

JAMES II.

“To know the age and pedigrees
Of points of Flanders and Venise.”
Hudibras.

The reign of James II., short and troubled, brought but little change in the fashion of the day.

Charles II., in the last year of his reign, spends 20*l.* 12*s.* for a new cravat to be worn “on the birthday of his dear brother,”²⁴ and James expends 29*l.* upon one of Venice point to appear in on that of his queen. Frequent entries of lace for the attendants of the Chapel Royal form items in the royal wardrobe accounts.

Ruffles, night-rails, and cravats of point d’Espagne and de Venise now figure in gazettes,²⁵ but “Flanders lace is still in high estimation,” writes somebody, in 1668, “and even fans are made of it.”

Then James II. fled, and years after we find him dying at Saint-Germain in—a laced nightcap. “This cap was called a ‘toquet,’ and put on when the king was in extremis, as a compliment to Louis XIV.” “It was the court etiquette for all the Royals,” writes Madame, in her “Memoirs,” “to die with a nightcap on.” The toquet of King James may still be seen by the curious, adorning a wax model of the king’s head, preserved as a relic in the Museum of Dunkirk.²⁶

Out of mingled gratitude, we suppose, for the hospitality she had received at the French court, and the protection of the angels,

²⁴ Gt. W. A. Car. II. 35-36 = 1683-4.

²⁵ “Gazette,” July 20, 1682. Lost, a portmanteau full of women’s clothes, among which are enumerated “two pairs of Point d’Espagne ruffles, a laced night rail and waistcoat, a pair of Point de Venise ruffles, a black laced scarf,” &c.—*Malcolm’s Anecdotes of London.*

The lace of James II.’s cravats and ruffles are of point de Venise.

“Sex prælant cravatts de lacinia Venetiarum” are charged 141*l.*, and 9 yards lace, for six more cravats, 45*l.*

3*l.* 10*s.* for the cravat of Venice lace to wear on the day of his coronation, &c. G. W. A. Jac. II. 1685-6.

²⁶ A writer in the “Gentleman’s Magazine” (October 1745) mentions: “In the parlour of the monastery of English Benedictines at Paris, I was shown the mask of the king’s face, taken off immediately after he was dead, together with the fine laced nightcap he died in.” The cap at Dunkirk is trimmed with Flemish lace (old Mechlin). It must have passed from Paris to the convent of English Benedictines at Dunkirk, who left that city in 1793. There is no record how it became deposited in the Museum. Communicated by M. de la Forcade, Conservator of the Museum, Dunkirk.