

WHAT WRITERS HAVE SAID ABOUT DRESS.

"WHEN you appear abroad be clad decently, as becomes your Age and Rank, according to the Fashion of the Race; so as that you may not look as if you thought yourself above the Rest of the World, or a Champion against the Modes and Customs of the whole Country where you live. But be sure to observe the Scripture Directory in avoiding of Prodigality."—ADAM PETRIE: *Rules of Good Deportment or of Good Breeding*, 1720.

"Christianity does not deny the value of dress. Christianity comes to save the world, and in doing so takes up all the good. But how is Christ to help us in the matter? In this, as in all common things, the help and goodness of Christianity comes out of its general spirit, and here is the one great principle that Christianity is in everything. It is the seeing to the body's requirements and pleasures as the soul's servant, not master; to make the soul of more account than the body, and less the religion of pleasing others rather than ourselves. I can group this question under three heads: First, Christianity condemns all extremes and extravagance in dress; second, it teaches that all elegance must be based on usefulness, and that the body is more than the raiment; third, it teaches us to value what is elegant and best, not merely for society, but for home."—REV. BROOKE HARFORD: *A Sermon on Dress*.

"Everything which alters or disguises Nature, proceeds from a false Taste.

Everything which forces Nature beyond its due bounds, proceeds from a bad Taste.

Everything which eclipses the Beauties, or exposes the Defects of Nature, proceeds from a want of Taste.

Everything which constrains Nature, or hinders the freedom of Action, proceeds from a depraved Taste.

Everything which loads Nature with superfluous Ornament, proceeds from an affectation of Taste, and, lastly,

Everything which is out of Character, is certainly out of Taste; and tho' the Fashion can never influence Taste, yet Taste should always influence the Fashion."—*Gentleman's Magazine*, 1738.

"All the island over they make their own clothes without any other distinction than that which is necessary for marking the difference between the two sexes, and the married and the unmarried. The fashion never alters; and as it is not ungrateful nor uneasy, so it is fitted for their climate, and calculated both for their summers and their winters. Every family makes their own clothes; but all among them, women as well as men, learn one or other of the trades formerly mentioned."—SIR THOMAS MORE: *Utopia*.

"A girl not out has always the same sort of dress: a close bonnet, for instance; looks very demure, and never says a word. You may smile, but it is so, I assure you; and except that it is sometimes carried a little too far, it is all very proper that girls should be quiet and modest."—MISS AUSTEN: *Mansfield Park*.

"Outwardly, in her apparel and dyet, she shall proportion according to the competency of her Husbands estate and calling, making her circle rather Strait than large; for it is a rule, if wee extend to the uttermost, wee take away increase; if wee go a haire breadth beyond, wee enter into consumption: but if wee preserve any part, we build strong forts against the adversaries of fortune, provided that such preservation be honest and conscionable, for as lavish prodigality is brutish, so miserably covetousness is hellish. Let therefore the Housewives garments be comely and strong, made as well to preserve the health, as to adorn the person, altogether without toyish garnishes, or the gloss of light colours, and as far from the vanity of new and fantastick fashions, as near to the comely imitation of modest Matrons. Let her dyet be wholesome and cleanly, prepared at due hours and Cookt with care and diligence."—GERVASE MARKHAM: *The English Hous-wife*, 1660.

"What law persuades the Seric worm to spin Those shining threads, which, dyed with purple hue, Inflate, yet check the pride of mighty men? For, whilst they blaze in grand attire, the thought Steals on,—This splendid robe once cloth'd a worm:

Type of our resurrection from the grave, It dies within the tomb itself has spun, That perishing abode, which is at once Its house and tomb; in which it rots away, Till at the call of time it gladly leaves Corruption, and its ancient shape resumes."

GEORGIUS PISIDA (circa A.D. 640).

"The Requirements of Dress: The three great requirements of dress are: (1) to protect, (2) to conceal, (3) to display. In proportion to the social condition of a nation the three requirements of dress are observed. The first mostly satisfies primitive peoples; a little later, the second becomes felt; but a high civilisation demands all three; and in some climates, costumes fulfilling all three have been found and preserved, e.g. the Greek, Roman, Turkish, Japanese," etc.—MRS. HAWES: *The Art of Dress*.

"Many good people think it wrong to indulge in a taste for the fine arts. They are very much exercised by conscience for wearing expensive clothing. They lay off broadcloth and silks and dress in linsey-woolsey; but they may then still retrench and retrench, that they may have more for the poor, for this principle, carried out, would lead back to barbarism. It is not the right one. Every man should do his part for the poor, and his heart should enlarge as his means increase; but he who can earn them has a right to refinements for himself and his children."—HENRY WARD BEECHER: *Life Thoughts*.

"Why, assure you, signior, rich apparel has strange virtues; it makes him that is without means esteemed for an excellent wit; he that enjoys it with means, puts the world in remembrance of his means; it helps the deformities of nature, and gives lustre to her beauties."—BEN JONSON: *Every Man out of His Humour*, 1599.

"Her maxime us'd to be She weares best clothes, that weares to her degree."—BRAITHWAIT: *Anniversaries upon his Panarete*, 1634.

"The covering ought, in my judgment, to show that which is to be covered to be better than itself, as the image is superior to the temple, the soul to the body, and the body to the clothes."—CLEMENT OF ALEXANDRIA: *Pedagogus*.

"Strange enough, it strikes me, is this same fact of there being Tailors and Tailored. The Horse I ride has his own whole fell: strip him of the girths and flaps and extraneous tags I have fastened round him, and the noble creature is his own sempster and weaver and spinner; nay his own bootmaker, jeweller, and man-milliner; he bounds free through the valleys, with a perennial rainproof court-suit on his body; wherein warmth and easiness of fit have reached perfection; nay, the graces also have been considered, and frills and fringes, with gay variety of colour, feately appended, and ever in the right place, are not wanting. While I—good Heaven!—have thatched myself over with the dead fleeces of sheep, the bark of vegetables, the entrails of worms, the hides of oxen or seals, the felt of furred beasts; and walk abroad a moving Rag-screen, overheaped with shreds and tatters raked from the Charnel-house of Nature, where they would have rotted, to rot on me more slowly! Day after day, I must thatch myself anew; day after day, this despicable thatch must lose some film of its thickness; some film of it, frayed away by tear and wear, must be brushed-off into the Ashpit, into the Laystall; till by degrees the whole has been brushed thither, and I, the dust-making, patent Rag-grinder, get new material to grind down."

CARLYLE: *Sartor Resartus*.

"No woman, unless she be of quite exceptional strength of mind, can withstand the spell of dress exerted upon her by one of her sisterhood. She stands abashed; an atmosphere of awe and reserve breathes from the daintily-dressed one upon her, and bids her hold aloof, conscious of her own exceeding unworthiness. Women know this, and dress to impress one another rather than men. The well-dressed woman is usually aware of the effect she has produced, and when the discomfiture is complete, she feels gratified and complimented, ready to be good-natured to the victim she has laid prostrate."—LILY WATSON: *The Vicar of Langthwaite*.

"Ah, what avails it to be young and fair, To move with negligence, to dress with care?

What worth have all the charms our pride can boast,

If all in envious solitude are lost?

Where none admire, 'tis useless to excell; Where none are beaux, 'tis vain to be a belle."—GEORGE, LORD LYTTLETON.

"It is in good manners, and not in good dress That the truest gentility lies."

DR. WATTS.