covering was of green stuff, and was filled with hay. By supper-time the task of each was completed.

Next day, Barbara shut herself up in the little inner room of her cottage. She had the sticks and cushion with her, and she only entered the outer room when her presence was absolutely necessary for the comfort of her family. The next day she again absented herself, and likewise for the three following, her husband neither asking her questions, nor suffering any one to intrude on her; for he knew that her mind was struggling after some dimly-revealed object, and that the least interruption in the pursuit, though meant kindly, might only serve to throw an additional shadow on the path. On the evening of the fifth day she appeared in the midst of her family, her face beaming with an expression of sublime joy.

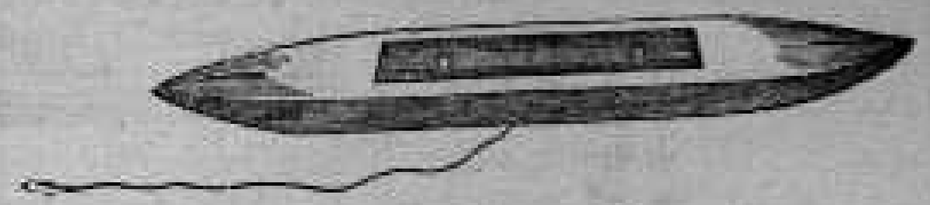
"Husband! children!" she cried, "thank God with me! See what He has enabled me to accomplish!" And she showed them the lace on the cushion, and afterwards embroidered it with a needle.

Barbara believed that she had discovered the method by which the Brussels point lace was manufactured; but she had in reality invented a new article of equal beauty and much greater utility—the lace now so well known as "cushion" or "bone lace."

In a short time Barbara enjoyed the fruits of her noble efforts to maintain her family, in the superior comforts with which she was enabled to surround them. "Her children called her blessed, her husband also, and he praiseth her." Beloved and respected, she lived to a good old age, and on the evening of her death there were sixty-four children and grandchildren in her home. Her remains were followed to the grave by hundreds of sincere mourners; for she had not with ill-judging policy concealed the secret of her invention, but had taught all who sought a knowledge of it, receiving from each a moderate remuneration. The more of the lace that was made the greater became the demand, and at length Christopher undertook to import it wholesale. Like his wife, he died full of years and honours, blessing God for all His mercies.

The simple principle on which Barbara's lace is made is thus described by Dodd:—

"The lace-maker sits on a stool or chair, and places a hard cushion on her lap. The desired pattern is sketched on a piece of parchment, which is then laid on the cushion, and she inserts a number of pins through the parchment into the cushion in places determined by the pattern. She is also provided with a small number of bobbins, on which threads are wound; fine thread being used for making the meshes or net, and a coarser kind, called gymp, for working the device. The work is begun on the upper part of the cushion, by tying together the threads in pairs, and each pair is attached to one of the pins



WEAVER'S SHUTTLE.

thrust into the cushion. The threads are then twisted one around another in various ways, according to the pattern, the bobbin serving for handles, as well as for store of material, and the pins serving as knots or fixed points, or centres round which the threads may be twisted. The pins inserted in the cushion at the commencement are merely to hold the threads; but as each little mesh is made in progress of the working, other pins are inserted to prevent the threads untwisting, and the device on the parchment shows where these insertions are to occur."

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