

this work that we see patience exemplified in a marked degree.

If a farmer lived near a stream, the sheep were washed before they were shorn, but if not, the fleece was filled with particles of straw, chaff, dirt, burrs, etc. This gave the housewife double work. She first washed the wool in a washtub and dried it on the fence. Afterwards she sat down, garbed in an old dress and apron that dirt could not spoil, and patiently pulled the wool apart, almost strand by strand, hour after hour, between meals until she had it all done. This done, she greased or oiled the wool then began to card it into rolls. The wooden cards, about eight inches by four, were faced with leather into which were fastened loose bent wire teeth. The rolls were about twelve inches long and one inch thick. Those who were well-off had their wool carded into rolls a yard long and half an inch thick at the woollen mill. The shorter, home-made rolls were more difficult to spin into yarn, but what cared those splendid women of early days. They were saving money and providing yarn for the family's footwear and clothing.

Each spindle-full of yarn was unwound on a reel into skeins or into large balls for knitting or weaving. Even