

**FILAMENT**, in natural history, a fibre or fine thread in flesh, nerves, skin, plants, and roots, and other substances. Putrefaction destroys the pulpy or fleshy matter, and leaves the tough filaments entire: thus, by putrifying the leaf of a plant in water, the fibres, which constitute the basis of the ribs and minute veins, are obtained complete. Alkaline lixivia in some degree operate in a manner similar to putrefaction. Vegetable filaments are the materials of many manufactures. In Britain, the filamentous parts of hemp, flax, and cotton are worked into cloths; in Madagascar, slight cloths of a softness approaching to silk, and others of a coarser and very durable texture, as well as sail-cloth and cordage, are made from the bark of certain species of trees. In France, the filaments of nettles are applied to the same variety of purposes; and it has been suggested that the muslins and calicoes of India are made from the same plant. In Sweden, a strong cloth is said to be made of the stalk of the hop. In Otaheite, cloth is made from the bark of trees