

own light hair was uncommonly fine, would cause her to wear headdresses composed of hair of different colours, and to colour her eyebrows with various shades, to see which best became her; but he not only sought to improve her beauty, but to preserve her health, by a strange variety of experiments. Amongst other curious remedies, he fed her frequently with capons, fattened with the flesh of vipers; and the Great Snail, which is so often found in the woods near Godhurst, in Buckinghamshire, is an exotic, introduced into the country, by Sir Kenelm, as a medicine for his lady. To improve her complexion, he was continually inventing new cosmetics, and most probably she fell a victim to these arts, for she was found dead in her bed, on the 1st of May, 1633, in the thirty-third year of her age. No body even had a greater number of portraits taken of her than lady Venetia: certainly both she and her husband were the finest subjects for a painter that could be imagined. The late lord Orford was in possession of several exquisite miniatures of this lady; the most valuable was in a gold case, where she is represented with her husband; lord Orford had another, painted after she was dead; and four others in water colours."

As late as 1745, the preposterous and immodest fashion of hoop-petticoats was prevalent in England, not only at court, but in fashionable parties. The exposure of almost every thing that was underneath the ample circumference of this strange garment was frequently inevitable, by the slightest turn or movement of the wearer. In that year, however, some epigrammatic verses had a great effect in abolishing them. At the same time ladies wore flapped hats or bonnets that hid their faces. The following are the verses, with some alterations of expressions, which do not suit my *chaste* pages, although, at that period, there was so little fastidiousness in that respect, that the whole was printed in the Gentleman's Magazine, for June, 1745, where the curious reader may read the original. The alterations are marked in Italics.

"Our grannams of old were so piously nice,  
That to shew their shoe-ties was reckon'd a vice: