

the quarter sessions arrayed in the new fashion, owned "one may speak as good sense in a falling band as in a ruff." The change did not, however, diminish the extravagance of the age. The bills for the king's lace and linen, which in the year 1625 amounted to 1000*l.*, in course of time rose to 1500*l.*⁵⁷ Falling bands of Flanders bone lace and cutwork appear constantly in the accounts.⁵⁸ As the foreign materials are carefully specified (it was one of the articles, then a novelty, that Queen Anne of Denmark "bought of the French Mann"), we may infer much of the bobbin or bone lace to have been of home produce. As Ben Jonson says, "Rich apparel has strong virtues." It is, he adds, "the birdlime of fools." There was, indeed, no article of toilet at this period which was not encircled with lace—towels, sheets, shirts, caps, cushions, boots

Fig. 116.



From an engraving of Abraham Bosse.

Fig. 117.



From an engraving of Abraham Bosse.

(Fig. 116), cuffs (Fig. 117); and, as too often occurs in the case of excessive luxury, when the bills came in, money was wanting to discharge them; Julian Elliott, the royal lace merchant, seldom receiving more than half her account, and in 1630—nothing.⁵⁹ There were, as Shakespeare says,

"Bonds entered into
For gay apparel against the triumph day."⁶⁰

⁵⁷ In 1633, the bills having risen to 1500*l.* a year, a project is made for reducing the charge for the king's fine linen and bone lace, "for his body," again to 1000*l.* per annum, for which sum it "may be very well done."—*State Papers*, Chas. I. vol. ccxxxiv. No. 83.

⁵⁸ "Paid to Smith Wilkinson, for 420 yards of good Flanders bone lace for 12

day ruffles and 6 night ruffles 'cum cuffes eisdem,' 87*l.* 15*s.*

"For 6 falling bands made of good broad Flanders lace and Cuttworks with cuffes of the same, 52*l.* 16*s.*"—*Gt. W. A.* Car. I. 6=1631.

⁵⁹ See *G. W. A.* Mich. 1629 to April 1630.

⁶⁰ "Twelfth Night."