

“mawsch,” or “masch,” as the pinking of silk and muslin is termed in Scotland, an advertisement of which accomplishment “done here” may frequently be seen in the shop-windows of the old town of Edinburgh.

In the palace of Holyrood is still exhibited a small basket lined with blue silk, and trimmed with a bone lace of rudely spun flax, run on with a ribbon of the same colour, recorded to be an offering sent by Queen Elizabeth to her cousin previous to the birth of her godchild. Antiquaries assert the story to be a fable. Whether the lace be of the time or not, as a work of art it is of no credit to any country.

How Queen Mary, in her youth, was instructed in the arts of point coupé and lacis, according to the works of Vinciolo, has been already related.<sup>10</sup> Of her talents as a needlewoman there is ample proof in the numerous beds, screens, &c., treasured as relics in the houses of the nobles where she was held captive. She knitted head-dresses of gold “réseille,” with cuffs and collars<sup>11</sup> en suite,<sup>12</sup> to say nothing of nightcaps, and sent them as presents to Elizabeth,<sup>13</sup> all of which, we are told, the queen received most graciously. Mary, in her early portraits as daupaine of France, wears no thread lace. Much fine gold embroidered with passament enriches her dresses; her sleeves are of gold réseuil. In those of a later date, like that taken when in Lochleven Castle, her veil is bordered with a narrow bone lace—as yet a rarity; may be one of the same noted in the inventory of 1578, as “Fyve litell vails of wovin rasour (réseau) of threde, ane meekle twa of thame, passmentit with perle and black silk.”<sup>14</sup>

<sup>10</sup> Page 7.

<sup>11</sup> Her lace ruffs Mary appears to have had from France, as we may infer from a letter written by Walsingham, at Paris, to Burleigh, when the queen was captive at Sheffield Castle, 1578: “I have of late granted a passport to one that conveyeth a box of linen to the queen of Scots, who leaveth not this town for three or four days. I think your Lordship shall see somewhat written on some of the linen contained in the same, that shall be worth the reading. Her Majesty, under colour of seeing the fashion of the *ruffes*, may cause the several parcels of the linen to be held to the fire, whereby the writing may appear; for I judge there will be

some such matter discovered, which was the cause why I did the more willingly grant the passport.”

<sup>12</sup> In 1575.

<sup>13</sup> There was some demur about receiving the nightcaps, for Elizabeth declared “that great commotions had taken place in the Privy Council, because she had accepted the gifts of the Queen of Scots. They therefore remained for some time in the hands of La Mothe, the ambassador, but were finally accepted.”—*Miss Strickland*.

<sup>14</sup> “Inventaire of our Sovereaine Lord and his dearest moder, 1578.” Record Office, Edinburgh.