

edged with bone lace of gold of various kinds. We have ourselves seen a smock said to have been transmitted as an heirloom in one family from generation to generation.⁵⁶ It is of linen cloth embroidered in red silk, with her favourite pattern of oak-leaves and butterflies (Fig. 109). Many entries of these articles, besides that of Sir Philip Sidney's, appear among the New Year's gifts.⁵⁷

It was then the custom for the sponsors to give "christening shirts," with little bands and cuffs edged with laces of gold and various kinds—a relic of the ancient custom of presenting white clothes to the neophytes when converted to Christianity.⁵⁸ The "bearing cloth," as the mantle used to cover the child when carried to baptism was called,⁵⁹ was also richly trimmed with lace

Fig. 109.



Queen Elizabeth's smock.

and cutwork, and the Tree of Knowledge, the Holy Dove (Fig. 110), or the Flowerpot of the Annunciation (Fig. 111), was worked in "hollie-work" on the crown of the infant's cap or "biggin."

⁵⁶ In the possession of Mrs. Evans, of Wimbledon.

⁵⁷ "Sir Gawine Carew. A smock of cameryke wrought with black work and edged with bone lace of gold."

"Lady Souche. A smock of cameryke, the ruffs and collar edged with a bone lace of gold."

"The Lady Marquis of Winchester. A smock of cameryke wrought with tanny silk and black, the ruffs and collar edged with a bone lace of silver."—*New Year's*

Gifts, 1578-9.

⁵⁸ "A bearing cloth," for the Squire's child, is mentioned in the "Winter's Tale."

⁵⁹ Many of these christening robes of lace and point are preserved as heirlooms in old families; some are of old guipure, others of Flanders lace, and later of Valenciennes, or needle-point. The bib formed of guipure padded with tiny mittens of lace were also furnished to complete the suit.