

It is difficult to reconcile this with the previous statement; still, in the "Colbert Correspondence" and in the ordinances, there is no mention of Dame Gilbert and the château of Lonray;<sup>2</sup> and, in a letter from Catherine de Marcq, one of the "entrepreneurs," August 26, 1665, she asks leave to present to him the person she desires to send to Alençon, and her name is Marie Fillesac.

The "entrepreneurs" had found the lace industry flourishing at the time of the establishment of the point de France.

Point d'Alençon is mentioned in the "Révolte des Passemens," 1661, evidently as an advanced manufacture, but the monopoly of the privileged workmen—the new comers—displeased the old workwomen, and Colbert was too despotic in his orders prohibiting to make any kind of point except that of the royal manufactory,<sup>3</sup> and made the people so indignant that they revolted. The intendant, Dubourlay Favier, writes to Colbert, August 1665, that one named Le Prevost, of this town, having given suspicion to the people that he was about to form an establishment of "ouvrages de fil," the women to the number of above 1000 assembled and pursued him so that if he had not managed to escape their fury, he would assuredly have suffered from their violence. "He took refuge with me," he continues, "and I with difficulty appeased the multitude by assuring them that they would not be deprived of the liberty of working. It is a fact that for many years the town of Alençon subsists only by means of these small works of lace. That the same people make and sell, and in years of scarcity they subsist only by this little industry, and that wishing to take away their liberty, they were so incensed I had great difficulty in pacifying them."

The act, it appears, had come from the parliament of Paris, but as Alençon is in Normandy, it is necessary to have the assent of the parliament of Rouen.

"Point coupé," he adds, "has been long made here, which has a sale during its time, but a woman named Laperrière, skilled in these works, found some years since the means of imitating point de Venise in such perfection that she sold each collar she made at 1500 to 2000 francs. She has taught several girls this point because the work was very tedious, and she could not execute it

<sup>2</sup> Lonray belonged to Colbert's son, the Marquis de Seignelay, by his marriage (1671) with Mademoiselle Matignon.

<sup>3</sup> See p. 128.