As is usual, Samuel went on trial to Mr. Strutt, previous to his indenture of apprenticeship, and during this probation his father fell from a load of hay. This fall was the occasion of his death. During his father's sickness, and perceiving that he was dangerously ill, he wished his father to article him to Mr. Strutt, as both parties were satisfied. As a proof that his father had confidence in him, and that there was stability in the boy, he said to him, 'You must do that business yourself, Samuel, I have so much to do, and so little time to do it.' It is believed that this was his last interview with his beloved parent.

He lost his father in 1782, when he was fourteen years of age, at a time when a father's care and advice are much needed. A boy left without guardianship, or watchful eye to restrain him, is frequently exposed and led into temptation and ruin. Young Slater, however, had an indulgent and faithful mother, and elder brothers, so that he was not left entirely to his own resources. The plate opposite is an engraved copy from the original indenture, which is preserved in the family, as a relic of their father's early fidelity, and as a proof of his favoured means of knowledge.

Mr. Strutt was then building a large cotton factory at Milford, and was a partner with Sir Richard Arkwright, in the cotton spinning business; the latter having been induced to this connection by the prospect which Strutt's machines afforded, of an increased consumption of yarn. Samuel Slater asked Mr. Strutt, before he went into the business, whether he considered it a permanent business. Mr. Strutt replied, 'It is not probable, Samuel,
that it will always be as good as it is now, but I have no doubt it will always be a fair business, if it be well managed." It will be recollected, that this was before Mr. Peel invented the printing cylinder. Indeed the whole cotton business of England was, at that time, confined to a small district in Derbyshire, and its whole amount not greater than that which is done at the present day in a single village in New England.

In the early part of our young apprentice's time, he manifested the bent of his mind, for he frequently spent his Sundays alone, making experiments in machinery. He was six months without seeing his mother, or brothers and sisters, though he was short of a mile from home. Not that he lacked in filial or fraternal affections; but he was so intent, and so devoted to the attainment of his business. To show the expertness and the propensity of his mind, the following circumstance is related. Mr. Strutt endeavoured to improve the heart-motion, that would enlarge or raise the yarn in the middle, so as to contain more on the bobbin. Jezediah Strutt was unsuccessful in his experiments, and Samuel saw what was wanting, and went to work the next Sunday, (the only time he had to himself,) and formed such a motion, (a diagram of which is given below) to the satisfaction of his master, who presented him with a guinea.

Mr. Strutt was an economist, and enforced his maxims on Samuel, cautioning him against waste, and assuring him that it was
by savings that a fortune in business was to be made.* During this
time, Samuel became an excellent machinist, as he had an oppor-
tunity of seeing the latest improvements. Arkwright and Strutt
were in company, and it was at a time when there was much
excitement and lawsuits on the patent rights; so that he was
initiated into all the crooks and turns of such controversies. This
may have prevented him applying for a privilege as the introducer
of Arkwright’s patents into the United States.
Slater served his indenture with Mr. Strutt, and faithfully per-
formed his part of the contract to the last day of the term, and
there was a good understanding between the parties to the last.
This accomplishment of his full time was characteristic of him,
and was praiseworthy and beneficial, as it laid the foundation
of his adaptation to business, and finally to his perfect knowledge of
it. He was different from those restless youths, who think they

hope of their arriving at eminence in their profession. Mr. Slater
told me a short time before his death, that after his time was out,
he engaged with Mr. Strutt to have the oversight of the erection
of some new works, in addition to the mill, and this general
employment, with his close observation (for he always saw and
heard every thing, nothing could escape his notice,) and retentive
memory, was of great service to him in afterwards assisting him
to erect his first mill in Pawtucket. If he had been confined to
one branch of business, as is usual with an apprentice in England,
his knowledge would have been inadequate to perform what he
did on his first coming to America. But his residing in Strutt's
family, his being the son of his deceased friend and neighbour,
as well as his close application to business, his ingenious experi-
ments, and his steady habits, gave him the character of the "indus-
trious apprentice."

He had the confidence of his master, and became his right-hand
man, and he might have attained the highest eminence by a con-
tinuance in England. Mr. Strutt afterwards declared that had
he known his intentions, nothing should have induced him to part
with him. But Mr. Slater told me that he contemplated trying
America for some time; and that his object was, to get a general
knowledge of the business, in order to come to this country and
introduce the manufacture of cotton, on the Arkwright improve-
ment, and that he remained after the time of his indenture with
that special object in view.

There were early indications that he designed embarking in
business for himself, and it is said, that he used to enquire of
Arkwright and others, if they thought the business would be
overdone in England. Yet it does not appear that he ever made
known to any person his intention of leaving England. The father
The motive, or inducement, and first occasion of his thinking of leaving Mr. Strutt, and what finally determined him, was his observing* in a Philadelphia paper, a reward offered by a society for a machine to make cotton rollers, &c. This convinced him that America must be very bare of every thing of the kind, and he prepared himself accordingly. He probably knew the risk he should run in attempting to leave England as a machinist, and it was characteristic of him, never to talk of his business—where he was going, or when he intended to return. John Slater, a surviving brother, says he remembers his coming home, and telling his mother that he wished his clothes, as he was going by the stage to London; this was the last time his mother, or any of the family, saw him, till his brother John joined him in Pawtucket. He was aware, that there was danger of his being stopped, as the government restrictions were very severe, and very unjust; the officers were very scrupulous in searching every passenger to America. He therefore resolved not to take any pattern, nor have any writing or memorandum about him, but trusted wholly to his acquirements in the business and to his excellent memory. His appearance was also in his favour, it being that of an English farmer's son, rather than that of a mechanic. He told me himself he had nothing about him but his indenture, which he kept concealed, and this was his only introduction and recommendation in the new world.