

dress of this lace, and her example has since been followed by others of the royal family. It is the only original English lace of importance, and was first made at Honiton, in Devonshire, in the seventeenth century. The art of lace making is said to have been brought into England by Flemish refugees, and Honiton lace long preserved an unmistakable Flemish character. It is to its sprigs that it owes its reputation. They are made separately, and at first they were worked in with the pillow-ground; afterward they were sewed on, as in the last century. The net is very beautiful and regular. It is made of the finest thread, brought from Antwerp at a cost of three hundred and fifty dollars per pound. There was no thread to be found in the British Islands fit for the purpose. Cotton thread, perhaps, might be had, but not the linen thread necessary in a work requiring so much labor, which alone would make it very costly. The manufacture of a piece of lace like this, eighteen inches square, cost seventy-five dollars, and a Honiton veil often cost a hundred guineas.



At the time of the marriage of Queen Victoria, the manufacture of Honiton lace was so depressed that it was with difficulty the necessary number of lace workers could be found to execute the wedding lace. Her dress cost £1,000, and was composed entirely of Honiton sprigs, connect-

ed on the pillow by a variety of openwork stitches. The bridal dresses of their royal highnesses the Princess Royal, the Princess Alice, and the Princess of Wales, were all of Honiton lace, the patterns consisting of the national flowers, the latter with prince's feathers intermixed with ferns, and introduced with the most happy effect. These sprigs are joined with the needle by various stitches, forming Honiton guipure, which in richness and delicacy is by many thought to surpass the fine guipure of Belgium, known as duchess lace. The reliefs are embroidered with the greatest delicacy, and the beauty of the workmanship is exquisite.

Valenciennes and Mechlin were the first laces in which the ground was wrought in one piece with the design. Until this time all lace had been guipure, that is, it had consisted of open embroidery in which the figures were connected by "brides" without anything like a background. The network ground, which we now take to be the essential thing in lace, was not thought of till the end of the seventeenth century. The word guipure means a thick cord over which silk, gold, or silver thread,

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