

appear nearly double its natural size. "I tell you people have a right to dress themselves in whatever way they please: it is no one's business but their own."

"Don't get angry, Mary; I didn't mean to say anything that would offend you. But I feel that I have only done my duty in speaking against the abuses of dress and ornaments, which are so prevalent just now. Besides, Mary, I cannot see how any Christian young women can conscientiously follow the fashions of the present day; more especially, the wearing of a bundle of false hair, in addition to what God has already given them."

"Now, Julia, I declare you are going too far. What are the fashions for? and how could a young woman dress herself if there were no new fashions out?"

"The fashions are got up, Mary, for the benefit of worldly people, who have plenty of money to spend, and who wish to make a show in the world. A young woman should dress plainly, but at the same time neatly; and this can be done without much expense. The plainer a woman dresses the better; no well-brought-up young woman will over-dress herself."

"Do you mean to say, Julia, that the Misses B.'s and the Misses A.'s, and a number of others to be seen at church every Sunday, are not well-brought-up, Christian ladies? They are dressed in the height of fashion; and can you say it is wrong for them to be thus dressed?"

"I wish to condemn no one in particular, Mary; I speak only in general terms of those who conform to that hollow thing—fashion. It seems to me that ministers of the Gospel are rather slow to condemn the indulgence in dress of their congregations. They speak of Temperance, of Charity, and of other Christian virtues; but they seldom directly attack this folly—this enemy of womankind—fashion."

"Julia, you speak of this matter of dress as if it were