182 THOUGHTS FOR THE THOUGHTFUL.

lem will probably be found in the future, when all who aspire to the position of true ladies will be content with modest, well-made, durable garments, and when it will be considered a mark of vulgarity and inferiority to spend a large proportion of the income in personal adornments, or to wear anything which excites attention by reason of its expensiveness, or because it is in the extreme of fashion. A reform beginning at the top would thus work downwards, by degrees, until it reached every class of society.

HINTS AND SUGGESTIONS.

Many ladies are not anxious to vie with those • who are richer, they merely want to dress according to their own station in life; but they find that to do this requires more money and time and thought than they are willing to give. They groan under the slavery, but see no means of relief. A few suggestions may be helpful to these.

In the *first* place, then, we would say,—Try to get things of real value for your money. Only rich people can afford to buy bargains. Never buy a cheap or poor material. It costs as much, perhaps more, to have a poor material made up as a good one, and it will only last a third or fourth of the time, and never look as well. A cheap material tempts to excessive trimming to cover its