

plain.

on the whole I am inclined  
to fancy the young ladies dressed  
in black dresses of some fine  
cloth or stuff with large  
lawn collars or tippets: and  
that Mary Collet wore in  
addition a loose gown  
or coat with a hood, which  
from its grey colour might  
be taken, <sup>for a "fryers gown"</sup> and was probably  
intended to remind the wearers  
of the self denial of a monastic  
life - I do not think that any  
of the young ladies wore caps  
as the puritans did at any  
rate Mary Collet must not be  
represented with one: it would  
be very discordant with the Fryers  
Hood. I am madam,  
your Obedient Son  
Henry Northouse

Windsore,

Edgbaston.

Feb 11. 1885

My dear Madam

I should be pleased to give  
you any satisfaction I could  
about Mary Collet's dress, but  
the information we possess is  
not extensive. The only  
passage that throws any light  
upon the dress of the young ladies  
at Gidding occurs in Mr.  
Ed. Toulson's account of his  
visit, printed in Peckard's  
life of Nicholas Ferrar p 297  
he says "the rest" (that is the  
young ladies) were dressed  
'all in black, save one of the

daughters' daughters (that  
is Mrs Collet's daughters)  
who was in a dryer's grey  
gown. Mr. Lenon  
did not see the young ladies,  
very closely and it is quite  
possible that what he  
calls "a dryer's grey gown"  
may have been only some  
cloak or wrap but it  
is also possible that, as  
one of the young ladies was  
supposed to represent the  
quality or virtue of patience,  
and as her part was distinguished  
by some peculiar auterities,  
there may also have been  
some peculiar distinction

in her dress. I have  
seen several portraits of  
the ladies of the Ferrar family  
some of whom are attired  
in the court dress of the period  
some in more sober and  
staid attire. I do not  
think it probable that  
they would ever adopt the  
Puritan dress but on the  
other hand as Mr Ferrar is  
said distinctly to have instructed  
his nieces to adorn themselves  
after the manner of the holy women  
of old time, whose chaste  
conversation was coupled with  
fear: whose adorning was not  
the external decoration of plaiting  
the hair to it. I think we  
may safely conclude that they  
were dressed soberly and