

Vinciolo dedicates his book to Louise de Vaudemont, the neglected queen of Henry III., whose portrait, with that of the king, is added to the later editions.

Various other pattern books for embroidery and other works of the needle had already been published. The earliest bearing a date is one printed at Cologne in 1527.¹⁵

These books are scarce ; being designed for patterns, and traced with a metal style, or pricked through, many perished in the using. They are much sought after by the collector as among the early specimens of wood-block printing. We give therefore in the Appendix a list of those we find recorded, or of which we have seen copies, observing that the greater number, though generally composed for one particular art, may be applied indifferently to any kind of ornamental work.

Cutwork was made in several manners. The first consisted in arranging a network of threads upon a small frame, crossing and interlacing them into various complicated patterns. Beneath this network was gummed a piece of fine cloth, open like canvas, called *quintain*,¹⁶ from the town in Brittany where it was made. Then, with a needle, the network was sewn to the *quintain* by edging round those parts of the pattern that were to remain thick. The last operation was to cut away the superfluous cloth ; hence the name of cutwork.

The author of the "Consolation aux Dames," 1620, in addressing the ladies, thus specially alludes to the custom of working on *quintain* :—

" Vous n'employez les soirs et les matins
A façonner vos grotesques *quintains*,
O folle erreur—O despençe excessive."

Again, more simple was it to make the pattern detached without any linen at all ; threads, radiating at equal distances from one common centre, served as a framework to others which were united to them in squares, triangles, rosettes, and other geometric forms, worked over with button-hole stitch (*point noué*), forming in some parts open-work, in others heavy, compact embroidery. This was the first needle-made lace, for the fineness and beauty of which Venice excelled, but it was produced in all

¹⁵ See Appendix.

¹⁶ *Quintain*—*Quintin*. French *lawne*. Randle Cotgrave, "Dictionarie of the

French and English Tongues," 1611.

"26 virges de Kanting pro sudariis pro ille 47/8."—*G. W. A.* Charles II. 1683-4.