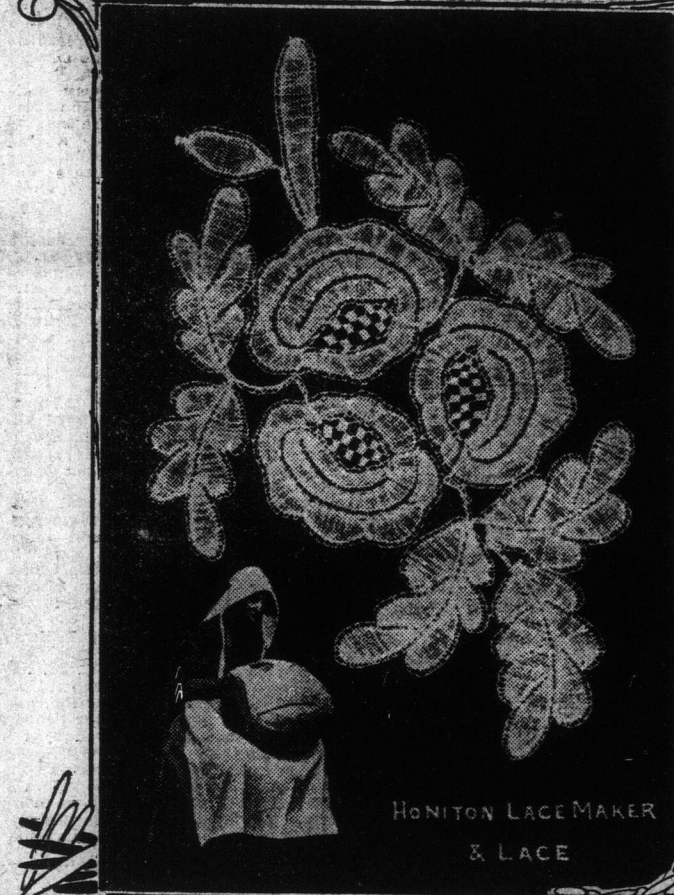


HONITON LACE

AND
THOSE WHO MAKE IT



There has been so much talk of late about the real English laces, that it might be of interest to ladies to hear a little of the old Honiton and its origin and how it was taught to the village women and girls by Queen Catherine of Aragon, who actually sat among them and instructed and taught the open net grounds, as were used in her native country, Spain.

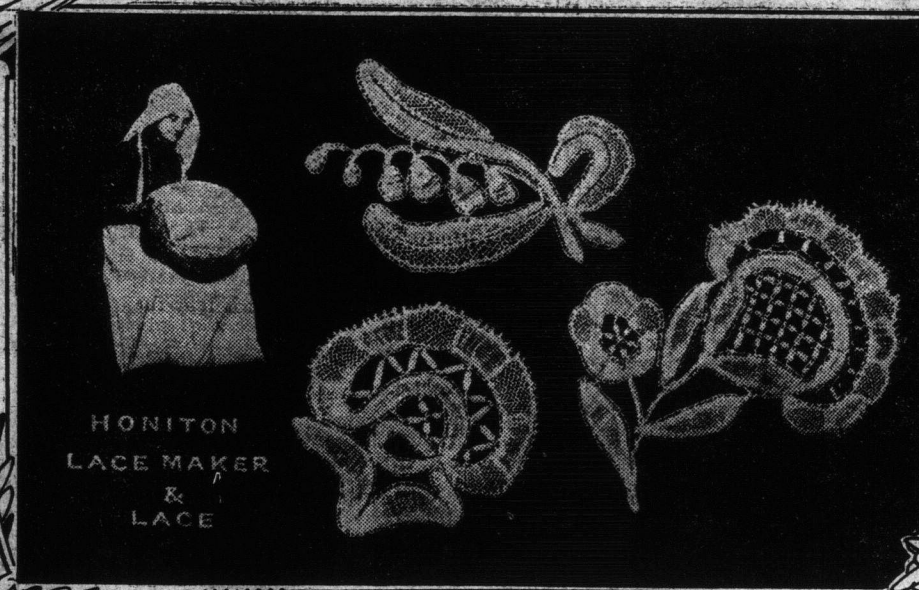
She was going through a sad time just then for it was while she was awaiting her divorce from Henry. It is strange that all our English lace has come to us through sorrow; for after Queen Catherine taught the lace to the English women, it was carried on by the Flemish refugees who had come to England for safety on account of religious persecutions, and who had themselves, learned the art from the refugees from North Italy, who had also fled from their country on account of religious persecutions. So our English lace is a mixture of Spanish, Italian and Flemish lace, and from the same source springs also the Torchon, Cluny, Maltese and many other laces.

The Honiton lace is made the same as the Buckingham lace, with bobbins and pins on a pillow, but when first introduced pins were unknown and it is supposed that thorns and fish bones were used as pins; but there are in existence pins that are over 300 years old with hand beaten heads and as they are lace pins it is likely it must have been these pins that were first used as lace pins.

