

# The Manufacturing Company.

By WILLIAM FREDERIC WORNER

ON Wednesday evening, August 10th, 1814, a number of citizens met at the house of Jacob Duchman, in Lancaster, to consider the advisability of forming a company for the purpose of manufacturing and placing on the market cotton goods of a quality to meet the demands of the public. Christian Stauffer, Jr., was appointed chairman, and John Hoff secretary.

A committee, consisting of Christian Stauffer, Jr., John Hoff, Henry Bear, John Myer, Matthew Waddel, John Swar, Benjamin Ober and Jacob Miller, was appointed to formulate and report a system of rules and regulations for the organization of a manufacturing company for weaving, bleaching and dyeing cotton goods, on a liberal scale. The committee was also requested to furnish an estimate of the probable expense and profits of such an enterprise, and report their findings at a meeting to be held at the house of Jacob Duchman the following Wednesday, August 17th.

Whether the meeting was held, as appointed, is not known, as local papers contain no references to it. A company was organized, however, according to the following announcement, which appeared in the Lancaster Journal of Friday, October 7th, 1814:

"The stockholders in the 'Manufacturing Company' are required to pay a second installment of five dollars on each share to Samuel White, treasurer of the company, on or before November 15th, 1814.

"By order of the directors

"John Swar,

"President."

On Thursday, August 22nd, 1816, about 8:30 in the evening, a fire broke out in the "singeing house" of the Manufacturing Company. The building, with its contents, was doomed before it was possible for any large number of citizens to assemble. The "wash house," adjoining, was also materially injured. Fifty or sixty pieces of muslin were destroyed by the flames. The loss was estimated to be about \$1,500 or \$2,000.

The Lancaster Journal of Wednesday, August 28th, 1816, stated:

"Much praise is due to the citizens, generally, for the alacrity with which they repaired to the spot. To the exertions of the fire companies (particularly to the active assistance rendered by the hose men) the Manufacturing Company is indebted for the preservation of a building adjoining, which contained some valuable machinery."

In the Lancaster Journal of Friday, November 7th, 1817, there appeared an announcement that an adjourned meeting of the stockholders of the Manufacturing Company of Lancaster would be held at the house of William Cooper [The Red Lion tavern] on Monday, November 17th, 1817, at 2 o'clock in the afternoon.

In the Lancaster Journal of Friday, December 19th, 1817, appeared a notice of a public sale to be held on Wednesday afternoon, January 7th, 1818, at the tavern of George Haverstick, near the Lancaster cotton mill. Twenty-five acres of land within the borough of Lancaster, eight dwelling houses, a dye house, with four copper boilers and nineteen dyeing vats, a three-story stone warping and ware house, a wash house, calendering and dry house, together with all the apparatus and machinery necessary to carry on the business of spinning cotton yarn, were listed for sale. Also the unexpired leases on a number of dwelling houses and factory buildings were to be offered for sale. The cause of the financial failure of the Manufacturing Company is not stated in the papers.

The stockholders were earnestly requested to meet at the tavern of William Cooper, on Monday afternoon, January 5th, two days before the sale.<sup>1</sup> The stockholders who might neglect to attend the meeting were warned that "they ought not hereafter to regret if their shares in the establishment should be forfeited."

The last references to the Manufacturing Company appeared in the Lancaster Journal of Wednesday, January 7th, 1818. The stockholders were notified that an election would be held at the house of William Cooper, in the borough of Lancaster, on Tuesday, January 27th, 1818, for the purpose of choosing fifteen directors for the ensuing year. John Swar signed the notice, as president. The sale of the company's property, advertised to take place on January 7th, was postponed to a future day.

<sup>1</sup> Lancaster Journal, Friday, January 2nd, 1818.

## **Lancaster Volunteer Companies March to the Defense of Elkton**

By WILLIAM FREDERIC WORNER

**I**N the spring of 1813, Sir John Borlase Warren, commander of the British fleet in Lynhaven Bay, despatched a frigate, two brigs and four prize schooners, to ravage the shores of the Chesapeake. Rear-Admiral Sir George Cockburn, commanding this fleet, sailed for the head of the bay, spreading consternation as he went. At Annapolis the drums beat to arms, the signal gun was fired, and the citizens were called out, at three in the morning. A few hours later, Cockburn's vessels were sighted from the steeple of the state house, and the inhabitants, sure that they