

The quantity of needlework purl consumed on the king's hunting collars, "colares pro venatione," scarcely appears credible. One entry alone makes 994 yards for 12 collars and 24 pairs of cuffs.⁶¹ Again, 600 yards of fine bone lace is charged for trimming the ruffs of the king's night-clothes.⁶²

The art of lace-making was now carried to great perfection in England; so much so that the lease of twenty-one years, granted in 1627 to Dame Barbara Villiers, of the duties on gold and silver thread, became a terrible loss to the holder, who, in 1629, petitions for a discharge of 437*l.* 10*s.* arrears due to the crown. The prayer is favourably received by the officers of the customs, to whom it was referred, who answer they "conceive those duties will decay, for the invention of making Venice gold and silver lace within the kingdom is come to that perfection that it will be made here more cheap than it can be brought from beyond seas."⁶³ The fancy for foreign articles still prevailed. "Among the goods brought in by Tristram Stephens," writes Sir John Hippisley, from Dover Castle, "are the bravest French bandes that ever I did see for ladies—they be fit for the Queen."⁶⁴

Gold lace was exported in considerable quantities to India in the days of James I.;⁶⁵ and now, in 1631, we find the "riband roses," edged with lace, notified among the articles allowed to be exported. These lace rosette-trimmed shoes were in vogue in the time of James I., and when first brought to that monarch, he refused to adopt the fashion, asking "if they wanted to make a ruffe-footed dove of him." They were afterwards worn in all the

⁶¹ G. W. A. Car. I. the Annunciation 9 to Mich. 11.

⁶² Ibid. 8 and 9.

⁶³ "State Papers, Dom." Charles I. vol. cxlix. No. 31.

⁶⁴ In a letter to Mr. Edward Nicholas, Sec. of the Admiralty, 7 March 1627 (afterwards Sec. of State to Chas. II.). "State Papers, Dom." Charles I. vol. cxxiii. 62.

Among the "State Papers" (vol. cxxvi. 70) is a letter from Susan Nicholas to her "loveing Brother," 1628, about lace for his band. She writes:—"I have sent you your bootehose and could have sent your lase for your band, but that I did see these lasees which to my thought did do a greddeale better than that wh you did bespeake, and the best of them will cost

no more then that which is half a crowne a yard, and so the uppermost will cost you, and the other will cost 18 pence; I did thinke you would rather stave something long for it then to pay so deare for that wh would make no better show; if you like either of these, you shall have it some desptch, for I am promise to have it made in a fortnight. I haue received the monie from my cousson Hunton. Heare is no news to wright of. Thus with my best love remembred unto you, I rest your very loving sister,

"SUSANNE NICHOLAS.

"I have sent ye the lase ye foyrst bespoke, to compare them together, to see which ye like best."

⁶⁵ See p. 287, note ³⁵.