

MOURNING APPAREL.

We invite the attention of the public, to the following extracts on this subject, which we have made, from the *Boston Christian Watchman*, with a view to incite them to act in this matter from rational, benevolent, and christian motives, rather than from the tyranny of a mere custom, which has not one good reason to sanction its continuance, and many to induce to its abandonment.

The color of our garments, must of course, in itself, be morally a matter of no importance ;—But to make it essential, to wear black, or (as is done in some other countries) white ; whenever a death occurs in a family, must in all cases be useless—may in many be morally injurious—and in some be often sinful and unjust. Who does not know within his own experience, of such cases as are referred to in these extracts ? where respectable families of limited means (to say nothing of the poorer classes) have been stinted of the necessities of life to enable them to conform to this custom, and not to appear singular—where the house of mourning has been turned into a house of dress making and idle talk—where the apparel deemed so essential has been procured at the expence of debts contracted, which it was found afterwards difficult or impossible to discharge.

If these things are so ! are christians not called upon to act in this matter according to the broad and benevolent principle involved in the Apostle's resolve :—

“ Wherefore, if meat make my brother to offend, I will eat no flesh while the world standeth, lest *I make my brother to offend.*”

EDITOR.

It is an unfortunate circumstance that the custom of wearing this external token of sorrow, is carried to such an extent as it is in many places.—It has sometimes been a very burdensome tax on the poor, and not only induced needy families to expend the money with which they ought to have purchased the means of subsistence, but inclined them to contract debts for conforming to this custom, which afterwards they found difficult to discharge. We believe that the excellent Deacon Bolles, who lately died at Hartford, Ct. requested his wife and children to wear no mourning at his funeral. And we learn too, that at a recent meeting of the Baptist Church in Hartford, it was resolved, that in their opinion, the custom of wearing mourning apparel for deceased friends affords no real evidence of grief, and is productive of no good, they therefore recommended that it be discontinued.—*Christian Watchman*, Vol. 11. p. 34.

An article from the *New York Daily Advertiser*, on the subject of *mourning dresses*, was copied into the *Courant* of the 3d inst. and an editorial article approving it, saying, “We are glad to hear a voice raised against the efforts which are making to abolish the custom of wearing mourning apparel, on the death of friends.” It seems right to offer a few observations upon this subject with which I have