

body of 2000 refugees into his service, and at once established a manufacture of lace,³⁷ especially gold lace made with false gold of Nuremberg, a cheap, strong production which was sent to Spain and the colonies. The produce of this industry was smuggled back into France, the goods conveyed across the Jura over passes known only to the bearers, by which they avoided the custom-house duties of Valence. "Every day," writes Jambonneau, himself a manufacturer, "they tell my wife what lace they want, and she takes their orders." Louis XIV. was furious.³⁸

Though lace-making employed many women in various parts of the country, who made a common description while tending their flocks in the mountains, Neufchâtel has always been the "chef-lieu" of the trade. "In this town," says Savary, "they have carried their works to such a degree of perfection as to rival the laces of Flanders, not only in beauty but in quality." We have ourselves seen in Switzerland guipures of fine workmanship that were made in the country, belonging to old families, in which they have remained as heirlooms; and have now in our possession a pair of lappets, made in the last century at Neufchâtel, of such exquisite beauty as not to be surpassed by the richest productions of Brussels.

Formerly lace-making employed a large number of workmen in the Val-de-Travers, where, during his sojourn at Moutiers, Jean-Jacques Rousseau tells us he amused himself in handling the bobbins.

In 1780, the lace trade was an object of great profit to the country, producing laces valuing from 1 batz to upwards of 70 francs the ell, and exporting to the amount of 1,500,000 francs; on which the workwomen gained 800,000, averaging their labour at scarcely 8 sols per day. The villages of Fleurens and Connet were the centre of this once flourishing trade,³⁹ now ruined by competition with Mirecourt. In 1814 there were in the Neufchâtel district 5628 lace-makers; in 1844, a few aged women alone remained. The modern laces of Neufchâtel resemble those of Lille, but are apt to wash thick.

In 1840, a manufacture of "point plat de Bruxelles dite de Genève" was established at Geneva.

³⁷ Haag, "La France Protestante." Bâle.

³⁸ The Neufchâtel trade extended through the Jura range from the valley of Lake Joux (Vaud) to Porentruy, near

³⁹ "Statistique de la Suisse. Picot, de Genève." 1819.