—

	STATUTE.
	A. R. P.
The Homestead	1 0 30
The Horse Field	2 1 0
The Lower Field	3 3 29
The Field above the House	2 2 14
The Old Meadow or Worsaw-Meadow	4 1 10
The New Meadow	2 3 0
Worsaw Hill	69 0 0
	79 0 18

The estate is situate about one mile and a half from Clithero, and four from Gisburn, at both which places fortnightly cattle fairs are regularly held; and it is distant about one mile from the Chatburn Station of the Clithero and West Yorkshire Railway, now in course of construction.—The estate is very well watered, lies within a ring fence, and is approached by good roads, and will be found very eligible as an investment.—The property is copyhold of inheritance of the manor of Chatburn, Worston, and Pendleton, and the alienation fine is nominal and certain.
 The tenant will show the premises; and further particulars may be known by applying to Joshua Cockshutt or David Amthorpe, Wilkinson, of Ballgrove, near Colne; Charles Haworth, solicitor, Burnley; Hall and Baldwin, solicitors, Clithero; or to CALDER HAWORTH, conveyancer, Marsden and Colne.
 Marsden, 19th of 5th Month, 1849.

Gazette—Nov. 29, 1850.
 BATES S. and Co. of Liverpool, spice and seed merchants, 17th Oct.
 Debts by Harper
COCKSHUTT and BLACKBURN, of Bough Gap-mill, near Colne, cotton spinners, 20th Nov. Debts by Cockshutt

PARTNERSHIPS DISSOLVED.—*Cont^d. from Col. 170.*

Gazette—Feb. 27, 1857.

BAILEY William and Thomas **COLLINSON**, authors and joint proprietors of copy books, 31st Dec. 1855

BARNARD John & George William **BARNARD**, of York-rd, Lambeth, attorneys and solicitors, 25th Feb.

BENTLEY George & James **BINKS**, of Wetherby, grocers, 24th Feb.

BROWN John & David **HEALEY**, of Batley, rag merchnts, 18th Oct.

BUTLER William James and Joseph Wilson **MORGAN**, of Bristol, wholesale stationers, 31st Jan.

CLARKE John and Thomas **NORTON**, of Leicester, brick makers, 21st Feb. Debts by Mr. George Webb, of Humberstone-gate, Leicester

CLAUGHTON William, Thomas **EVINSON**, and Clay **JACKSON**, of Chesterfield, chemists and druggists, as regards Evinson, 26th Feb. Debts by Cloughton and Jackson

CLIFTON Mary and George Walker **CLIFTON**, of Jewry-st, Aldgate, wine merchants, 31st Dec. Debts by G. W. Clifton

COCKSHUTT Joshua and David **COCKSHUTT** **WILKINSON**, of Bough Gap Mill, near Colne, cotton spinners and manufacturers, 4th Oct. 1855. Debts by Wilkinson



Historic England

[Login](#) | [Register](#)

Text size: [A](#) [AA](#)

P a s t S c a p e

You are here: [Home](#) : [Search](#) : [Search Results](#) : Detailed Result

WALTON FACTORY

| [Print](#)

ALTERNATIVE NAME: WHITE FACTORY, PENWORTHAM FACTORY

Cotton Spinning mill established by John Watson as a water-powered mill on the River Lostock sometime prior to 1791; John Watson insured a new carding and spinning room at Walton-le-Dale in 1796. By 1807 John Watson was forced to close the mill due to bankruptcy. The mill was advertised to let with 15,000 spindles during the following year. Cooper and Sherrington occupied the mill briefly before it was up for let again in May 1811, together with full machinery which was ready for immediate use.

In 1825 the mill was being run by Thomas German & Co, which later became known as German & Petty. The mill was advertised for let in 1833, and was described as being powered by a steam engine of 36hp, all the machinery required for cotton spinning, a gas house, apparatus, and 51 cottages. In addition, the factory was supplied by an inexhaustible supply of water from a reservoir of eight acres.

The mill is recorded as the Walton Factory (Cotton) on the Ordnance Survey first edition 1:10,560 map of 1848. Sometime around 1860 Edmund Cockshutt occupied the mill, during this time an engine house with boiler and chimney were added, and later still, the present outbuildings were erected to cope with the increased trade.

By 1891, the factory contained 25,000 spindles, and produced 40s/60s twist and weft, and was occupied by Joshua Cockshutt. By 1910 the mill had changed hands to Vernon & Co Ltd, Cotton Spinners and Manufacturers of surgical dressings. Vernon & Co enlarged the complex during 1920, and the mill now occupies 2.28 acres.