The Queens of England have all through the history of England been closely connected with the lace making of the country. For after Catherine, we now hear of Mary, Queen of Scots pleading while in captivity, for more materials for her lace making and designing,



for she is credited with many designs of birds and four footed animals, which are greatly used in the Honiton lace of today. Then came Queen Henrietta Maria, who is not credited with any great work for the lace making but



was very fond of making it and was named by her court the "Royal Knotter."

It was Queen Adelaide who came to the aid of the Devon makers when their work was in a bad way, by suggesting the first Honiton applique dress and starting the fashion for applique and thereby giving more regular employment to the many Honiton sprig makers, Venetian needle stitches have also been taught to the Devon women.

Now again, our late Queen Victoria's Coronation dress was of Honiton lace, over which there was great trouble, for the time given to

make it was too short and workers from many parts were engaged on it. The accompanying picture of one who helped to make this dress was likely one of the girls who were allowed to assist for the time was so limited even children were allowed to help.

To conclude with the interests of the Queens and lace making to our present Alexandra is due to the actual revival of late years, for at her coronation she requested the ladies of her court to wear goods of English and Irish manufacture, as much as possible, and in every way she encouraged and helped the Eng-

lish lace industry. Many people do not know that the lace, designs are drawn by artists and many beautiful designs as beautiful in their form, as pictures were made by men and women who are dead and forgotten, and to whom has never been any credit given. In Italy a lace is made which bears the name of Michael Angelo as its designer. Honiton lace is also known by the name of Devon and Point d'Angleterre, for in 1678 or so a great deal of Brussels lace was smuggled into England as Point d'Angleterre.

A. E. DIESPECKER

Potato Improvement

During the past year very material progress has been made by way of perfecting our methods of potato improvement and in instituting their application throughout the country. At a meeting of the Canadian Seed Growers' Association a very excellent paper on "Potato Improvement" was read by Mr. W. T. Macoun, horticulturist, at the Central Experimental Farm. Upon the work which Mr. Macoun and many other authorities on the potato plant, both at home and abroad, have done, a system of potato improvement suitable for use among Canadian growers was drafted and has been applied by several. The system adopted is simple and practical, yet is founded on scientific principles, the individual plant being taken as the basis for improvement. The tubers produced by each plant are, morphologically considered, simply swollen portions of the vegetative and not of the reproductive system. The question has therefore been raised as to whether or not the principles of breeding which apply in the case of sexual reproduction through the seed, obtain in a sexual reproduction or perpetuation through parts of the vegetative system. Bud variation is, as a rule, more narrow than is seed variation, and some investigators claim that a part of any plant cannot possess qualities which differ materially from those of another part of the same plant. The best obtainable evidence at the present time does not support this view, and the "individuality" of different parts is now generally recognized. Since the tubers produced by any single plant are all distinct parts of that plant the possibility of variation and in other qualities recognized.

The system drafted for use by this association enables the grower to plant the seed tubers taken from the different hills which were especially chosen for seed purposes the year previous, so that any promising variation which may result may be selected and used in endeavoring to build up a strong, healthy and productive type. Furthermore, in almost all parts of Canada, no matter how suitable may be the conditions, there are many adverse conditions with which the potato has to contend. Unfortunately man himself is often the worst enemy of the potato, and unconsciously, though very materially, assists in its downfall. The using of small potatoes from degenerate hills is perhaps one of the most glaring examples of this as far as the seed is concerned. The practicing of improper cultural methods is another common error. Against these things, this plant is continually struggling year after year, and while there is a continual survival of the fittest wherein a few plants succeed in rising above the prevailing difficulties in an endeavor to maintain the standard of the race, yet unfortunately these are quickly gathered in and hurried off to mar-

ket, leaving the smaller, less desirable and often degenerate tubers remaining to be used for seed purposes. With such a system is there any wonder why many of our best varieties have suffered a rapid decline until they are now practically worthless? What is needed among potato growers today is some practical system whereby it may be possible to select for seed purposes those hills which have shown themselves superior to others enjoying equal opportunities. In this way seed tubers which rank above the average would be chosen, while those falling short would be ignored, hence making an upward instead of a downward tendency. The need of just such an arrangement has been met by the association in its system of potato improvement already referred to.

In undertaking systematic work according to this system it is recommended in the first place that a good standard variety be chosen, and that the best possible seed of that variety with to start be secured. The beginner is advised to test two or three leading varieties the first year in small plots side by side, to keep the hills separate when digging, and, after having decided which variety has given the best results, to select and keep separate 25 of the best hills of this variety for planting in the breeding plot of the following year in accordance with the regulations as drafted. While the minimum size of the seed plot recognized by the association is 1/4-acre, yet in the case of potatoes it was thought advisable to depart somewhat from this rule and to reduce the size of the plot to one of 25 rows. From each of the 25 chosen hills 8 of the most uniform, smooth and sound tubers so selected is used to plant one of the eight-hilled rows, a single whole tuber being used to plant each hill. At harvest time each row is dug separately and the individual hills within the rows are likewise kept separate for examination. This arrangement permits the grower to determine first the best rows and secondly the best hills in these rows. The required number of specially desirable hills can then be laid away for planting on the spot the following spring as above indicated. Special blank forms are sent each grower in duplicate in order that he may record certain information regarding the performance of each row referring especially to yield, quality and freedom from disease. While it is urged that the crop on the improved plot be sprayed for blight, yet the spraying of a breeding plot is left to the discretion of the individual grower. In districts where disease is troublesome the desirability of developing strains capable of withstanding these maladies is such that spraying is ignored and those plants which have shown the greatest power in resisting diseases, are chosen.

