

The imitations of the guipures of Malta and Le Puy unfit the lace-workers for the more delicate white laces with the Lille ground. Mr. Lester, of Bedford, is making most spirited endeavours to sustain the old industry, and in the international exhibition of 1874 he produced a collection of specimens remarkable for their excellent workmanship, for the even "clothing" of the leaves, and the firmness of the raised cord.

Buckingham produces black lace of great beauty. Her lace-makers have also succeeded in making pieces of considerable width, showing great skill and artistic design. They formerly could only produce lace 8 inches wide; some they exhibited measured 38 inches; the English lace-makers having acquired the art of "fine joining," a knowledge until of late confined to France and Belgium. But since this period the lace industry of Buckingham has to sustain a powerful competition in the narrow laces of Normandy and the "pi ce goods" of Grammont. The number of lace-makers in the counties of Buckingham, Northampton, Bedford, and Oxford, is estimated at 25,000.

Pillow lace was also made to some extent in Derbyshire.