

lace,⁵ in endless and to us, we must own, most incomprehensible variety.

The "Surtees Wills and Inventories" add to our list the laces of Waborne⁶ and many others. Lace was no longer confined to the court and high nobility, but, as these inventories show, it had already found its way into the general shops and stores of the provincial towns. In that of John Johnston, merchant, of Darlington, already cited, we have 12 yards of "loom" lace, value 4s., black silk lace, "statute" lace, &c., all mixed up with entries of pepper, hornbooks, sugar-candy, and spangles. About the same date, in the inventory taken after the death of James Backhouse, of Kirby-in-Lonsdale, are found enumerated "In y^e great shoppe," thread lace at 16s. per gross; 4 dozen and 4 "pyrled" lace, 4s.; 4 quarterns of "statching" (stitching or seaming?) lace; lace edging; crown lace; hollow lace; copper lace; gold and silver "chean" (chain) lace, &c. This last-mentioned merchant's store appears to have been one of the best-furnished provincial shops of the period. That of John Farbeck, of Durham, mercer, taken thirty years later, adds to our list 78 yards of velvet lace, coloured silk "chayne" lace, "coorld" lace, petticoat lace, all cheek by jowl with "Venys" gold and turpentine.

To follow the "stitches" and "works" quoted in the wardrobe accounts of Elizabeth—all made out in Latin, of which we sincerely trust, for the honour of Ascham, the queen herself was guiltless—would be but as the inventory of a haberdasher's shop.

We have white stitch, "opus ret' alb," of which she had a kirtle, "pro le hemmynge et edginge" of which, with "laqueo

the craft of making byllament lace;" Rich. Thomas, Dutch, "a worker of Billament lace."

In 1573, a country gentleman, by his will deposited in the Prerogative Court of Canterbury (Brayley and Britton's "Graphic Illustrations") bequeaths: "To my son Tyble my short gown faced with wolfskin and laid with Billements lace."

In John Johnston's shop, we have: "3 doz. of velvet Billemunt lace, 12s." In that of John Farbeck, 9 yards of the same. ("Surtees Wills and Inv.") Widow Chapman of Newcastle's inventory, 1533, contains: "One old cassock

of broad cloth, with billements lace, 10s." —*Ibid.*

⁵ 95 dozen rich silver double diamond and cross laces occur also in the "Extraordinary Expenses for Prince Charles's Journey to Spain," 1623. P. R. O.

⁶ "1571. In y^e Great Shop, 8 peces of 'waborne' lace, 16d."—*Mr. John Wilkinson's Goods, of Newcastle, Merchant.*

"1580. 100 Gross and a half of 'waborne' lace."—*Inv. of Cuthbert Ellyson.*

1549, John de Tronch, Abbot of Kilmainham Priory, is condemned to pay 100 marks fine for detaining 2 lbs. of Waborne thread, value 3s., and other articles, the property of W. Sacy.