

acts of that monarch's reign—by which all foreign lace is prohibited, and “those who have it in their possession may keep it and wear it till Pentecost”¹⁷—was issued rather for the protection of the silk-women of the country than for the advantage of the ever-complaining “workers of the mysteries of thread-work.”

On the 3rd of October 1502, his queen, Elizabeth of York, pays to one “Master Bonner, at Langley, for laces, rybands,” &c., 40s.; and again, in the same year, 38s. 7d. to “Dame Margrette Cotton, for hosyn, laces, sope, and other necessaries for the Lords Henry Courtenay, Edward, and the Lady Margrette, their sister.” A considerable sum is also paid to “Fryer Hercules for gold of Venys, gold of Danmarke, and making a lace for the King's mantell of the Garter.”¹⁸

It is towards the early part of Henry VIII.'s reign that the “Actes of Apparell”¹⁹ first mention the novel luxury of shirts and partlets, “garded and pynched,”²⁰ in addition to clothes decorated in a similar manner, all of which are forbidden to be worn by any one under the degree of a knight.²¹ In the year 1517 there had been a serious insurrection of the London apprentices against the numerous foreign tradesmen who already infested the land, which, followed up by the never-ending complaints of the workers of the mysteries of needlework, induced the king to ordain the wearing of such “myxte joyned, garded or browdered”²² articles of linnen cloth be only allowed when the same be wrought within this realm of England, Wales, Berwick, Calais, or the Marches.”²³

The earliest record we find of laced linen is in the inventory of Sir Thomas L'Estrange, of Hunstanton, co. of Norfolk, 1519, where it is entered, “3 elles of Holland cloth, for a shirte for hym, 6 shillings,” with “a yard of lace for hym, 8d.”

¹⁷ 19 Hen. VII. = 1504.

¹⁸ Sir H. Nicolas.

¹⁹ Statute I Henry VIII. = 1509-10,

“An Act agaynst wearing of costly Apparell,” and again, 6 Hen. VIII. = 1514-15.

²⁰ “Gard, to trim with lace.”—*Cotgrave*.

“No lesse than crimson velvet did him grace,
All garded and regarded with gold lace.”

Samuel Rowlands, A Pair of Spy-Knaves.

“I do forsake these broidered gardes,
And all the fashions new.”

The Queen, in *King Cambisis*, cir. 1561.

²¹ Under forfeiture of the same shirt and a fine of 40s.

²² 7 Hen. VIII. = 1515-16, “Thaecte of Apparell.”

²³ 24 Hen. VIII. = 1532-33, “An Act for Reformation of Excess in Apparell.”