FUSTIAN, fus'chan (from OF. fustaine, from ML. fustianum, fustian, from Ar. Fustāt, a suburb of Cairo, from which the material first came). A cotton corded fabric which has a pile like velvet, but shorter, and which is manufactured in nearly the same manner as velvet, by leaving loops standing upon the face of the fabric, and then cutting them through so as to form upright threads, which are afterward smoothed by shearing, singeing, and brushing. The fabric is used in England for trouserings, etc., and the name has been applied to the lower, coarser grades of velveteens and cordings. See Velveer.

The different names given to fustian cloths depend upon their degree of fineness and the manner in which they are woven and finished. Thus, smooth kinds, of a strong twilled texture, are called moleskins when shorn before dyeing, and beaverteens when cropped after dyeing. Corduroy, or king's cord, is produced by a peculiar disposition of the pile threads. In all fustians there is a warp and filling, or weft thread, independent of the additional filling thread forming the pile; but in corduroys the pile thread is only "thrown in" where the corded portions are and is absent in the narrow spaces between them. For a technical description of fustians, velveteens, and corduroys, see Posselt, Technology of Textile Design (Philadelphia, 1895).