

ordinance, which extended to gold and silver lace, was suspended during the matrimonial visit of Prince Charles of England;¹⁰ indeed, the Queen of Spain herself sent him, on his arrival at Madrid, ten trunks of richly laced linen. The prince had travelled incognito, and was supposed to be ill-provided. Whether the surmises of her majesty were correct, we cannot presume to affirm; we only know that, on the occasion of the Spanish voyage, a charge of two dozen and a half laced shirts, at twelve shillings each, for the prince's eight footmen, appears in the wardrobe accounts.¹¹

The best account of Spanish manners of the seventeenth century will be found in the already mentioned "Letters of a Lady's Travels in Spain" (1679). "Under the vertingale of black taffety," she writes, "they wear a dozen or more petticoats, one finer than the other, of rich stuffs trimmed with lace of gold and silver, to the girdle. They wear at all times a white garment called *sabenqua*; it is made of the finest English lace, and four ells in compass. I have seen some worth five or six hundred crowns; . . . so great is their vanity, they would rather have one of these lace *sabenquas* than a dozen coarse ones;¹² and either lie in bed till it is washed or else dress themselves without any, which they frequently enough do." Describing her visit to the Princess of Monteleon, she says, "Her bed is of gold and green damask, lined with silver brocade and trimmed with point de Spain.¹³ Her sheets were laced round with an English lace, half an ell deep. The young princess bade her maids bring in her wedding clothes. They brought in thirty silver baskets, so heavy, four women could only carry one basket; the linen and lace were not inferior to the rest." The writer continues to enumerate the garters, mantles, and even the curtains of the princess's carriage, as trimmed with "fine English thread, black, and bone lace."

Spain was early celebrated for its silk,¹⁴ which with its

¹⁰ "Mercure François."

¹¹ They have also provided—

14 ruffs and 14 pairs of cuffs
laced, at 20s. . . . £14

For lacing 8 hats for the foot-
men with silver parchment
lace, at 3s. . . . 1 4s.

*Extraordinary Expenses of His High-
ness to Spain, 1623. P. R. O.*

¹² Doctor Monçada, in 1660, and

Osorio, in 1686, reckoned more than three millions of Spaniards who, though well dressed, wore no shirts.—*Townsend's Spain.*

¹³ Speaking of the apartment of Madame d'Aranda, Beckford writes, "Her bed was of the richest blue velvet, trimmed with point lace."

¹⁴ As early as the Great Wardrobe Account of Queen Elizabeth, 1587,