

Whitney, Eli, b. at Westborough, Mass., 1765, is the inventor of the *cotton gin*, for which see **COTTON**. He went to Connecticut in 1793, and formed a partnership with one Miller, for the fabrication of his machine, but the lawsuits in defence of his rights took all his profits and the \$50,000 voted him by the State of S. Carolina. Finally, in 1798, he got a government contract for the manufacture of fire-arms, and was the first to effect the division of labor, by which each part was made separately. He made a fortune by this manufacture, carried out with ingenious machinery at Whitneyville, Conn.; while he had but barren honor from the gin, one of the most important of the whole series of inventions connected with the cotton manufacture. D. 1825.