

“Dentelles de Liège, fines et grosses de toutes sortes,” are mentioned with those of Lorraine and Du Comté (Franche-Comté) in the tariff fixed by a French edict of 18th September 1664.⁶⁹ Mrs. Calderwood, who visited Liège in 1756, admires the point edging to the surplices of the canons, which, she remarks, “have a very genteel appearance.” The manufacture had declined at Liège, in 1802, when it is classed by the French Commissioners among the “fabriques moins considérables.”

Some years since an establishment of “dentelle torchon” was established at Stavelot, near Spa. Upwards of a hundred children were then employed, and the manufacture flourished sufficiently to cause much irritation to the Belgian custom-house officers.

The lace products of St. Trond, in the province of Limburg, appear, by the report of the French commission of 1803, to have been of some importance. Lace, they say, is made at St. Trond, where from 800 to 900 are so employed, either at their own homes or in the workshops of the lace manufacturers. The laces resemble those of Brussels and Mechlin, and although they have a less reputation in commerce, several descriptions are made, and about 8000 metres are produced of laces of first quality, fetching from 12 to 14 francs the metre. These laces are chiefly made for exportation, and are sold mostly in Holland and at the Frankfort fairs.⁷⁰

Within the last few years the immense development of the Belgian lace trade has overthrown the characteristic lace of each respective city. Lace, white and black, point and pillow, may at the present time be met with in every province of the now flourishing kingdom of Belgium.

⁶⁹ Arch. Nat. Coll. Rondoneau.

⁷⁰ “Statistique du Dép. de la Meuse-Inf., par le Citoyen Cavenne. An X.”