Tetrazinni is going to sing in Montreal some time in February, and a new high record has been established for prices for seats. The box chairs will be \$7, and so on, down the scale.

Stranger Than Fiction

On a fishing trip to Lake Pocotopaug, I was accompanied by three of the most successful anglers in New England. My companion and I were not very fortunate, and on reaching the shore we asked Jones and Charlie, who had gotten in ahead of us, what luck they had. For answer, they held up a three-pound fish and Charlie said that it was not the weight of the fish that made him feel elated, but the way he had caught it. They had fished for an hour without a strike, and were getting discouraged, when Charlie saw a chipmunk near the water's edge. They started for the shore and soon had the chipmunk, and Charlie hooked it through the right ear and put it overboard. In a minute there was a commotion and the chipmunk jumped over the bow of the boat with a fish after it; then there was another commotion, and the chipmunk jumped over the boat again, nearer the stern. When it landed in the water there was a splash, the reel began to sing, and a fish jumped four feet out of the water. After getting the line unwound from the boat, Charlie found that the fish had wound the line seven times around a rock at the bottom. They rowed the boat around the rock to try to untangle the line, but after going in a circle for a half-hour, concluded to let the fish rest a while. They put down their anchor and began fishing, when suddenly the line went out and Charlie, jumped to get his rod. After that Jones and we each fought the fish for a half-hour, and then netted it. When his nerves were in normal condition again, Charlie started to get the hook from the fish's mouth and found that the fish had swallowed the chipmunk, which was still alive. The hook was removed and the chipmunk jumped from the fish's mouth into the water, and when last seen was going steadily for the west shore.—E. W. M., in Field and Stream.

To those of us who are getting a little tired, and maybe a little disgusted, with so many musical comedies, the knowledge that legitimate comic opera has been lately re-introduced, and bids fair to gain its old place in the popular favor, will be met with satisfaction. "The Chocolate Soldier" is an example of the old-new style of opera buffe, or opera comique, which years ago, when Gilbert and Sullivan were in their prime, was held in high esteem. "The Chocolate Soldier" is said to be free from extravagant burlesque, and all vulgarity, and to depend for its success simply upon its witty dialogue, its clever situations, and bright music set to wholesome verse.

A minister, having walked through a village churchyard and observed the indiscriminate praises bestowed upon the dead, wrote upon the gate post the following: "Here lie the dead, and here the living lie."

Caring for the Fishing Rod

At odd times on winter evenings we get out our tackle to repair it so that it shall be ready to pick up at the opening of the season in early spring. Among the rods we possess, be they of solid wood, bamboo, or steel, there are sure to be parts that need repairing. A steel rod should be looked over carefully; rusty scratches and blemishes sand papered and enameled; if the joints are dry or rusty they should be well oiled after being thoroughly cleaned; the rings that fasten the reel should have attention that they may work easily, all dust and sand being removed.

When the enamel is quite dry, the rod can be put in its case or tied in the linen cover and put away. On rods of solid wood, especially those used in salt water, the silk or cord winding is soon frayed or broken; these should be rewound, particularly on tips. This applies equally well to a bamboo rod as in this, being of sliced wood, a defect soon becomes a disaster. Every angler should know one of the many ways of making an endless wind.

The red or green silk should be waxed; refined white wax, or common beeswax will suffice. After the windings are perfect, and the guides rewound, if necessary, the silk should be coated with the best grain alcohol shellac to preserve the color of red and green; this shellac soon dries, ready to be varnished.

The best varnish for rods is known as extra light coach. Before use the tin varnish can should be placed in a vessel of hot water. This varnish will not crack, and dries quickly, with a good gloss, if used while quite warm.

Two flat camel-hair brushes should be used to apply the varnish and shellac, which can afterwards be cleaned with soap and hot water for subsequent use. After the various rods parts are varnished, they can be put together and the rod suspended in a warm, dry room free from dust; place it carefully in the rod case and put it away. If a ferule is loose, take out the brad, then warm the ferule over an alcohol flame; it will soon come out, and can be reset with shellac glue, or cement.—Louis Rhead, in the December Outing.

AND HE MARRIED HER

At a charity bazaar one day, the Marquis de Gallifet was pestered by a pretty patroness. After some banter, he put £20 on her stall.

"And what do you expect me to give you for that, Monsieur le Marquis?" she asked.

"Only a small thing—your hand, Mademoiselle," he replied.

He always said afterwards that his wife was the cheapest investment he had ever made. —T. P.'s Weekly.