"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 Department 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 goodness, 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 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 may be called theヌ柔 of Nature, or that from which the Laws of Taste are drawn from, should always influence the Fashion."—Gentlemen's Magazine, 1738.

"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 civilization, in which the climate and in some climates, costumes fulfilling all three have been found and preserved, e.g. the Greek, Roman, Turkish, Japanese, etc. —Miss 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 silk and dress in busy-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 must also remember that he who cares for the refinements for himself and his children."—HENRY WARD BEECHER: Life Thoughts.

"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.

"Why, assure you, signor, 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 his beauties."—BEN JONSON: Every Man out of His Humour, 1599.

"Outwardly, in her apparel and dye, she shall proportion according to the competency of her Husband's estate and calling, making her circle rather Strait than large; for it is a rule, if we extend to the utmost, we take away increase; if we go a hairs breadth beyond, we enter into consumption; but if we preserve any part, we build strong forts against the adversaries of fortune, provided that such preservation be honest and consciencious, for as lavish prodigality is bratish, so miserable converseness is prodigal. The Husband's garments be comely and strong, made as well to preserve the health, as to adorn the person, altogether without toyish garnishings, 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 dye be wholesome and cleanly, prepared at due hours and Cookt with care and diligence."—GEYRASE MARKHAM: The English Housewife, 1660.

"What law preserves the Seric worm to spin Those silken 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 home and tomb; in which it rote away Till at the last it is given to the light, and Corrupted, and its ancient things concealed." GEORGESIUS PISIDAE (circa A.D. 640).

"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 alashed; an atmosphere of awe and reserve breathes from the dimly-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 Year of Longing.

"Strange enough, it strikes me, is this same fact of there being Tailors and Tailored. The Horse I ride has his own whole felt; strip him of the girths and flaps and extraneous tags I have fastened round him, and the noble creature is his own sempstress and weaver and spinner, with his own bootmaker, jeweller, and man-miller; he bounds free through the valleys, with a perpetual pinproof court-suit on his body; wherein warmth and easiness of it have reached perfection, and the grace also have been considered, and frills and fringes, with gay variety of colour, feebly appended, and ever in the right place, are not wanting. While E—good Heaven!—have thatched myself over with the dead fleeces of sheep, the bark of vegetables, the enthralls of the madder, the binders of our seals, the felt of farced beasts and ourself a monstrous Rag-screen, overthrown with shreds and tatters raked from the Channel-house of Nature, which they would have had us more slowly! Day after day, I must thatch myself anew; day after day, this despicable thatch must lose some film of its thinness; 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."—CARLTON: Sailor Recreates.

"Ah, what avails it to be young and fair, To dress with negligence, to dress with care? What worth have all the charms our pride in boast, If all in ev'ry serious soul are lost? Where none admire, 'tis useless to excell; Where none are beauties, 'tis vain to be a belle."—GEORGE, LORD LITTLETON.

"It is in good manners, and not in good dress That the true gentility lies."—DR. WATTS.