

Towards the end of James I.'s reign a singular custom came into fashion, brought in by the Puritan ladies, that of representing religious subjects, both in lace, cutwork, and embroidery, a fashion hitherto confined to church vestments. We find constant allusions to it in the dramatists of the day. Thus, in the "City Match,"⁴³ we read—

"She works religious petticoats, for flowers
She'll make church histories. Her needle doth
So sanctify my cushionets, besides
My smock sleeves have such holy embroideries,
And are so learned, that I fear in time
All my apparel will be quoted by
Some pious instructor."

Again, in the "Custom of the Country"⁴⁴—

"Sure, you should not be
Without a neat historical shirt."

We find in a Scotch inventory⁴⁵ of the seventeenth century: "Of Holland scheittes ii pair, quhairof i pair schewit (sewed) with hollie work."⁴⁶

The entries of this reign, beyond the "hollie work," picked⁴⁷ and seaming⁴⁸ lace, contain little of any novelty; all articles of the toilet were characterised by a most reckless extravagance.

Tanyer and Margaret Le Moyne, "maidens and makers of bone lace," wind up the catalogue of the Dover "Alyens."

The Maidstone authorities complain that the thread-makers' trade is much decayed by the importation of thread from Flanders. "List of Foreign Protestants resident in England," 1618-88. Printed by the Camden Society.

⁴³ Jasper Mayne.

⁴⁴ Beaumont and Fletcher.

⁴⁵ "Valuables of Glenurquhy," 1640. Innes' "Sketches of Early Scotch History."

⁴⁶ Collars of "Hollie worke" appear in the inventories of Mary Stuart.

⁴⁷ "Thomas Hodges, for making ruffe and cuffes for his Highness of cuttworke edged with a fayre peake purle, 7*l*."—*2nd Acc. of Sir J. Villiers, Prince Charles, 1617-18.* P. R. O.

"40 yards broad peaked lace to edge 6 cupboard cloths, at 4*s*. per yard, 8*l*."—*Ibid.*

⁴⁸ "Seaming" lace and spacing lace appear to have been generally used at this period to unite the breadths of linen, instead of a seam sewed. We find them employed for cupboard cloths, cushion cloths, sheets, shirts, &c., throughout the accounts of King James and Prince Charles.

"At Stratford-upon-Avon is preserved, in the room where Shakspeare's wife, Anne Hathaway, was born, an oaken linen chest, containing a pillow case and a very large sheet made of homespun linen. Down the middle of the sheet is an ornamental open or cut work insertion, about an inch and a half deep, and the pillow case is similarly ornamented. They are marked E. H., and have always been used by the Hathaway family