

With silver; diamond buckles too,
 For garters, and as rich for shoe.
 Twice twelve day smocks of Holland fine,
 With cambric sleeves rich Point to joyn
 (For she despises Colbertine);
 Twelve more for night, all Flanders lac'd,
 Or else she'll think herself disgrac'd.
 The same her night gown must adorn,
 With two Point waistcoats for the morn;
 Of pocket mouchoirs, nose to drain,
 A dozen lac'd, a dozen plain;
 Three night gowns of rich Indian stuff;
 Four cushion-cloths are scarce enough
 Of Point and Flanders,"¹⁷ &c.

It is difficult now to ascertain what description of lace was that styled Colbertine.¹⁸ It is constantly alluded to by the writers of the period. Randle Holme (1688) styles it, "A kind of open lace with a square grounding."¹⁹ Evelyn himself, in his "Fop's Dictionary" (1690), gives, "Colbertine, a lace resembling net-work of the fabric of Monsieur Colbert, superintendent of the French King's manufactures;" and the "Ladies' Dictionary," 1694, repeats his definition. This is more incomprehensible still, point d'Alençon being the lace that can be specially styled of "the fabric" of Colbert, and Colbertine appears to have been a coarse production.²⁰ Swift talks of knowing

"The difference between
 Rich Flanders lace and Colberteem."²¹

Congreve makes Lady Westport say—²²

"Go hang out an old Frisonier gorget with a yard of yellow Colberteem."

And a traveller, in 1691,²³ speaking of Paris, writes:—"You shall see here the finer sort of people flaunting it in tawdry gauze or Colbertine, a parcel of coarse staring ribbons; but ten of their holyday habits shall not amount to what a citizen's wife of London wears on her head every day."

¹⁷ "Tyrannus, or the Mode," 1661.

¹⁸ It is written Colberteem, Colbertain, Golbertain, Colbertine.

¹⁹ Colberteem, a lace resembling net-work, being of the manufacture of M. Colbert, a French statesman.

²⁰ A writer, in "Notes and Queries," says: "I recollect this lace worn as a ruffle fifty years ago. The ground was

square and coarse, it had a fine edge, with a round mesh, on which the pattern was woven. It was an inferior lace and in every-day wear."

²¹ "Cadenus and Vanessa." See also Young, p. 111.

²² "Way of the World."

²³ "Six Weeks in France," 1691.