

## CHAPTER XIX.

## LIMOUSIN.

IN the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, a kind of pillow net ("torchon entoilage," Mr. Ferguson calls it)<sup>1</sup> for women's sleeves was manufactured at Tulle (Corrèze), and also at Aurillac. From this circumstance many writers have derived "tulle," the French name for bobbin-net, from this town, where it has never, at any period, been made.

The first dictionary in which the word "tulle" occurs is the French Encyclopædia of 1765, where we find, "Tulle, une espèce de dentelle commune mais plus ordinairement ce qu'on appelait entoilage."<sup>2</sup> Entoilage, as we have already shown, is the plain net ground upon which the pattern is worked,<sup>3</sup> or a plain net used to widen points or laces, or worn as a plain border. In Louis XV.'s reign, Madame de Mailly is described after she had retired from the world as "sans rouge, sans poudre, et, qui plus est, sans dentelles, attendu qu'elle ne portait plus que de l'entoilage à bord plat."<sup>4</sup> We read in the "Tableau de Paris" how "le tul, la gaz et le marli ont occupés cent mille mains." Tulle was made on the pillow in Germany before lace was introduced. If tulle derived its name from any town, it would more probably be from Toul, celebrated, as all others in Lorraine, for its embroidery; and as net resembles the stitches made in embroidery by separating the threads (hemstitch, &c.), it may have taken its French name, tulle, German, Tüll, from the points de Tulle of the workwomen of the town of Toul, called in Latin, Tullum, or Tullo.<sup>5</sup>

<sup>1</sup> "1773. 6 au. de grande entoilage de belle blonde à poix."

<sup>2</sup> "16 au. entoilage à mouches à 11 l., 176 l."—*Comptes de Madame du Barry*.

<sup>3</sup> "7 au. de tulle pour hausser les manchettes, à 9 l., 63 l."—*Comptes de Madame du Barry*, 1770.

<sup>4</sup> "Souvenirs de la Marquise de Créquy."

<sup>5</sup> In an old geography, we find "Tulle, Tuille three hundred years ago."

The word Tule, or Tuly, occurs in an English inventory of 1315, and again, in "Sir Gawayn and the Green Knight;"