

IMPORTANT TO THE LADIES.

SHIFTS IN SHIFT-MAKING!

From "The Merchants' Ware-house Laid Open; or, The Plain-Dealing Linnen-Draper,"—by J. F., 12mo., London, 1696.

"**S.** — — — And because Shifts begin with the Letter **S.** I shall here give you such Instructions, which if well observed and followed, you may thereby know how to Cut out a Shift out of two Ells of Holland, as most People shall do out of two Ells and a quarter, and shall be both as long and as large, for example; If you will Cut out but one Shift Ell $\frac{1}{2}$ long, take two Ells of Holland, and slit it through the middle; let it be Ell wide or Yard wide, according as the bigness of your body requires, and when it is split through the middle, instead of taking one half breadth, and just the same length of the other half breadth for the Body, cut 1-8th of an Ell off of one of the half breadths, and just the same length off of the other half breadth, which take for the body of your Shifts, then take the remainder of one of the half breadths and double it, then lay it across, and cut it for your Goars, then take the other remainder of the breadth, and double it, and cut it in the middle, which makes just a pair of Sleeves, then you want only for your Gussets, which will come out of the hollowing of the Neck of your Shift, which Rule you may observe in cutting out two, four, or six Shifts, for when you cut out two, take a body of one of the half breadths, and a body off of the other, and when you cut four, take two Bodies off of one of the half breadths, and two Bodies off of the other, and when you cut six, take three off of one of the half breadths, and three off of the other, and by that means you may cut them what length in reason you please; whereas if you take your Bodies all of one piece, you can make them but two Ells long, and by this means you save a quarter of an Ell in the Cutting out of each Shift. I could give you other Instructions for Cutting out half-Ell Cloth, that you might Cut a Shift as large out of a Cloth half-Ell, as others should do out of a Cloth three quarters wide, but I shall be forced to omit this, by reason it would make me out-run the limits of my Book, and for that I shall treat of it in my next Edition."—Page 38.
