

coups perfides" and "venez-y-voir" in emeralds. Her hair "en sentiments soutenus," with a cap of "conquête assurée," trimmed with ribbons of "œil abattu;" a "chat⁶ sur le col," the colour of "gueux nouvellement arrivé," and upon her shoulders a Medicis "en bienséance," and her muff of "agitation momentanée."

In the accounts of Mademoiselle Bertin, the queen's milliner, known for her saying, "Il n'y a rien de nouveau dans ce monde que ce qui est oublié," we have little mention of lace.⁷

"Blond à fond d'Alençon semé à poix, à mouches," now usurps the place of the old points. Even one of the "grandes dames de la vieille cour," Madame Adélaïde de France herself, is represented in her picture by Madame Guiard with a spotted handkerchief, probably of blonde (Fig. 77).

The church alone protects the ancient fabrics. The lace of the Rohan family, almost hereditary prince-archbishops of Strasburg, was of inestimable value. "We met," writes the Baroness de Oberkirch, "the cardinal coming out of his chapel dressed in a soutane of scarlet moire and rochet of English lace of inestimable value. When on great occasions he officiates at Versailles, he wears an alb of old lace 'en point à l'aiguille,' of such beauty that his assistants were almost afraid to touch it. His arms and device are worked in a medallion above the large flowers. This alb is estimated at 100,000 livres. On the day of which I speak he wore the rochet of English lace, one of his least beautiful, as his secretary, the Abbé Georget, told me."⁸

On his elevation to the see of Bourges, 1859, Monseigneur de La Tour d'Auvergne celebrated mass at Rome arrayed with all the sacerdotal ornaments of point d'Alençon of the finest workmanship. This lace descended to him from his uncle, Cardinal de La Tour d'Auvergne, who had inherited them from his mother, Madame d'Aumale, so well known as the friend of Madame Maintenon. Under the first empire a complete suit of lace was offered to the

⁶ "Souvenirs du Marquis de Valfons, 1710-1786. A "chat," tippet or palatine; so named after the mother of the regent.

⁷ In the National Archives, formerly preserved with the "Livre Rouge," in the Armoire de Fer, is the "Gazette pour l'année 1782," of Marie-Antoinette, consisting of a list of the dresses furnished for the queen during the year, drawn up by the Comtesse d'Ossune, her "dame

des atours." We find—"grands habits, robes sur le grand panier, robes sur le petit panier," with a pattern of the material affixed to each entry, and the name of the "couturière" who made the dress. One "Lévite" alone appears trimmed with blonde. There is also the Gazette of Madame Elizabeth, for 1792.

⁸ "Mémoires sur la Cour de Louis XVI."