

MUSLIN (Fr. *mousseline*, from It. *mussolino*, muslin, made of muslin, from *mussolo*, muslin, from ML. *Mossula*, from Syr. *Mosul*, a city of Mesopotamia on the Tigris, whence the fabric originally came). A cotton fabric of Oriental origin and now the term for goods marked by lightness and openness of texture. No such trade now exists in the Orient; and for muslins of the common kinds at least the Indian market depends upon the manufactures of England and France. Muslin is much less compact in its texture than calico—indeed, it more nearly resembles gauze in appearance; but it is woven plain, without any twisting of the filling threads with those of the warp. The manufacture of muslins is very extensive, especially printed muslins, in which the patterns are produced by the same processes as in calico printing. The term “muslin” is also applied to a coarser and heavier but plainly woven cotton cloth suitable for sheets and pillowcases. This is sold both bleached and unbleached and comes 36 inches wide. See WEAVING.