(1) LACE. m f. (lajis, French; lagmens, Lat.)

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

2. A nailer; a gin —
   +Springer.

3. A plaited string, with which women tether their horses.
   O cut my lace, left my heart cracking, it break too.
   Doll ne'er was called to cut her lace.
   Shakespeare.
   Or throw cold water in her face.
   Swift.

4. Ornaments of fine thread curiously woven —
   Our English laces are much given to the wearing of costly laces; and, if they be wrought from Italy, they are in great esteem.
   Burnet.

5. Trimmings of thread, with gold or silver.
   He wears a full, whole thread is coast and round.
   But triangled 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), 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 pine, which are placed and displaced as the spindles are moved. The importation of gold and silver lace is prohibited.

(3) LACE, BLOWN, a lace made of fine lines thread or flax, 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 pattern, 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, June 24th, 1842, imposing new duties instead of the present duties on various imports and exports, a duty of 5s. 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 Brocades, § 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 diffused; while the silver underneath, tarnished to a yellow hue, may continue a tolerable colour to the whole: in which case it is apparent, that the removal of the tarnish would be prejudicial to the colours, and make the lace or embroidery look 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 greater part of its golden lustre, and looked almost like silver lace. The fact is, that what is called Gold Lace should rather be called Gold 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 four leys, diluted with water, till it be reduced 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, shaking it pretty hard with your hands, or beating it with a mallet, to clear it of the soap; then untie the cloth, and the metallic part of the lace will remain pure nowhere 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 expense will be saving, especially as the same ley may be used several times, if cleared of the filky 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 pear-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 those who are acquainted with chemistry; for flax, on which all laces are woven, is an animal substance, and all animal substances are soluble in alcalinis, especially when rendered more emaciated by the addition of quick-lime; but the linen you tie it in, being a vegetable, will remain unaltered.