

master, Louis XIV., whom he, in not too respectful terms, calls "le roi trop crédule," signed the Act of Revocation (1685), Europe was at once inundated with the most skilful workmen of France. Hamburg alone of the Hanse Towns received the wanderers. Lübeck and Bremen, in defiance of the remonstrances of the Protestant princes, allowed no strangers to settle within their precincts. The emigrants soon established considerable manufactories of gold and silver lace, and also that now extinct fabric known under the name of "Hamburg point,"²⁰ probably a kind of drawn-work, like the Dresden point.

Miss Knight, in her "Autobiography," notes: "At Hamburg, just before we embarked, Nelson purchased a magnificent lace trimming for Lady Nelson, and a black lace cloak for another lady, who, he said, had been very attentive to his wife during his absence."

On the very year of the Revocation, Frederick William, Elector of Brandenburg, anxious to attract the fugitive workmen to his dominions, issued from Potsdam an edict²¹ in their favour. Crowds of French Protestants responded to the call, and before many years had passed, Berlin alone boasted 450 lace manufactories.²² Previous to this emigration she had none. These "mangeurs d'haricots," as the Prussians styled the emigrants, soon amassed large fortunes, and exported their laces to Poland and to Russia. The tables were turned. France, who formerly exported lace in large quantities to Germany, now received it from the hands of her exiled workmen, and in 1723 and 1734, we find "Arrêts du Conseil d'État," relative to the importation of German laces.²³ Louis XV. having asked Frederick the Great what he could do most agreeable to him, replied, "A second Edict of Nantes."

The Landgrave of Hesse also received the refugees, publishing an edict in their favour.²⁴ Two establishments of fine point were set up at Hanover.²⁵ Leipzig, Anspach,²⁶ Elberfeld, all profited by the migration. "On compte," writes Peuchet, "à Leipsig cinq fabriques de dentelles et de galon d'or et d'argent."

²⁰ Weisse.

²¹ Dated 29 Oct. 1685.

²² Anderson.

²³ Arch. Nat. Col. Rondoneau.

²⁴ "Commissions and Privileges granted

by Charles I., Landgrave of Hesse, to the French Protestants, dated Cassel, 12 Dec. 1685."

²⁵ Peuchet.

²⁶ Anderson.