

of Italian points, no lace coverlets to his "Liet d'ange moire tabizée, couleur de rose, chamarrée de dentelles d'or et d'argent."

We may almost imagine that the minister and his secretary combined were already meditating the establishment of Points de France.

In this reign, fresh sumptuary ordinances are issued. That of 27th November 1660 is the most important of all,⁴ and is highly commended by Sganarelle in the "École des Maris" of Molière, which appeared the following year:—

" Oh ! trois et quatre fois soit béni cet édit,
Par qui des vêtemens le luxe est interdit ;
Les peines des maris ne seront pas si grandes,
Et les femmes auront un frein à leurs demandes.
Oh ! que je sais au roi bon gré de ses décrets ;
Et que, pour le repos de ces mêmes maris,
Je voudrais bien qu'on fit de la coquetterie
Comme de la guipure et de la broderie."

This ordinance, after prohibiting all foreign "passemens, dentelles, points de Gênes, points coupés," &c., or any French laces or passements exceeding an inch in width, allows the use of the "collerettes" and "manchettes" persons already possess for the space of one year, after which period they are only to be trimmed with a lace made in the kingdom, not exceeding an inch in width.

The ordinance then goes on to attack the "canons,"⁵ which, it states, have been introduced into the kingdom with "un excès de dépense insupportable, par la quantité de passemens, points de Venise et Gênes," with which they are loaded. The use of them is now entirely prohibited, unless made of plain linen or of the same stuff as the coat, without lace or any ornament.

The lace-trimmed canons of Louis XIV., as represented in the picture of his interview with Philip IV., in the Island of

⁴ It is to be found at the Archives Nat. or in the Library of the Cour de Cassation. In the Archives Nat. is a small collection of ordinances relative to lace collected by M. Rondoneau, extending from 1666 to 1773. It is very difficult to get at all the ordinances. Many are printed in De la Mare ("Traité de la Police"); but the most complete work is the "Recueil général des anciennes Lois françaises,

depuis l'an 420 jusqu'à la Révolution de 1789," par MM. Isambert, Ducrusy et Taillandier. Paris, 1829. The ordinances bear two dates, that of their issue and of their registry.

⁵ The "bas à bottes," afterwards called "canon," was a circle of linen or other stuff fastened below the knee, widening at the bottom so as to fill the enlargement of the boot, and, when trimmed with lace, having the appearance of a ruffle.