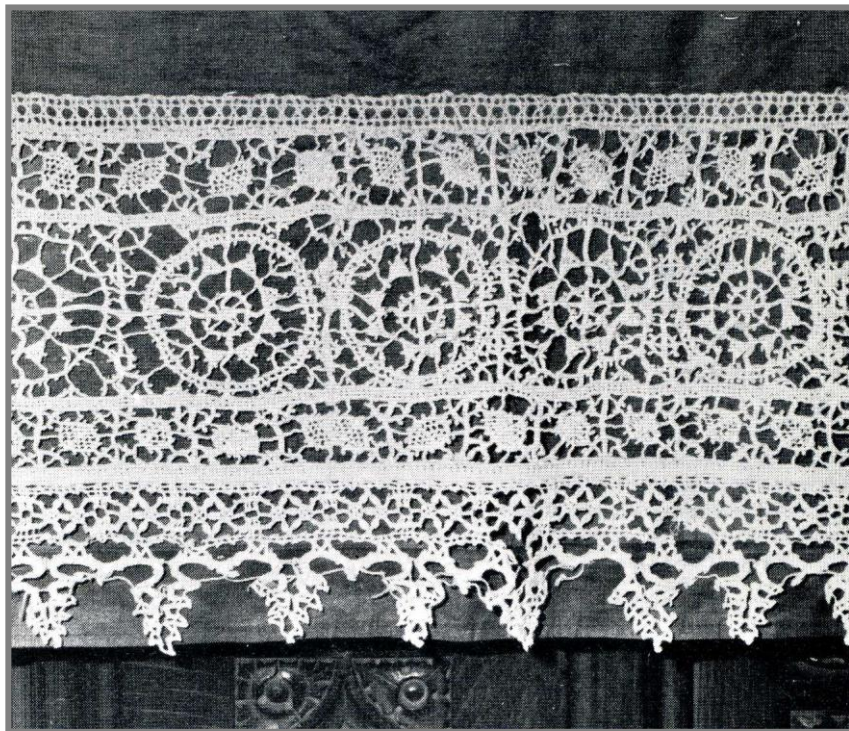


## THE SEBASTOPOL LACE

There is an interesting piece of Altar Lace which is rarely seen in church. In Harold Milliken's book, it is described as an "*altar drop, looted by a sailor from a church in Sebastopol and purchased from him (for 1/-) by a Captain Heaton, of Worsley, who was also serving in the Crimean Campaign of the 1850's.*"



Milliken further writes that it was presented to the church by the Captain's relatives about 1920. He further reports that it is believed to date from the beginning of the 19th century and is of Italian origin. It is described as being worked in Needlepoint and Renticelli.

The city of Sebastopol fell in the early morning of 9 September 1855 after a siege of eleven months. It took a further three weeks for the victorious forces to enter the city, for fear of booby traps. It did not take long for the troops to begin to pillage. The reports of what went on are truly distressing to read.

British sailors were quick to get in and plunder, and a huge mobile marketplace sprang up out of the ruins. *'The variety of articles was astonishing, and from valuable silver plate to the most worthless of old books, which no one could read, everything seemed to meet with some purchaser.'* (*The Times* - 5 October 1855).