The mill buildings are extant, but at the time of the survey visit, in 2008-10, they were derelict. The surviving buildings appear to be largely of late nineteenth or twentieth century date.

PARTNERSHIPS DISSOLVED.
 Maurice Brookes and Thomas Brooks Phillips, Paddington-green, ironmongers. Samuel Jackson and Chas. Brown, Foley Penton, Staffordshire, manufacturers of china. Frederick Felton, Edward Randell, William Valentine Felton, and Wildman Cattley, Duke-street, Southwark, hop merchants; so far as regards Edward Randell. Charles Randell, Frederick Felton, Edward Randell, and William Valentine Felton, Duke-street, Southwark, hop merchants. John Ward and Ebenezer Frederick Ward, Birmingham, stampers. Stirling Day Worship and Alfred Taylor, Liverpool, attorneys. Charles Moore, Robert Carlyle, and George Augustus Vaughan, Liverpool, merchants; so far as regards George Augustus Vaughan. Levi Stead and Matthew Greenwood, Dewsbury, Yorkshire, rag merchants. James Walker and Henry Walker, Mitfield, Yorkshire, curriers. Robert Gowland and James Gowland, York, painters. Alfred Taylor and Frederick Pearce, Manchester, grey cloth commission agents. Henry Pearson and John Pearson, Liverpool, pawnbrokers. Edward Thomson and Ratcliffe Manchester, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, wine merchants. Joshua Cockshutt and Joseph Ainsworth, Preston, Lancashire, commission agents. Henry Brown and George Brown, Leicester, drapers. Susannah Taylor and James Gregson, Openshaw, Lancashire, paper stainers. Edward Hughes, Emanuel Lovekin, Samuel Hughes, and James Hughes, Willenhall, Staffordshire, colliery proprietors. Edwin Knight, C. H. Abbot, and Henry Abbot, Long Ashton, Somersetshire, colliery proprietors. John Fox and George Coles, Plymouth, wheelwrights. Joseph Clayton, Alfred Robinson, and David Butterworth, Halifax, waste dealers.

Image © THE BRITISH LIBRARY BOARD. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Print Download Bookmark Tag Comment

and costs.—
 lge Co-operative
 ales, and he was
 ing and Jervis
 n Saturday, the
 yment of costs,
 cted, was fined
 oned for being
 rapikey road, on
 osts.—George
 summoned for
 n turapike road,
 not appear, and
 ension.—John
 and Wigan road,
 —A summons
 nce, committed
 own.—Andrew
 on the highway
 He was fined 2s
 Huncoat, was
 aggon of which
 o the horse, at
 s fined 5s and
 man, was com-
 three calendar
 dolly-tub from
 lidge, on Satur-
 s.—On Wed-
 Buildings Com-
 d in the follow-
 Dawson-street
 tingham-street,
 and costs.—
 THE COTTON TRADE OF PRESTON.—Affairs in
 the cotton trade are gradually assuming a more serious
 aspect, and it cannot be disguised that the prospect for
 the coming winter is gloomier than this time last year.
 With reference to the dispute at Messrs. Hollins' Mill, the
 difficulty has not yet been arranged. On Wednesday
 morning the mill was thrown open to give the weavers
 who had struck against the further reduction of 10 per
 cent. a chance of resuming work. Most of the operatives
 presented themselves, but they refused to recommence
 work on the masters' terms; and after some parleying
 with the manager and one of the employers they left the
 mill again, both parties being resolute, and no offer even
 of compromise having been made on either side, and a
 notice was then posted at the gates that the mill would
 be closed until further notice. The Preston Cotton Spin-
 ning and Manufacturing Company, whose mill contains
 45,000 spindles and 750 looms, have begun to run short
 time, though hitherto they have kept their machinery in
 full operation. At Messrs. Shaw's weaving shed, off Lan-
 caster-road, containing between 400 and 500 looms, some
 of the hands have been compelled to retire this week, and
 the remainder will finish during the course of a few days,
 when the mill will be closed for an indefinite
 period. We have it on reliable authority that unless
 trade quickly revives, the largest mill of a large firm will
 shortly be closed altogether, and other firms will, it is
 feared, be forced to come to a similar stand-still. Pen-
 wortham (Cockshutt's) and Farington (Bashall's) mills
 have either been stopped or are only running short time.
 The notice for a further reduction in wages at Messrs.
 Horrockses, Miller, and Co.'s mills expires during the
 course of next week.