

CHAPTER V.

GREECE.

WE have already spoken of Greece as the cradle of embroidery; and in those islands which escaped the domination of the Turks the art still lingered on. Cyprus, to whom in after times proud Venice gave a queen, was renowned for its gold, its stuffs, and its needlework. As early as 1393, in an inventory of the Dukes of Burgundy, we find noted "un petit pourpoint de satin noir et est la gorgerette de maille d'argent de Chippe"—a collar of silver network.¹

In our own country, thirty years later, we have a statute touching the deceitful works of the embroiderers of gold or of silver of Cypre, which shall be forfeited to the king.² But the secret of these cunning works became, after a time, known throughout Europe. Of cutworks or laces from Cyprus³ and the islands of the Grecian seas, there is no mention; but we hear much of a certain point known to the commerce of the seventeenth century as that of Ragusa, which again, after an ephemeral existence, disappears from the scene. Of Ragusa, says Anderson, "her citizens, though a Popish state, are manufacturers to a man."

Certain it is that this little republic, closely allied with the Italian branches of the house of Austria, served them with its navy, and in return received from them protection. The commerce of Ragusa consisted in bearing the products of the Greek islands and Turkey to Venice, Ancona, and the kingdom of Naples;⁴ hence it might be inferred that those fine productions of the Greek convents which, of late years, have been so much brought before the public notice were first introduced into Italy by the merchants of Dalmatia, and received on that account the denomination of "points

¹ Laborde, "Glossaire," Paris, 1853.

gives "Ciprioto."

² Statute 2 Hen. VI. c. x. = 1423.

⁴ "Description de Raguse." Bib. Nat.

³ Taglienti, 1530, among his punti,

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