

7. Valenciennes.

8. Mechlin.—All the laces of Flanders, with the exception of those of Brussels, were known in commerce at this period under the general name of Mechlin (Fig. 16).

9. Guipures.

10. Gold lace.

Most of these laces are enumerated in a jeu d'esprit, entitled "La Révolte des Passemens," published at Paris in 1661.³³

In consequence of a sumptuary edict against luxury in apparel, "Mesdames les Broderies—

"Les Poinctes, Dentelles, Passemens,
Qui, par une vaine despence,
Ruinoient, aujourd'huy la France"—

meet, and concert measures for their common safety. Point de Gênes, with Point de Raguse, first address the company; next, Point de Venise, who seems to look on Raguse with a jealous eye, exclaims—

"Encore pour vous, Poinet de Raguse,
Il est bon, crainte d'attentat,
D'en vouloir purger un estat.
Les gens aussy fins que vous estes
Ne sont bons que, comme vous faites,
Pour ruiner tous les estats.
Et vous, Aurillac on Venise,
Si nous plions notre valise,"

what will be our fate?

The other laces speak, in their turn, most despondently, till a "vieille broderie d'or," consoling them, talks of the vanity of this world:—"Who knows it better than I, who have dwelt in kings' houses?" One "grande dentelle d'Angleterre" now proposes they should all retire to a convent. To this the "Dentelles de Flandres" object; they would sooner be sewn at once to the bottom of a petticoat.

Mesdames les Broderies resign themselves to become "ameublement;" the more devout of the party to appear as "devants d'autel;" those who feel too young to renounce the world and its vanities will seek refuge in the masquerade shops.

"Dentelle noire d'Angleterre" lets herself out cheap to a

³³ In the "Recueil de pièces les plus agréables de ce temps, composées par divers auteurs. Paris, chez Charles Sercy. MDCLXI."

The poem is dedicated to Mademoiselle de la Trousse, cousin of Madame de Sévigné, and was probably written by one of her coterie.