

—hence it is sometimes called “broderie de Malines.”³⁷ It was made at Mechlin, Antwerp, Lierre, and Turnhout, but the manufacture has long been on the decline. Lately, however, it appears to have partially revived. Previous to 1665, as elsewhere stated, the name was given to all pillow laces of which the pattern was relieved by a flat thread. It was only this that distinguished it from Valenciennes. When in the eighteenth century the réseau ground was adopted, Malines still continued the bride also, which was generally preferred, especially in France.³⁸ According to Savary, the laces of Ypres, Bruges, Dunkirk, and Courtrai, passed at Paris under that name.³⁹

The statute of Charles II. having placed a bar to the introduction of Flanders lace into England, Mechlin neither appears in the advertisements nor inventories of the time.

We find mention of this lace in France as early as Anne of Austria, who is described in the memoirs of Marion de l'Orme as wearing a veil “en frizette de Malines.”⁴⁰ Again, the Maréchal de la Motte, who died in 1627, has, noted in his inventory,⁴¹ a pair of Mechlin ruffles.

Regnard, who visited Flanders in 1681, writes from Mechlin: “The common people here, as throughout all Flanders, occupy themselves in making the white lace known as Malines, and the Béguinage, the most considerable in the country, is supported by the work of the Béguines, in which they excel greatly.”⁴²

When, in 1699, the English prohibition was removed, Mechlin lace became the grand fashion, and continued so during the succeeding century. Queen Mary anticipated the repeal by some years, for, in 1694, she purchased two yards of knotted fringe for her Mechlin ruffles,⁴³ which leads us to hope she had brought the lace with her from Holland; though, as early as 1699, we have

³⁷ “Une paire de manchettes de dentelle de Malines brodée.

“Quatre bonnets de nuit garnis de Malines brodée.”—*Inv. de décès de Mademoiselle de Charollais*, 1758.

³⁸ *Inv. de la Duchesse de Bourbon*, 1720.

“1704. Deux fichus garnis de dentelle de Malines à bride ou réseau.

“Une cravatte avec les manchettes de point de Malines à bride.

“Deux autres cravattes de dentelle de Malines à réseau et trois paires de man-

chettes de pareille dentelle.”—*Inv. de Franç. Phelypeaux Loisel*. Bib. Nat. MSS. F. Fr. 11,459.

³⁹ *Inv. de décès de Madame Anne, Palatine de Bavière, Princesse de Condé*, 1723. Arch. Nat. X. 10,065.

⁴⁰ In the accounts of Madame du Barry, we have “Malines bâtarde à bordure.”

⁴¹ See p. 25.

⁴² “Voyage en Flandre,” 1681.

⁴³ B. M. Add. MSS. No. 5751.