

lesquelles elles avoient jetées d'autre robes et dentelles noires transparentes."¹³ Under Louis XIV., the gold and silver points of Spain and Aurillac rivalled in fashion the thread manufactures of Flanders and Italy, but towards the close of the century,¹⁴ we are informed, they have fallen into the "domaine du vulgaire."

The ordinance of 1660 had but little effect, for various others are issued in the following years, with the oft repeated prohibitions of the points of Genoa and Venice.¹⁵ But edicts were of little avail. No royal command could compel people to substitute the laces of France¹⁶ for the artistic productions of her sister countries. Colbert, therefore, wisely adopted another expedient. He determined to develop the lace manufacture in France, and to produce fabrics which should rival the coveted points of Italy and Flanders, so that if fortunes were lavished upon these luxuries, the money, at all events, should not be sent out of the kingdom to procure them.

By his order were suborned from Venice and the Low Countries a number of the most skilful workwomen, whom he distributed among the manufactories already existing, and in towns where he established new ones.

A declaration of the 5th August 1665 orders the establishment in the towns of Du Quesnoy, Arras, Rheims, Sedan, Château-Thierry, Loudun, Alençon, Aurillac, and others in the kingdom, of the manufacture of all sorts of works of thread, as well of the needle as on the pillow, in the manner of the points which are made at Venice, Genoa, Ragusa, and in other foreign countries, which shall be called "points de France."¹⁷ An exclusive privilege is given for ten years, and a grant of 36,000 francs. A company was

¹³ Madame de Sévigné mentions these dresses: "Avez-vous ouï parler des transparents? . . . de robes noires transparentes ou des belles dentelles d'Angleterre?"—*Lettres*. Transparents were light tissues upon which were applied flowers and foliage painted by hand.

¹⁴ 1690. "Chron. de l'Œil-de-Bœuf."

¹⁵ 1661, May 27; 1662, Jan. 1; 1664, May 31, Sept. 18, and Dec. 12.

¹⁶ "On fabriquoit précédemment ces espèces de dentelles guipures, dont nous voyont encore quelques restes, et dont on ornoit les aubes des prêtres, les rochets des évêques et les jupons des femmes de qualité."—*Roland de la Platière*. The

articles on lace by Roland and Savary have been copied by all succeeding writers on the subject.

¹⁷ We have in vain sought for this ordinance in the Library of the Cour de Cassation, where it is stated to be by the authors of the "Recueil des Lois françaises," but fortunately it is recited in a subsequent arrêt, dated 12 October 1666 (Arch. Nat. Coll. Rondoneau), by which it appears that the declaration ordered the establishment, in "les villes du Quesnoy, Arras, Reims, Sedan, Château-Thierry, Loudun, Alençon, Aurillac, et autres du royaume, de la manufacture de toutes sortes d'ouvrages de fil,