

the war broke out, and he was detained. Napoleon proposed that he should set up a machine in France; but he preferred continuing his illicit trade, which he carried on with great success until 1809, when his own agent informed against him, his goods were seized and burned, and having in one seizure lost 60,000*l.* (1,500,000 fr.), he was completely ruined and fled to England.<sup>16</sup>

The French manufacturers took out various patents for the improvement of their "Mechlin" machines, and one was taken, in 1809, for making a crossed net called "fond de glace;" but the same year Heathcoat producing the bobbin-net machine, the inventors could not sustain the competition.

Every attempt was made to get over bobbin-net machines; but the export of English machinery was punished by transportation, and the Nottingham manufacturers established at their own expense a line of surveillance to prevent the bobbin-net machines from going out. In spite of all these precautions, Cutts, an old workman of Heathcoat's, contrived to elude their vigilance, and, in 1815, to import a machine to Valenciennes, whence he removed it to Douay, where he entered into partnership with M. Thomassin. In 1816 they produced the first bobbin-net dress made in France. It was embroidered by hand by a workwoman of Douay, and presented by the makers to the Duchesse d'Angoulême. About the end of the year 1816, James Clark introduced a machine into Calais, which he passed in pieces by means of some French sailors. These two were the first bobbin-net machines set up in France.

It is not within our limits to follow the Calais lace manufacturers through their progress; suffice it to say that it was in 1817 that the first bobbin-net machine worked, concealed from all eyes, at Saint-Pierre-lez-Calais, now, if not the rival of Nottingham, at least the great centre of the bobbin-net and machinery lace manufactures in France.<sup>17</sup>

<sup>16</sup> In 1801, George Armitage took a "point net" machine to Antwerp, and made several after the same model, thus introducing the manufacture into Belgium. He next went to Paris, but the wholesale contraband trade of Hayne left him no hope of success. He afterwards went to Prussia to set up net and stocking machines. At the age of 82 he started for Australia, where he died, in 1857, aged 89.

<sup>17</sup> The great difficulty encountered by

the French manufacturers consisted in the cotton. France did not furnish cotton higher than No. 70; the English ranges from 160 to 200. The prohibition of English cotton obliged them to obtain it by smuggling, until 1834, when it was admitted on paying a duty. Now they make their own, and are able to rival Nottingham in the prices of their productions: a great number of Nottingham lace-makers have emigrated to Calais.