

to a handsome portion in England. Five thousand pounds' worth of lace, linen, &c., is a common thing among them."

The masks worn by the ladies at this period were of black blonde lace²⁵ of the most exquisite fineness and design.²⁶ They were trimmed round the eyes, like those described by Scarron:—

"Dirai-je comme ces fantasques
Qui portent dentelle à leurs masques,
En chararrent les trous des yeux,
Croyant que le masque en est mieux."

In the reign of Louis XV., point de France was rivalled by

Fig. 75.



Marie Thérèse Ant.-Raph., Infanta of Spain, first wife of Louis Dauphin, son of Louis XV.
By Tocqué. Dated 1748. Musée Nationale, Versailles.

Angleterre²⁷ and Malines. Argentan and Alençon (Fig. 75) were declared by fashion to be "dentelles d'hiver": each lace now

pour la mère, garnies de dentelle. 24 bonnets ronds de 3 âges en dentelle. 12 bavoires de deux âges, garnis en dentelle." The layette was furnished together with the trousseau.

²⁵ "1787. Pour achat de 11 au. blonde noire, à 6 10, 71 livres 10 sous."—*Comptes de Monsieur Hergosse*. Bib. Nat. MSS. F. Fr. 11,447.

²⁶ When the Empress Joséphine was at Frankfort on the Main, a masked ball

was given on the occasion. The ladies, says Mademoiselle Avrillion, wore short dominoes with their faces covered with a mask, "le tour des yeux garni d'une petite dentelle noir."—*Mém. de Mademoiselle Avrillion, première femme de chambre de l'Impératrice*. Paris, 1833.

²⁷ A few extracts from Madame du Barry's lace accounts will furnish an idea of her consumption of point d'Angleterre:—