

the wiser suggestions of the cortes, gave his sanction to this petition; and in a *pragmatic* devoted to the object he carried out the ideas of the legislature as heartily as the most austere reformer could have desired. As a state paper it has certainly a novel aspect, going at great length into such minute specifications of wearing-apparel, both male and female, that it would seem to have been devised by a committee of tailors and milliners rather than of grave legislators.⁵⁸ The tailors, indeed, the authors of these seductive abominations, did not escape the direct animadversion of the cortes. In another petition they were denounced as unprofitable persons, occupied with needle-work, like women, instead of tilling the ground or serving his majesty in the wars, like men.⁵⁹

In the same spirit of impertinent legislation, the cortes would have regulated the expenses of the table, which, they said, of late years had been excessive. They recommended that no one should be allowed to have more than four dishes of meat and four of fruit

⁵⁸ "Anssi mismo mandamos que ninguna persona de ninguna condicion ni calidad que sea, no pueda traer ni traya en ropa ni en vestido, ni en calzas, ni jubon, ni en gualdrapa, ni guarnicion de mula ni de cavallo, ningun genero de bordado ni recamado, ni gandujado, ni entorchado, ni chaperia de oro ni de plata, ni de oro de cañutillo, ni de martillo, ni ningun genero de trenza ni cordon ni cordoncillo, ni franja, ni pasamano, ni pespunte, ni perfil de oro ni plata ni seda, ni otra cosa, aunque el dicho oro y plata sean falsos," etc. *Pragmatica expedida á peticion de la Cortes de Madrid de 1563.*

⁵⁹ "Ocupados en este oficio y género de vivienda de coser, que habia de ser para las mugeres, muchos hombres que podrian servir á S. M. en la guerra dejaban de ir á ella, y dejaban tambien de labrar los campos." *Cortes of 1573, pet. 75, ap. Lafuente, Hist. de España, tom. xiv. p. 407.*