

manship alone of a piece of this elaborate net, measuring scarce 2 inches in width;¹⁷ and one of the old lace-dealers showed Mrs. Treadwin, some years since, a piece of ground, 18 inches square, for the making of which she had paid 15*l.*, shortly before the establishment of the machine-net manufacture.¹⁸ The price of the lace was proportionably high. A Honiton veil would often cost a hundred guineas.

The invention of Heathcoat¹⁹ dealt a fatal blow to the Honiton net-makers. A hopeless struggle ensued between manual labour and the results of science: human industry yielded to the pressure. Young women, in large numbers, forsook the pillow and went to service, and but few children were trained to succeed them.

The lappet (Coloured Plate VI. p. 101) has been shown to the author, purchased from a Devonshire gentlewoman in reduced circumstances, to whose great-grandmother it had belonged, which she at once pronounced to be Brussels needle point; but it has been shown to four different lace-makers, who all recognise the open-work or "finishings" peculiar to the Honiton fabric, and claim it as English; but it is of such decidedly Brussels character we have placed it under that head, with this explanation.

To return to our history. For twenty years the lace trade suffered the greatest depression,²⁰ and the Honiton lace-workers, forsaking the designs of their forefathers, introduced a most hideous set of patterns, designed, as they said, "out of their own heads." "Turkey tails," "frying-pans," "bullocks' hearts," and the most senseless sprigs and borderings took the place of the graceful compositions of the old school; not a leaf, not a flower, was copied from nature. Anxious to introduce a purer taste, Queen Adelaide,

¹⁷ The manner of payment was somewhat Phœnician, reminding one of Queen Dido and her bargain. The lace ground was spread out on the counter, and the worker herself desired to cover it with shillings; and as many coins as found place on her work, she carried away as the fruit of her labour. The author once calculated the cost, after this fashion, of a small lace veil on real ground, said to be one of the first ever fabricated: it was 12 inches wide and 30 long, and, making allowance for the shrinking caused by washing, the value amounted to 20*l.*, which proved to be exactly the sum originally paid for the veil. The ground

of this veil, though perfect in its workmanship, is of a much wider mesh than was made in the last days of the fabric. It was the property of Mrs. Chick.

¹⁸ The last specimen of "real" ground made in Devon was the marriage veil of the late Mrs. Marwood Tucker, about forty years since. It was with the greatest difficulty workers could be procured to make it. The price paid for the ground alone was 30 guineas. ¹⁹ 1839.

²⁰ In 1822, Lysons remarks that "some years ago the manufacture of Honiton employed 2400 hands in the town and neighbouring villages. They do not now employ 300."