

Reed. 1. (*Weaving.*) Called also the *sley* or *slay*. An appurtenance of the loom, consisting of two parallel bars set a few inches apart and furnished with a number of parallel slips of metal or reed, called *dents*, between which the warp-threads are passed. The lengths of reeds are estimated in quarters of a yard, as $\frac{3}{4}$, $\frac{1}{2}$, $\frac{1}{3}$, etc., and, if necessary, by a smaller fractional denominator, as $\frac{1}{6}$, $\frac{1}{8}$, or $\frac{1}{16}$, etc.

In Scotland they are estimated thus:—

20 splits..... 1 porter.

5 porters..... 1 hundred.

In other parts of Britain the estimate is by the number of splits or dents in $24\frac{1}{2}$ inches, or in 1 inch.

The reed is set in a swinging frame, called the *lathe*, *lay*, or *batten*. In the hand-lathe, the bottom of the batten is furnished with a shelf, called the *shuttle-race*, along which the shuttle is driven.

The office of the reed is to beat the *weft* up to the *web*, and the force of the blow determines the compactness of the fabric. Two threads of yarn pass between each of the *reed-splits* or *dents*.

The number of *dents* in a reed of a given length determines the fineness of the cloth.

One form of linen-prover has 4 perforations to adapt it to the varying modes of estimating. The number of threads visible in this perforation ascertains the number of threads in the standard measure of the *reed*.

The first is $\frac{1}{4}$ of an inch in diameter, and is intended to ascertain the number of threads per inch.

The second is for the Holland reed, being $\frac{1}{200}$ part of 40 inches.

The third is $\frac{1}{700}$ part of 37 inches, and is adapted to the Scotch reed, so called by Ure, as being the regulation reed of that country.

The fourth is $\frac{1}{200}$ of 34 inches, and is adapted for the French cambrics.

Two warp-threads count for 1 split.