

Pheasants, previous to his marriage, 1660 (Fig. 64), give a good idea of these extravagant appendages. These

“Canons à trois étages  
A leurs jambes faisoient d'ombrages;”<sup>6</sup>

and, what was worse, they would cost 7000 livres a pair.

“At the court of France,” writes Savinière, “people think nothing of buying rabats, manchettes, or canons, to the value of 13,000 crowns.”<sup>7</sup>

These canons with their accompanying rheingraves,<sup>8</sup> which after the prohibition of Venice point were adorned with the new productions of France, suddenly disappeared. In 1682, the “*Mercure*” announces, “Les canons and les rheingraves deviennent tout à fait hors de mode.”

At the marriage of the young king with the infanta, 1660, black lace,<sup>9</sup> probably in compliment to the Spanish court,<sup>10</sup> came into favour, the nobles of the king's suite wearing doublets of gold and silver brocade, “ornés,” says the “*Chronique*,”<sup>11</sup> “de dentelles noires d'un point recherché.”<sup>12</sup> The same writer, describing the noviciate of La Vallière at the Carmelites, writes, “Les dames portoient des robes de brocard d'or, d'argent ou d'azur, par dessus

<sup>6</sup> “*Dictionnaire des Précieuses*,” 1660.

Molière likewise ridicules them:

“Et de ces grands canons, où, comme  
des entraves,  
On met tous les matins les deux jambes  
esclaves.”

*L'École des Maris.*

And again, in *L'École des Femmes*:

“Ils ont de grands canons, force rubans  
et plumes.”

<sup>7</sup> “*Les Délices de la France*, par  
M. Savinière d'Alquie,” 1670.

<sup>8</sup> The petticoat-shaped garment, fastened round the knee with a drawing string, as worn in the time of Charles II.

<sup>9</sup> The fashion of wearing black lace was introduced into England in the reign of Charles II. “Anon the house grew full, and the candles lit, and it was a glorious sight to see our Mistress Stewart in black and white lace, and her head and shoulders dressed with diamonds.”—*Pepys' Diary*.

“The French have increased among us

many considerable trades, such as black and white lace.”—*England's Great Happiness, &c.* Dialogue between Content and Complaint. 1677.

“Item, un autre habit de grosse moire garny de dantelle d'Angleterre noire.”—*Inv. de Madame de Simiane*, 1691. Arch. Nat. M. M. 802.

<sup>10</sup> Of this custom a relic may still be found at the court of Turin, where ladies wear lappets of black lace. Not many years since, the wife of a Russian minister, persisting to appear in a suit of Brussels point, was courteously requested by the grand chamberlain to retire.

<sup>11</sup> “*Chroniques de l'Œil-de-Bœuf*.”

<sup>12</sup> Madame de Motteville is not complimentary to the ladies of the Spanish court: “Elles avoient peu de linge,” she writes, “et leurs dentelles nous parurent laides.”—*Mémoires pour servir à l'histoire d'Anne d'Autriche*.