

In Westminster Abbey, where, as somewhat disrespectfully say the Brothers Popplewell,⁴⁵ the images of William and Mary

“Stand upright in a press, with their bodies made of wax,
A globe and a wand in either hand and their robes upon their backs”—

the lace tucker and double sleeves of Queen Mary are of the finest raised Venice point, resembling Fig. 25, p. 43; King William likewise wears a rich lace cravat and ruffles.⁴⁶ We have already alluded to a memorandum (carta d' informazione) given to the Venetian ambassadors about to proceed to England, 1696, in which they are directed to be provided with very handsome collars of the finest Venetian point.⁴⁷

Before concluding the subject of the lace-bearing heroes, we may as well state here that the English soldiers rivalled the cavaliers of France in the richness of their points till the extinction of hair-powder (the wearing of which in the army consumes, says some indignant writer, flour enough to feed 600,000 persons per annum), when the lace cravat was replaced by the now happily expiring stock. Speaking of these military dandies, writes the “World:”—“Nor can I behold the lace and the waste of finery in their clothing but in the same light as the silver plates and ornaments on a coffin; indeed I am apt to impute their going to battle so trimmed and adorned to the same reason a once fine lady painted her cheeks just before she expired, that she might not look frightful when she was dead.

“To war the troops advance,
Adorned and trim like females for the dance.
Down sinks Lothario, sent by one dire blow
A well-dress'd hero to the shades below.”

As the justice's daughter says to her mamma, in Sheridan's “St. Patrick's Day:”—

“Dear; to think how the sweet fellows sleep on the ground, and fight in silk stockings and lace ruffles.”

Lace had now become an article worthy the attention of the

⁴⁵ “The Tombs in Westminster Abbey,” sung by the Brothers Popplewell. Broadside, 1775. B. M. Roxburgh Coll.

⁴⁶ King Charles II.'s lace is the same as that of Queen Mary. The Duchess of

Buckingham (the “mad” Duchess, daughter of James II.) has also very fine raised lace.

⁴⁷ See page 45.