

The writer of the following communication is partly right. An attempt has been made to introduce the style of short hair, but, being doubtful of its success, we had not yet mentioned it. Infirmities in great persons have often led to peculiar fashions. May not this be a case of the kind, some leader of fashion being obliged to have her hair cut short? We all remember how the fox wished to introduce the benefit of the no-tail system.

FLOWING OR SHORT HAIR FOR LADIES.

HARVEYSBURG, WARREN Co., OHIO, Sept. 1859.

QUERY.—Have the times and the fashions got ahead of Mr. Godey? It would be laughingly funny, indeed, if they had. Shall a Western girl essay to post our worthy editor upon the fashions? Alarming! Well, I saw a short paragraph, not long since, copied from the *New York Express* by the *Cincinnati Commercial*, stating that short hair for ladies was becoming the fashion, that the new style was gaining public favor quite rapidly, and that the indication was that it would become general. I hear it reported recently, but know not how true it may be, that the short style is becoming quite generally adopted in Columbus, Springfield, Cincinnati, and other places in our own State. I had expected to see a fashion-plate in the October number of our magazine, representing the new style. How is it, Mr. Editor? Have the fashions got ahead of you, you who was never beaten before? Or, perhaps, like Paul, you believe "Long hair is a glory to a woman," and hence, being no admirer of the short style, have neglected to inform us. I have not seen an example of the new style yet, but understand the hair is cropped quite short behind, the front locks being left long to curl. I think cutting too short before or behind would mar its beauty, and give the wearer a masculine appearance.

I have ever been an admirer of flowing or short hair for ladies, and have been hoping, for several years, that some of the fashion-starting ladies would start this fashion. I know it is contended by many that long hair best becomes a woman. This is, doubtless, true, if worn naturally, as was originally intended, falling gracefully over the neck and shoulders; but, worn in this way, its length becomes an inconvenience that few of us seem willing to endure. But certainly, long hair shows to no advantage as now worn, bound stiff and motionless on the back of the head, in an uncouth knot. Is it a knowledge of the simple fact that a woman possesses long hair that gives the votaries of this fashion so much pleasure, when they never see its length, its uncoiled beauty, as it is forever imprisoned with comb and hair-pins, in an unsightly wad, on the posterior portion of the head? Its freedom is the talisman of its power. Too long it has been imprisoned, and its shining beauty kept forever from the gaze and fascination of human eyes. Let it come forth now, like a long bound prisoner unchained, to entrance and captivate all hearts and eyes with its poetic loveliness. Sisters, too long have our beautiful tresses been enslaved to suit the caprices of an unnatural and perverted fashion; now let them burst their prison walls, and kiss our temples freely, as they are wont to do, and float at will upon the breath of every passing, sylph-winged zephyr. The poet says, "A thing of beauty is a joy forever;" then, if a lady's hair is "a thing of beauty," as indeed it is, filling the beholder with softest admiration and sweetest ecstasy, why, then, force it back from the brow and temples, neck and shoulders, where it heightens every charm, and lends an air of supreme witchery and love-

liness to the countenance and forehead—away behind, as though it were an ugly thing and designed never to be seen? I protest against that fashion that requires a gentleman or lady to get behind me to see my beautiful hair—certainly an awkward predicament for both parties, besides not getting half a view then of my imprisoned tresses. I trust the reign of the imprisonment of female hair with combs and hair-pins, the barbarous enslavement of that divine ornament of woman's, is drawing to a final close.

The hair is a beautiful, angelic, living thing; why, then, should it be confined in a motionless, stiff, dead mass, or coil, upon one portion of the head, and its living, breathing, bewitching, soul-inspiring beauty hid from our gaze forever? The most perfect female divinities of the sculptor, the painter, the novelist, the poet, and the lover, all have *flowing hair*. I might quote *ad infinitum* from these sources as evidence of this assertion, but haven't space. And who shall say their taste is not a correct one? Is not the starting of the flowing fashion an evidence that the female heart and mind are acquiring more and more of the painter's and poet's true sense of the beautiful? Physiologically considered, I think this fashion would be of great service, if extensively followed, if only for a time. I know many of my lady friends whose hair is very thin and uneven, that frequent cutting and wearing short for awhile would make it more healthy, even, thick, and luxuriant. There are many ladies who would gladly adopt the short style for a while at least, for the benefit of their hair, if nothing else, if it were only fashionable.

Now, Mr. Godey, I should be glad to hear something from you upon this subject in your next number. I know that you nor I don't make the fashions; *you* simply report the fashions as they come; still, we all have the right of suggesting new and more beautiful ones, whether they are ever followed or not. Is flowing or short hair for ladies becoming the fashion or not? is the question. Is it being adopted in your city, New York, and elsewhere sufficiently to give it the name and character of a fashion? If it is becoming the style, as I would willingly hope, will you not give us a plate in the next number representing it? and I will try and be prepared, with scissors in hand, to cut, crop, carve, trim, dress, poetize, perhaps spoil—I won't promise—a moderately handsome head of hair; but if I should spoil it, good nature will smile propitiously upon my fault by letting it grow again, and, perhaps, more beautiful and luxuriant. But, should I get it trimmed beautifully in the short or flowing style, I wonder if our kind, obliging, and humorous editor wouldn't allow my picture a place in the gallery of our magazine, among the unrivalled fashion-plates, and certainly the new style would "spread" then. But, Mr. Godey, "what is your private opinion publicly expressed" about the beauty of short or flowing hair for ladies?

MAGGIE.

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