

To a flimsy, tawdry exhibition of finery, or a studied display of the person, numbers of unfortunate young women date their destruction. Too great an attachment to dress, even though becoming, involves many evils; but I will only just touch upon one,—loss of time and waste of money.

Time is one of those inestimable talents for the use of which a barefict account will be required.

“And what its worth, ask death-beds,—they can tell.”

“Redeeming the time,” says the Apostle: and surely it is very easy to redeem it from the labours of the toilet; and even during those exercises the mind might be usefully employed in thinking on the superior adorning of the hidden manna of the heart, and how those ornaments may be best attained which are in the sight of God of great price.

Waste of money.—You do not intend this; but if you acquire more of fine clothing, you may soon exceed your means; and “ostly apparel” is forbidden in the word of God. I refer you to Mr. Wesley’s Sermon on Dress; and how ardently do I wish for your excellence in every department, and how much I have made the constant subject of my thoughts and object of my desires, the Searcher of hearts is witness!

But supposing your dress to be perfectly consistent with my old-fashioned ideas of feminine propriety, still I must remind you that there must be modesty in your looks, your words, your actions.

Be jealous of your *looks*. Our thoughts are often betrayed through the eyes: these are the windows of the soul. Would you have your looks innocent? Let your thoughts be so. That haughty me-facedness which is enjoined in Scripture has its seat in the breast. Reverence yourself; dare not to taint the mind with any imagination that will not bear the flaming eye of Omniscience.— Sometimes, for want of due caution on our own part, our looks are misconstrued. But as I would not have you misunderstand me, I would say, be very careful of your eyes in the streets: do not look at persons as they pass you, much less turn round and gaze after them; and on no account let your eyes be caught wandering over the faces of men. There is a certain carelessness of look and manner, which young women are apt to get a habit of, and which is prejudicial to them and to young men: by the latter it is deemed an encouragement to familiarity. Whenever, therefore, you are in public places, let your looks be expressive of modesty and reserve. But as the eyes ought ever to be on the side of virtue,