

BASKET MAKING.

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A basket for shopping --- quite an ordinary basket, perhaps, there always seem to be lots about the house; --

But have you ever thought how ~~they make~~ these useful things are made?

Here in a quiet Lancashire village, they begin by cutting willows in the fields. This is a bit backbreaking-- but pleasant to be out in the air all day.

2 When this is done, the willows pass through the boiler to make them more pliable.

Afterwards the artisans get ready to strip the bark off. It's work requiring skill and perseverance, but it's an industry that is rapidly yielding ^{before} ~~to~~ the modern tide of mechanisation.

~~Then the willows pass through the shaving process for handle wrapping.~~

JA This veteran of 65 ~~years~~ has been making baskets here for over 50 years -- he started as a lad of 12, so he's well on the way for his old-age pension, don't you think?

The manager of this old-world industry is also an old 'un, and in fact most of the staff have been working at this fascinating craft all their lives.

When the baskets have been completed, they are packed on a trailer, ~~ready~~ for their journey to the ready markets of the towns.