

the sum of 8*d.*; this Lady Ancress, or Anchoress, being some worn-out old nun who, since the dissolution of the religious houses, eked out an existence by the art she had once practised within the walls of her convent.

At the burial of King Edward VI., Sir Edward Waldgrave enters on his account a charge of fifty yards of gold passemen lace for garnishing the pillars of the church.

The sumptuary laws of Henry VIII. were again renewed by Queen Mary: ³⁷ in them, ruffles made or wrought out of England, commonly called cutwork, are forbidden to any one under the degree of a baron; while to women of a station beneath that of a knight's wife, all wreath lace or passement lace of gold and silver with sleeves, partlet or linen trimmed with purles of gold and silver, or whiteworks, alias cutworks, &c., made beyond the sea, is strictly prohibited. These articles were, it seems, of Flemish origin, for among the New Year's gifts presented to Queen Mary, 1556, we find enumerated, as given by Lady Jane Seymour, "a fair smock of white work,³⁸ Flanders making." Lace, too, is now in more general use, for on the same auspicious occasion, Mrs. Penne, King Edward's nurse, gave "six handkerchers edged with passamayne of golde and silke."³⁹ Two years previous to these New Year's gifts, Sir Thomas Wyatt is described as wearing, at his execution, "on his head a faire hat of velvet, with broad bone-work lace about it."⁴⁰

Lace now seems to be called indifferently "purle," "passamayne," "bobbin-lace," or "bone-work," the two first-mentioned terms occurring most frequently. The origin of this last appellation is generally stated to have been derived from the custom of using sheep's trotters previous to the invention of wooden bobbins. Fuller so explains it, and the various dictionaries have followed his theory.

The employing anything so heavy and cumbersome as sheep's trotters for bobbins, of which some 300 to 400 are used on a pillow, is perfectly absurd. More simple to suppose the bobbins

³⁷ 1 & 2 Ph. & Mary.

³⁸ "White work" appears also among Queen Elizabeth's New Year's gifts:—

"1578. Lady Ratcliff. A veil of white work, with spangles and small bone lace of silver. A swete bag, being of changeable silk, with a small bone lace of gold.

"1589. Lady Shandowes (Chandos). A cushion cloth of lawne wrought with whitework of branches and trees, edged with bone work, wrought with crowus."—*Nichols' Royal Progresses.*

³⁹ Roll of New Year's Gifts, 1556.

⁴⁰ Stowe, "Queen Mary," an. 1554.