

employ the workers and all the town with lace. Though they gain but two-pence halfpenny daily, it is a good worker who will finish a Flemish yard (28 inches) in a fortnight."

Mechlin is essentially a summer lace, not becoming in itself, but charming when worn over colour (Fig. 53). It found great favour at the court of the Regent, as the inventories of the period attest. Much of this lace, judging from these accounts, was made in the style of the modern insertion, with an edging on both sides,

Fig. 54.



Mechlin. Formerly belonging to Queen Charlotte. End of eighteenth century.

"campané," and, being light in texture, was well adapted for the gathered trimmings, later termed "quilles,"⁴⁶ now better known as "plissés à la vieille."⁴⁷ Mechlin can never have been used as a "dentelle de grande toilette;" it served for coiffures de nuit, garnitures de corset, ruffles, and cravats.⁴⁸

⁴⁶ "On chamarre les jupes en quilles de dentelles plissées."—*Mercure Galant*, 1678.

"Un volant dentelle d'Angleterre plissée."—*Extraordinaire du Mercure, Quartier d'Esté*, 1678.

⁴⁷ "1741. Une coiffure de nuit de Malines à raizeau campanée de deux pièces.

"Une paire de manches de Malines

brodée à raizeau campanée, un tour de gorge, et une garniture de corset."—*Inv. de Mademoiselle de Clermont*.

"1761. Une paire de manches de Malines bridés non campanée, tour de gorge, et garniture de corset."—*Inv. de la Duchesse de Modène*.

⁴⁸ "1720. Une garniture de teste à trois pièces de dentelle de Malines à bride.