

centre. It was particularly adapted for the large turn-over collar of Louis XIII., and was produced by plaiting, and made entirely on the pillow (Fig. 29). We find little mention of Genoa point<sup>73</sup> before the seventeenth century,<sup>74</sup> when it formed an article of great commerce. The first allusion to these points is in the prohibitory edict of 1639, a period when Genoa point was in universal use for collars,<sup>75</sup> cuffs, and other articles of dress.<sup>76</sup>

No better customer was found for these luxurious articles of adornment than Madame de Puissieux.<sup>77</sup> "Elle étoit magnifique et ruina elle et ses enfans. On portoit en ce temps-là," writes St.-Simon, "force points de Gênes qui étoient extrêmement chers; c'étoit la grande parure—et la parure de tout age: elle en mangea pour 100,000 écus (20,000*l.*) en une année, à ronger entre ses dents celle qu'elle avoit autour de sa tête et de ses bras."<sup>78</sup>

"The Genoese utter a world of points of needlework," writes Lassels, at the end of the century, and throughout the eighteenth we hear constantly of the gold, silver, and thread lace, as well as of the points of Genoa, being held in high estimation.

Gold and silver lace was prohibited to be worn within the walls of the city, but they wear, writes Lady Mary Wortley Montagu, exceeding fine lace and linen.<sup>79</sup> Indeed, by the sumptuary laws of the Republic, the richest costume allowed to the ladies was black velvet trimmed with their home-made lace.

The "femmes bourgeoises" still edge their aprons with lace, and

<sup>73</sup> Signore Tessada, the great lace fabricant of Genoa, carries back the manufacture of Italian lace as early as the year 1400, and forwarded to the author specimens which he declares to be of that date.

<sup>74</sup> As late as 1597, writes Vulson de la Colombière, "ni les points de Gennes, ni de Flandre n'étoient en usage."—*Vray Théâtre d'Honneur et de Chevalerie*. Paris, 1648.

<sup>75</sup> Queen Christina is described by the Grande Mademoiselle, on the occasion of her visit, as wearing, "au cou, un mouchoir de point de Gênes, noué avec un ruban couleur de feu."—*Mém. de Mademoiselle de Montpensier*.

"Item, ung peignoir, tablier et cornette de toile baptiste garnie de point de Gênes."—*Inv. de la Comtesse de Soissons*, 1634.

"Une petit manteau brodé et son collet de point de Gênes."—*The Chevalier d'Albret*.

"Linge, bijoux et points de Gênes."—*Loret, Muse Historique*, 1650.

"Item, ung autre mouchoir de point de Gênes."—*Inv. du Maréchal de La Motte*, 1657.

<sup>76</sup> The "Lois de la Galanterie Françoise," 1644, speaking of the lace-trimmed "canons," says, "il sera toujours mieux s'il y peut avoir deux ou trois rangs de Point de Gênes, ce qui accompagnera le jabot qui sera de même parure."

<sup>77</sup> Madame de Puissieux died in 1677, at the age of 80.

<sup>78</sup> "Mém." t. xiv. p. 286.

<sup>79</sup> Signore Tessada has in his possession a pair of gold lappets of very beautiful design, made at Genoa about the year 1700.