

of Mrs. Turner at Tyburn, in 1615, are usually said, on the authority of Howel,<sup>16</sup> to have put an end to the fashion of yellow ruffs, but the above extracts show they were worn for some years later.

The bishops, who first denounced the ruff, themselves held to the fashion long after it had been set aside by all other professions. Folks were not patriotic in their tastes, as in more modern days; they loved to go "as far as Paris to fetch over a fashion and come back again."<sup>17</sup>

The lace of Flanders, with the costly points and cutworks of Italy,<sup>18</sup> now became the rage, and continued so for nigh two centuries. Ben Jonson speaks of the "ruffs and cuffs of Flanders,"<sup>19</sup> while Lord Bacon, indignant at the female caprice of the day, writes to Sir George Villiers:—"Our English dames are much given to the wearing of costly laces, and if they be brought from Italy, or France, or Flanders, they are in much esteem; whereas, if like laces were made by the English, so much thread would make a yard of lace, being put into that manufacture, would be five times, or perhaps ten or twenty times the value."<sup>20</sup> But Bacon had far better have looked at home, for he had himself, when chancellor, granted an exclusive patent to Sir Giles Mompesson, the original of Sir Giles Overreach, for the monopoly of the sale and manufacture of gold and silver thread, the abuses of which caused in part his fall.<sup>21</sup>

James had half ruined the commerce of England by the granting of monopolies, which, says Sir John Culpepper, are "as numerous as the frogs of Egypt. They have got possession of our dwellings, they sip in our cups, they dip in our dish. They sit by our fire. We find them in the dye-vat, wash-bowl, and powdering-tub, etc.; they have marked and sealed us from head to foot."<sup>22</sup> The bone-lace trade suffered alike with other handicrafts.<sup>23</sup> In

<sup>16</sup> "Mistris Turner, the first inventresse of yellow starch, was executed in a cobweb lawn ruff of that colour at Tyburn, and with her I believe that yellow starch, which so much disfigured our nation and rendered them so ridiculous and fantastic, will receive its funerall."—*Howel's Letters*, 1645.

<sup>17</sup> Carlo, in "Every Man Out of His Humour," 1599.

<sup>18</sup> "Eidem pro 29 virg' de opere sciss' bon' Italic', ad 35s., 68l. 5s."—*Gl. W. A.*

*Jac. I.* 5 & 6.

<sup>19</sup> "The New Inn."

<sup>20</sup> "Advice to Sir George Villiers."

<sup>21</sup> See "Parliamentary History of England."

Sir Giles was proceeded against as "a monopolist and patentee," and sentenced to be degraded and banished for life.

<sup>22</sup> Speech in parliament. "Rushout Papers," vol. xi. p. 916.

<sup>23</sup> "The office or grant for sealing bone lace was quashed by the King's