

CHAPTER XII.

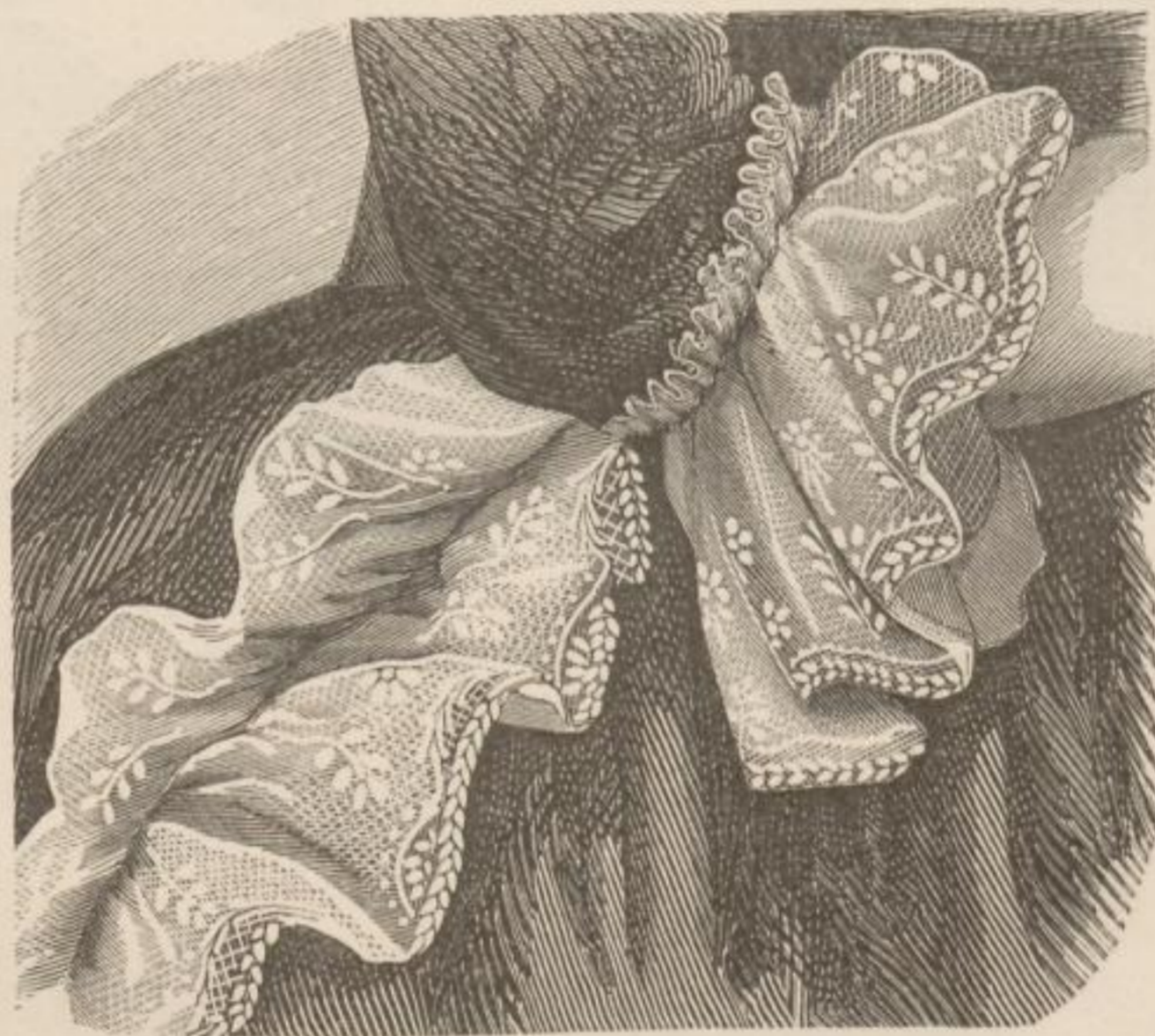
LOUIS XVI. TO THE EMPIRE.

"Proud Versailles! thy glory falls."

Pope.

IN the reign of Louis XVI. society, tired out with ceremony and the stately manners of the old court, at last began to emancipate itself. Marie-Antoinette (Fig. 76) first gave the signal. Rid

Fig. 76.



Marie-Antoinette. From a picture by Madame Le Brun. Mus. Nat. Versailles.

herself of the preachings of "Madame Étiquette" she could not on state occasions, so she did her best to amuse herself in private. The finest Indian muslin¹ now supplanted the heavy points of

¹ Madame du Barry, in her Memoirs, mentions the purchase of Indian muslin so fine that the piece did not weigh 15 oz., although sufficient to make four dresses.