

themselves to black. In order to preserve purity of colour, the lacemakers work during the summer months in the open air, in winter in lofts over their cow-houses: warmed by the heat of the animals, they dispense with fire and its accompanying smoke.<sup>16</sup> Generally, it was only made in summer, and the black reserved for winter work. Peuchet speaks of white lace being made in Caen from the lowest price to 25 livres the ell.<sup>17</sup> The silk blonde trade did not suffer from the crisis of 1821 to 1832; when the thread-lace makers were reduced to the brink of ruin by the introduction of bobbin-net, the demand for blonde, on the contrary, had a rapid increase, and Caen exported great quantities, by smuggling, to England. The blonde-makers earning twenty-five per cent. more than the thread-lace makers, the province was in full prosperity. The competition with the machine-made blondes of Calais and Nottingham has caused the manufacture of the white blondes to be abandoned, and the Caen lace-makers now confine themselves to making black lace. Caen also produces gold and silver blondes, mixed sometimes with pearls. In 1847 the laces of Caen alone employed more than 50,000 persons, or one-eighth of the whole population of Calvados.

Bayeux formerly made only light thread laces—mignonettes, and what Peuchet calls<sup>18</sup> "point de Marli." "On ne voit dans ces dentelles," he writes, "que du réseau de diverses espèces, du fond et une canetille à gros fil, qu'on conduit autour de ces fonds." Marli, styled in the Dictionary of Napoléon Landais a "tissu à jour en fil et en soie fabriqué sur le métier à faire de la gaze," was in fact the predecessor of tulle. It was invented about 1765,<sup>19</sup> and for twenty years had great success. In the "Tableau de Paris," 1782, we read that marli employed a great number of workpeople, "et l'on a vu des soldats valides et invalides faire le marli, le promener, l'offrir, et le vendre eux-mêmes. Des soldats faire le

<sup>16</sup> Letter from Edgar McCulloch, Esq., Guernsey.

<sup>17</sup> Blondes appear also to have been made at Le Mans:—

"Cette manufacture qui étoit autrefois entretenue à l'hôpital du Mans, lui rapportoit un bénéfice de 4000 à 5000 fr. Elle est bien tombée par la dispersion des anciennes sœurs hospitalières."—*Stat. du Dép. de la Sarthe, par le Citoyen L.-M. Auvray. An X.*

<sup>18</sup> The handkerchief of "Paris net," mentioned by Goldsmith.

<sup>19</sup> In the *Dép. du Nord*, by Jean-Ph. Briatte. "Its fall was owing to the bad faith of imitators, who substituted a single thread of bad quality for the double twisted thread of the country."—*Dieudonné, Statistique du Dép. du Nord.*

In the "*Mercure Galant*" for June 1686, we find the ladies wear "cornettes à la jardinière 'de Marly.'"