

were sumptuary edicts issued against luxury.¹² The court set a bad example; and in 1577, at the meeting of the states of Blois, Henry wore on his own dress four thousand yards of pure gold lace. His successor, Henry IV., issued several fresh ordinances¹³ against "clinquants¹⁴ et dorures." Touching the last, Regnier, the satirist, writes:—

"A propos, on m'a dit
Que contre les clinquants le roy faict un edict."¹⁵

Better still, the king tried the effect of example: he wore a coat of grey cloth with a doublet of taffety, without either trimming or lace—a piece of economy little appreciated by the public. His dress, says an author, "sentait des misères de la Ligue." Sully, anxious to emulate the simplicity of Louis XI., laughed at those "qui portoient leurs moulins et leurs bois de haute futaie sur leurs dos."¹⁶ "It is necessary," said he, "to rid ourselves of our neighbours' goods, which deluge the country." So he prohibited, under pain of corporal punishment, any more dealings with the Flemish merchants.

But edicts failed to put down point coupé; Reine Margot, Madame Gabrielle, and Bassompierre were too strong for the minister.

The wardrobe accounts of Henry's first queen are filled with entries of point coupé and "passements à l'aiguille;"¹⁷ and though

¹² No less than ten were sent forth by the Valois kings, from 1549 to 1583.

¹³ These were dated 1594, 1600, 1601, and 1606.

¹⁴ Copper used instead of gold thread for embroidery or lace. The term was equally applied to false silver thread.

"1582. Dix escus pour dix aulnes de gaze blanche rayée d'argent clinquant pour faire ung voile à la Boullonnoise."—*Comptes de la Reine de Navarre*. Arch. Nat. K. K. 170.

¹⁵ Regnier, Math., "Ses Satyres," 1642.

¹⁶ The observation was not new. A Remonstrance to Catherine de Medicis, 1586, complains that "leurs moulins, leurs terres, leurs prez, leurs bois et leurs revenuz, se coulent en broderies, pour-filures, passemens, franges, tortis, canetilles, recameurs, chenettes, picqueurs, arrièrepains etc. qu'on invente de jour à autre."—*Discours sur l'extrême cherté etc., présenté à la Mère du Roi, par un sien*

fidelle Serviteur (Du Haïllan), Bordeaux, 1586.

¹⁷ "1579. Pour avoir remonsté trois fraises à poinet coupé, 15 sols.

"Pour avoir monté cinq fraizes à poinet coupé sur linomple, les avoir ourllés et couzeus à la petite cordelière et au poinet noué à rai-on de 30 sols pour chacune.

"Pour la façon de sept rabatz ourllés à double arrièrepoinet et couzu le passement au dessus.

"1580. Pour avoir faict d'ung mouchoir ouvré deux rabatz, 20 sols.

"Pour deux pieces de poinet coupé pour servir à ladiete dame, vi livres.

"Pour dix huit aulnes de passement blanc pour mestre à des fraizes a trois escus l'aulne."

1582. The account for this year contains entries for "passement faict à les-guille,"—"grand passement,"—"passement faict au mestier," &c.—*Comptes de la Reine de Navarre*. Arch. Nat.