

(1.) * LACE. *n. f.* [*lacet*, French; *lâqueus*, Lat.]

1. A string; a cord.—
Striving more, the more in laces wrong
Himself he tied. *Spenser.*

2. A snare; a gin.—
The king had snared been in love's strong lace. *Fairfax.*

3. A plaited string, with which women fasten their clothes.—
O! cut my lace, lest my heart cracking, it
Break too. *Shakespeare.*
Doll ne'er was call'd to cut her laces,
Or throw cold water in her face. *Swift.*

4. Ornaments of fine thread curiously woven.—
Our English dames are much given to the wearing of costly laces; and, if they be brought from Italy, they are in great esteem. *Bacon.* 5. Textures of thread, with gold or silver.—
He wears a stuff, whose thread is coarse and round,
But trimm'd with curious lace. *Herbert.*

6. Sugar. A cant word; now out of use.—
He takes up their mysterious face,
He drinks his coffee without lace. *Prior.*

(2.) LACE, in commerce, (§ 1. *def.* 4, 5) is composed of many threads of gold, silver, or silk, interwoven the one with the other, and worked upon a pillow with spindles according to the pattern designed. The open work is formed with pins, which are placed and displaced as the spindles are moved. The importation of gold and silver lace is prohibited.

(3.) LACE, BLOND, a lace made of fine linen thread or silk, much in the same manner as that of gold and silver. The pattern of the lace is fixed upon a large round pillow, and pins being stuck into the holes or openings in the patterns, the threads are interwoven by means of a number of bobbins made of bone or ivory, each of which contains a small quantity of fine thread, in such a manner as to make the lace exactly resemble the pattern. Several towns in England, particularly in Buckinghamshire, carry on this manufacture; but vast quantities of the finest lace have been imported from Flanders. By an act of parliament just passed, (April 1802,) imposing new duties

ties instead of the *convoy duties* on various imports and exports, a duty of 14s. is payable upon every dozen of yards of bone lace of thread imported.

(4.) LACE, GOLD, METHOD OF CLEANING, WHEN TARNISHED. The method of cleaning gold lace or embroidery, is the same with that recommended for brocade. See BROCADE, § 5. But though spirit of wine is the most innocent material that can be employed for this purpose, it is not in all cases proper. The golden covering may be in some parts worn off; or the base metal, with which it had been alloyed, may be corroded by the air, so as to leave the particles of the gold disunited; while the silver underneath, tarnished to a yellow hue, may continue a tolerable colour to the whole: in which cases it is apparent, that the removal of the tarnish would be prejudicial to the colour, and make the lace or embroidery less like gold than it was before. A piece of old tarnished gold-lace, cleaned by spirit of wine, was deprived, with its tarnish, of the greatest part of its golden hue, and looked almost like silver lace. The fact is, that what is called *Gold Lace* should rather be called *Gilt Lace*, being only silver lace gilded. There is no such thing as real gold lace.

(5.) LACE, METHOD OF SEPARATING THE GOLD AND SILVER FROM, WITHOUT BURNING IT. Cut the lace in pieces, and (having separated the thread from it by which it was sewed to the garment) tie it up in a linen cloth, and boil it in soap ley, diluted with water, till it be diminished in bulk; which will take up but a little time unless the quantity of lace be very great. Then take out the cloth, and wash it several times in cold water, squeezing it pretty hard with your foot, or beating it with a mallet, to clear it of the soap ley; then untie the cloth, and the metallic part of the lace will remain pure no-where altered in colour or diminished in weight. This method is more convenient and less troublesome than the common way of burning; and as a small quantity of the ley will be sufficient, the expence will be trifling, especially as the same ley may be used several times, if cleared of the silky calcination. It may be done in either an iron or copper vessel. The ley may be had at the soap boilers, or it may be made of pearl-ash and quick-lime boiled together in a sufficient quantity of water. The reason of this sudden change in the lace will be evident to such as are acquainted with chemistry: for silk, on which all laces are wove, is an animal substance, and all animal substances are soluble in alkalies, especially when rendered more caustic by the addition of quick-lime; but the linen you tie it in, being a vegetable, will remain unaltered.