

CHAPTER XXI.

DENMARK, SWEDEN, AND RUSSIA.

DENMARK.

“ERASTE.—Miss, how many parties have you been to this week?”

“LADY.—I do not frequent such places; but if you want to know how much lace I have made this fortnight, I might well tell you.”

Holberg, The Inconstant Lady.

“The far-famed lace of Tønder.”

“A CERTAIN kind of embroidery, or cutwork in linen, was much used in Denmark before lace came in from Brabant,” writes Professor Thomsen. “This kind of work is still in use among the peasants, and you will often have observed it on their bed-clothes.”

The art of lace-making itself is supposed to have been first brought over by the fugitive monks at the Reformation, or to have been introduced by Queen Elizabeth,¹ sister of Charles V., and wife of Christian II., that good queen who, had her husband been more fortunate, would, says the chronicler, “have proved a second Dagmar to Denmark.”

Lace-making has never been practised as a means of livelihood throughout Denmark. It is only in the province of North Schleswig (or South Jutland, as it is also called) that a regular manufacture was established. It is here that King Christian IV. appears to have made his purchases; and while travelling in Schleswig, entries constantly occur in his journal book, from 1619 to 1625, such as, “Paid to a female lace-worker 28 rixdollars—71 specie to a lace-seller for lace for the use of the children,” and many similar notices.² It was one of those pieces of Tønder lace

¹ On her marriage, 1515.

² 1619. Sept. 11. Paid for a lace, 63 rixd. 11 skillings.

1620. Oct. 11. Paid to a female lace-worker, 28 rixd.

„ Nov. 4. Paid 10 rixd. to a female lace-worker who received her dismissal