

Do you remember with what difficulty you formed the habit—how sick it made you at first; and because you can now smoke without turning pale with nausea and vertigo, do you imagine it has lost its tendency to do you harm? By no means.

But Alexis, the worst of the case has not been told. There is in each of these boys an immortal spark, kindled by the breath of the Almighty. And this undying spirit—this gem of matchless worth—suffers in common with its physical being. The seditive influence represses intellectual energy—it renders its votary indisposed to mental exertion. Alexis, ask that boy who stands next you, whether, if he wished to learn his lesson, he would first lull all his faculties into a repose approximating to oblivion by the use of tobacco?

MOURNING APPAREL.

Friends, why prepare it, why wear it? why follow this fashion? Is it wise, consistent, Christian? Is not this custom useless? more, is it not foolish, superstitious, heathenish, unscriptural, tending to positive evil!

Our objections to wearing mourning apparel, are many, we mention a few, the most of which are sketched from the *Connecticut Observer*.

1. We believe the practice unscriptural, contrary to the gospel purity and simplicity.

2. It is no real expression of grief for the loss of our friends nor is it considered so. It is adopted by all classes, the covetous hypocrite as we as the sincere mourner.

3. It is no mark of respect for departed relatives. The dark habiliments are assumed, whether the deceased was virtuous or vicious, honest or fraudulent, sober or intemperate; whether he was a man or a fool, a Christian or an Infidel, a blessing or a curse to society.

4. It imparts no consolation to the bosom of sorrow.

5. As a memento of departed worth it is superfluous, the heart of true friendship needs it not. The mock mourner is unaffected by its sable hue.

6. It conveys no moral or religious instruction to the mind. It excites no mourning for sin; no submission to God; no parting with the world; no desire for heaven. Neither the solemn realities of the scene of death, nor the affecting and admonitory truths of the word of God can be enforced by it.

Its positive evils are.

1. The poor ape the rich in this unnecessary expenditure.

2. It is extravagant, and absorbs a large amount of funds which might be appropriated to far more useful purposes.

3. It presents strong temptation to pride and dishonesty, and has