

## CHAPTER XXVIII.

## GEORGE III.

"In clothes, cheap handsomeness doth bear the bell,  
 Wisdome's a trimmer thing than shop e'er gave.  
 Say not then, This with that lace will do well;  
 But, This with my discretion will be brave.  
 Much curiousnesse is a perpetual wooing,  
 Nothing with labour, fully long a doing."

*Herbert, The Church Porch.*

IN 1760 commences the reign of George III. The king was patriotic, and did his best to encourage the fabrics of his country.

From the year 1761, various acts were passed for the benefit of the lace-makers: the last, that of 1806, "increases the duties on foreign laces."<sup>1</sup>

Queen Charlotte, on her first landing in England, wore, in compliment to the subjects of her royal consort, a fly cap richly trimmed with lappets of British lace, and a dress of similar manufacture.

The Englishman, however, regardless of the Anti-Gallicans, preferred his "Macklin" and his Brussels to all the finest productions of Devonshire or Newport Pagnel.

Ruffles,<sup>2</sup> according to the fashion of Tavistock Street and St. James's, in May 1773, still continued long, dipped in the sauce alike by clown and cavalier.<sup>3</sup>

"The beau,  
 A critic styled in point of dress,  
 Harangues on fashion, point, and lace."

A man was known by his "points"; he collected lace, as, in these more athletic days, a gentleman prides himself on his

<sup>1</sup> If imported in smaller quantities than twelve yards, the duty imposed was 2l. per yard.

<sup>2</sup> "Let the ruffle grace his hand,  
 Ruffle, pride of Gallic land."  
*The Beau, 1755.*

<sup>3</sup> "And dip your wristbands  
 (For cuffs you've none) as comely in the sauce  
 As any courtier."  
*Beaumont and Fletcher.*