

be seen, and her green velvet cardinal was edged with broad gold lace.⁸⁴ Cromwell himself, when once in power, became more particular in his dress; and if he lived as a Puritan, his body after death was more gorgeously attired than that of any deceased sovereign, with purple velvet, ermine, and the richest Flanders lace.⁸⁵ His effigy, carved by one Symonds, was clad in a fine shirt of Holland, richly laced; he wore bands and cuffs of the same materials, and his clothes were covered with gold lace.⁸⁶

The more we read the more we feel convinced that the dislike manifested by the Puritan leaders to lace and other luxuries was but a political necessity, in order to follow the spirit of the age.

As an illustration of this opinion we may cite that in the account of the disbursements of the Committee of Safety, 1660, a political *jeu d'esprit* which preceded the Restoration, we find entered for Lady Lambert—

“Item, for seven new whisks lac'd with Flanders lace of the last Edition, each whisk is valued at fifty pound, 350*l*.”

Followed up by—

“Six new Flanders lac'd smocks, 300*l*.”

The whisk, as the gorget was now termed, was as great an object of extravagance to the women as was the falling band to the men. It continued in fashion during the reign of Charles II., and is often mentioned as lost or stolen among the advertisements in the public journals of the day. In the “*Mercurius Publicus*,” May 8, 1662, we find: “A cambric whisk with Flanders lace, about a quarter of a yard broad, and a lace turning up about an inch broad, with a stock in the neck, and a strap hanging down before, was lost between the new Palace and Whitehall. Reward 30*s*.” Again, in the “*Newes*,” June 20, 1664: “Lost, a Tiffany whisk, with a great lace down, and a little one up, large Flowers, and open Work, with a Roul for the head and Peak.”

⁸⁴ “The Cromwell Family.”

⁸⁵ Sir Philip Warwick. 1640.

⁸⁶ At the Restoration, it was removed

from the Abbey and hung out of the window at Whitehall, and then broken up and destroyed.