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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTORY

It must not be inferred from the title given to this work that it is intended to discuss the principles or processes applied in the construction of only those fabrics composed entirely of linen or of jute. At the present time it is not unusual to find fabrics composed of two or even more materials, as in damask tablecloths, tapestries, etc., where the fibre originally employed was entirely linen in the former case, and cotton, or even silk, in the latter. Cotton warps have been used in conjunction with linen wefts for the production of union fabrics similar to those mentioned above for a period now extending over many years, and, previously, linen warps and cotton wefts were interwoven in the same kind of textures. In so far, therefore, as cotton is introduced into the construction of these unions, it will be necessary to consider yarns made from this fibre.

The origin of linen weaving undoubtedly dates far back into ancient history — in this country alone it was a recognised industry over three hundred years ago,—and the cloth itself is one of the best known and most ancient of textures. Jute weaving, on the other hand, is com-