

CHAPTER XXXII.

DEVONSHIRE.

“ Bone lace and Cyder.”

Anderson.

“ At Axminster, you may be furnished with fyne flax thread there spunne. At Honyton and Braduinch with bone lace much in request.”—*Westcote.*

HONITON.

LACE-MAKING is said to have been introduced into Devonshire by sundry Flemings who took refuge in England during the persecutions of the Duke of Alva (1567–73). Whether the art was first made known to the inhabitants of the county at that period, it is impossible now to say.

We may rather infer that laces of silk and coarse thread were already manufactured in Devonshire, as elsewhere; and that the Flemings, on their arrival, having introduced the fine thread, spun almost exclusively in their own country, from that period the trade of bone-lace making flourished in the southern as in the midland counties of England.

Although the earliest known MS.,¹ giving an account of the different towns of Devon, makes no mention of lace, we find from it that Mrs. Minifie, one of the earliest named lace-makers, was an Englishwoman.²

Towards the latter end of the sixteenth century, various and, indeed, numerous patronymics of Flemish origin appear among the

¹ Ker's "Synopsis," written about the year 1561. Two copies of this MS. exist, one in the library of Sir Lawrence Palk, at Halden House (Co. Devon), the other in the British Museum. This MS. was never printed, but served as an authority for Westcote and others.

² "She was a daughter of John Flay, Vicar of Buckrell, near Honiton, who by will, in 1614, bequeaths certain lands to Jerom Minify (*sic*), son of Jerom Minify, of Burwash, Sussex, who married his only daughter."—*Prince's Worthies of Devon*, 1701.