

CHAPTER X.

LOUIS XIV. (*continued*).

"Tout change: la raison change aussi de méthode;
Écrits, habillemens, systèmes: tout est mode."

Racine fils, Épître à Rousseau.

THE point de France continued to be worn in the greatest profusion during the reign of Louis XIV. The king affected his new-born fabric much as monarchs of the present day do their tapestries and their porcelains. It decorated the church and her ministers. Ladies offered "tours de chaire à l'église de la paroisse."¹ Albs, "garnies d'un grand point de France brodé antique;"² altar-cloths, trimmed with Argentan,³ appear in the church registers.⁴ In a painting at Versailles, by old Watteau, representing the presentation of the grand dauphin to his royal father, 1668, the infant is enveloped in a mantle of the richest point (Fig. 65); and point de France was selected by royal command to trim the sheets of holland used at the ceremony of his "nomination."⁵ At the marriages both of the Prince de Conti and of Mademoiselle de Blois the toilette⁶ presented by the king was "garnie de point de France si haut qu'on ne voyait

¹ "Deux tours de chaire de point de France donnez depuis quelques années par deux dames de la paroisse."—*Inv. de l'église de Saint-Merry, à Paris.* Arch. Nat. L. L. 859.

² "Inv. de Madame Anne Palatine de Bavière, Princesse de Condé." *Ibid.* X. 10,065.

³ "Inv. de l'église de Saint-Gervais, à Paris." *Ibid.* L. L. 854.

⁴ The saints, too, came in for their share of the booty.

"There was St. Winifred," writes a traveller of the day, "in a point commode with a large scarf on and a loup in hand, as tho' she were going to mass. St.

Denis, with a laced hat and embroidered coat and sash, like a captain of the guards."—*Six Weeks of France*, 1691.

⁵ "Toille de Hollande, avec des grands points de France."—*Le Cérémonial de la Nomination de Monseigneur le Dauphin*, 1668. Arch. Nat. K. K. 1431.

⁶ "Le Mercure Galant," Juillet 1688. This periodical, which we shall have occasion so frequently to quote, was begun in 1672, and continued to July 1716. It comprises, with the "Extraordinaires," 571 vols. in 12mo.

"Le Mercure de France," from 1717 to 1792, consists of 777 vols. Brunet, "Manuel du Libraire."