

with cravats and ruffles of the finest point.¹⁶ These cravats were either worn of point, in one piece, or partly of muslin tied, with falling lace ends¹⁷ (Fig. 66).

In 1679, the king gave a fête at Marly to the élite of his brilliant court: when, at sunset, the ladies retired to repair their toilettes, previous to the ball, each found in her dressing-room a robe fresh and elegant, trimmed with point of the most exquisite texture, a present from that gallant monarch not yet termed "l'inamusable."

Nor was the Veuve Scarron behind the rest. When, in 1674, she purchased the estate from which she afterwards derived her

Fig. 66.



Louvois. 1691. From his statue by Girardon. Musée Nationale, Versailles.

title of Maintenon, anxious to render it productive, she enticed Flemish workers from the frontier to establish a lace manufacture upon her newly acquired marquisate. How the fabric succeeded, history does not relate, but the costly laces depicted in her portraits (Fig. 67) have not the appearance of home manufacture.

Point lace-making became a favourite employment among ladies. We have many engravings of this reign: one, 1691, of a "fille de qualité" thus occupied, with the motto, "Après dîner vous travaillez au point." Another,¹⁸ from an engraving of Le

¹⁶ "Mercure Galant," Fév. 1685.

¹⁷ Ibid. 1678.

¹⁸ At the Mazarin Library there are four folio volumes of engravings, after Bonnard and others, of the costumes of

the time of Louis XIV.; and at the Archives Nat. is a large series preserved in cartons numbered M. 815 to 823, &c., labelled "Gravures de Modes."