felt the guilt and shame of sin. As the consciousness of their personal condition came to their agitated minds, they looked around for the instruction of some easy lesson which they could master at once, or for the material and model of some kind of covering. The large, tough leaves of the fig, concealing its graceful limbs, comprised Nature's baby lesson, and thus they grasped with eager haste and applied to themselves. They continued to sew these leaves together, probably with bark thread of the branches from which they plucked them, and made themselves aprons. Here, in the precipitate action of these hours of distress and mental excitement, the human mind took its first lesson in one of those mechanic arts which now employ and support such toiling multitudes of the race. The insufferable pressure of a new necessity, humanly speaking, was the mother of this invention. It evidently cost the unhappy twain the highest effort in this direction of which they were capable without divine assistance. Having made it, they were apparently satisfied with its small measure of success, or doubted their ability to improve upon the texture and fashion of their little fig-leaf aprons. Where could they find better materials and patterns for their garments? They evidently sought to better, and perhaps would have worn figleaf aprons for years, if God had not interposed directly to help them over the space between this first lesson and the next in his great Model Book of instruction. With a pitying father's hand, he pointed them to more perfect patterns, to clothing more durable and fitting than that in which the summer fruit trees clad their limbs. He raised their eyes from the lower or vegetable
to the animal domain of Nature, and showed them the
texture and fashion of those beautiful garments in which
he had clothed the sheep, the beaver, bear and buffalo;
how perfectly without visible seam or wrinkle these garments
were fitted to the body and limbs. He not only pointed
out the lesson with its illustrations, but He actually applied
to their own case. In the simple language of Scripture, "God
made both unto Adam and Eve coats of skins and clothed
them."

Here and thus commenced the art of garment-making.
It is the only one of all the arts that bears the fingerprints,
as well as verbal directions, of the Creator as its Teacher. No other
privilege exists and influences the art may have degenerated
in these days of exaggerated fashions, it may show—a divine
origin, of which no other mechanical art can boast. The lesson
through which it was taught to Adam, is still full of infinite
wisdom. Its instruction will never be exhausted, even when some
future generation shall have exhausted the refinements of
human skill and taste. At that far end of improvement,
no fabric of the loom or needle will equal in fitness and
perfection the warp and woof of the eminence skin. The youngest
mind will easily understand, that if necessity is the mother
of invention, this garment-making must have been the first
of her children. Clothing if not the first, is at least the third
of the great quadrant of man's physical necessities, which
may be ranked thus: Food, Drink, Clothing and Shelter. To
obtain the two first, first required no special revelation. The
trees of Eden supplied fruits that were nutritious as well as pleasant
to the taste. The birds that abode it were ready to furnish the
thirst. The platted branches of the long-armed cedar, or
over-hanging rocks, or caves in the mountain sides, furnished
shelter already made, easily improved with the feeblest capacity
of invention. Still, it is doubtful whether the manufacture of
clothing ever constituted a distinct occupation before the flood
as every family would naturally make its own supply, one
using the skins of their sheep and cattle, the other the skins
of wild beasts taken in hunting, thus indicating their
diverse occupations. The Farmer, the Herdsman and Hunter
divided the antediluvian world of labor between them, and all
the elements of trade consisted in the simple articles exchanged
between these three classes of the community.

With the murder of Abel, commenced that reign
of violence that filled and overwhelmed the whole populated earth.
The rude bludgeon of Cain blossomed and brought forth wands.
The Hunter became a warrior, and doubtless the whole mechanic
brilliance of the race took the same direction as among the North
American Indians in later times. It all ran to the elaborate
construction of weapons of war, and to the fanciful decorations
of the hunters of men and beasts. Little of it was devoted to
agricultural implements or to the development of the peaceful
arts. Indeed, it is very doubtful whether iron had been
discovered or applied to common uses before the Deluge. The
length of time occupied in building the Ark would seem to
prove that axes and adzes of stone were the sharpest edge tools
employed in felling and fitting the timbers for that vast structure.
It is quite evident that up to this event, the art of ship building
was unknown. Doubtless its necessity had not yet been felt.
The human race had not spread far and wide upon the surface
of the Globe. We have no data whereby to estimate their population. Taking into consideration the climate of the country they inhabited, the fearful demoralization and bloodshed that prevailed among them, they could not have exceeded, at the time of the Deluge, the population of Spent Britain in the year 1700, or about 51 million. The rivers of region, as now, were fordable at the distance from the sea at which the scriptures intimate they were located. They had no pressing occasion even for boats, and probably none had been constructed. The Bible history clearly demonstrates the fact that no vessel capable of living upon the sea had been constructed or conceived by man. For here again, God interposed with a special revelation, and gave to Noah specific directions for building the Ark. He specified the very timber of which it was to be made, its length, breadth, and depth, and all the minute particulars of its structure. He then taught him how to make the great hull imperious to the water, by pitching it within and without.

As the patriarch prepared specimens of the animal creation, that every useful bird and beast might be perpetuated, so in his mind were treasured all the mechanical skill, taste, and intellectual progress that had been developed in the Antediluvian world. The water that covered the earth so many cubits deep, extinguishing every breath of life outside the Ark, extinguished the humanity that danced upon its dark waters, made no breach in human progress, they put out the light of no human thought worth anything to man. All the occupations into which the race had been divided were represented in Noah and his sons. When the green earth reappeared with its broad plains, he went forth and resumed that which he had previously followed, and "begot to be a Husbandman." As soon as his sheep and cattle..."