

drawing of thread worked over with silk. We have smocks thus wrought and decorated "cum lez ruffs et wrestbands."¹⁴

In addition to the already enumerated laces of Queen Elizabeth are the bride laces of Coventry blue,¹⁵ worn and given to the guests at weddings, mentioned in the "Masques" of Ben Jonson:¹⁶—

"CLOD. And I have lost beside my purse, my best bride-lace I had at Joan Turnips' wedding.

"FRANCES. Ah, and I have lost my thimble and a skein of Coventry blue I had to work Gregory Litchfield a handkerchief."

When the queen visited Kenilworth, in 1577, a "Bridall" took place for the pastime of her Majesty. "First," writes the Chancellor, "came all the lusty lads and bold bachelors of the parish, every wight with his blue bridesman's bride lace upon a braunch of green broom." What these bride laces exactly were, we cannot now tell. They continued in fashion till the Puritans put down all festivals, ruined the commerce of Coventry, and the fabric of blue thread ceased for ever. It was probably a showy kind of coarse trimming, like that implied by Mopsa in the "Winter's Tale," when she says—

"You promised me a tawdry lace:"¹⁷

¹⁴ G. W. A. Eliz., last year of her reign. Again—

1600. "Drawing and working with

black silk drawne worke, five smocks of fine holland cloth."—*B. M. Add. MSS.* No. 5751.

"These Holland smocks as white as snow,
And gorgets brave with drawn-work wrought."

Pleasant Quippes for Upstart New-fangled Gentlewomen, 1596.

¹⁵ As early as 1485, we have in the inventory of St. Mary-at-Hill, "An altar cloth of diaper, garnished with 3 blue Kays (St. Peter's) at each end." All the church linen seems to have been embroidered in blue thread, and so appears to have been the smocks and other linen.

Jenkin, speaking of his sweetheart, says: "She gave me a shirt collar, wrought over with no counterfeit stuff.

"GEORGE. What! was it gold?

"JENKIN. Nay, 'twas better than gold.

"GEORGE. What was it?

"JENKIN. Right Coventry blue."—*Pinner of Wakefield*, 1599.

"It was a simple napkin wrought with Coventry blue."—*Laugh and Lie Downe*,

or the Worlde's Folly, 1605.

"Though he perfume the table with rose cake or appropriate bone-lace and Coventry Blue," writes Stephens in his "Satirical Essays," 1615.

In the inventory of Mary Stuart, taken at Fotheringay, after her death, we have: "Furniture for a bedd of black velvet, garnished with Bleue lace. In the care of Rallay, *alias* Beauregard."

¹⁶ The window of the famous clothier, called Jack of Newbury, is described when a bride as "led to church between two boys with bride laces and rosemary tied about their sleeves."

¹⁷ "Tawdry. As Dr. Henshaw and Skinner suppose, of knots and ribbons,