

regatta on a grand scale, which took place in the year 1775. Lady Mary Wortley Montagu, having written a glowing account of a regatta she had witnessed at Venice in 1740, induced the leaders of fashion in London to attempt a similar aquatic

and plaster of Paris deities; nor even the crowning of the victors in the races with laurel wreaths. The "show" consisted of a procession of boats in three divisions, with the rowers dressed respectively in the three marine colours, red,



A WEAVER OF DOGGETT'S COAT AND BADGE.

spectacle. But the desire to imitate the doings of the "Queen of the Adriatic" grew so slowly into action, that it was not till the date named that the London regatta actually took place; and then it was not attempted on a scale of grandeur like that which had been carried into effect at Venice. There were not, as at the latter place, any chariots of night drawn by sea-horses, changing to chariots of Aurora, nor triumphal cars, nor mythological and symbolical galleys, with pasteboard temples

white, and blue, and each division led by a grand marshal. The pageant moved on Midsummer Eve from Westminster Bridge to the then noted Ranelagh Gardens, amid the booming of cannon and the cheers of a quarter of a million of spectators, who lined the river's banks, or were seated on barges or in boats, paying dearly for the privilege. At Ranelagh a Temple of Neptune had been erected, which soon became crowded with revellers. A few boat races took place in front of