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A Chapter on Hair.

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THROUGH all time people of every sex, age and condition have been curling, oiling, dressing and in many other ways spending time and money in their efforts to preserve and adorn the natural covering of the head. The hair has been made a subject for Fashion to exercise her skill upon from an early period in the world's history; and all the modern vagaries of that potent goddess in hair dressing are but repetitions of her former labours. It is by no means a latter-day idea to dye the hair, to annoint it with oil, or to wear false hair.

The early Hebrew women wore their hair long and adorned with jewels, while the Egyptians sometimes cut it off as an encumbrance. Only sometimes, however, for the favourite custom of the ancient ladies was to carry an abundance of hair on their heads—not necessarily their own, but procured wherever possible. In Rome, about the time of the first Caesar, this was especially the case. Quite an extensive commerce in hair was carried on; and the blonde hair of many a German girl, after the conquest of Gaul, went to adorn the heads of the daughters and wives in the Imperial City. The professional hair-dressers made large fortunes by the exercise of their skill in working the ladies' heads into fanciful devices. So extravagant were the fashions in hair that it is no matter of wonder to find St. Paul and the fathers of the church talking severely to their fair converts about the vanity of indulging in "broidered hair."

Piling up large pyramids on the head seems to have been a favourite fashion in modern as well as ancient times. The extravagance of the early Roman ladies appears to have been surpassed by the belles of England and France at the beginning of the last century. We find the *Spectator* in 1711 complaining that "the women were of such enormous stature that the men appeared as grasshoppers before them." But this was nothing to what it had been in the fourteenth century. We are told by writers of those days that the hair was built up into tall steeples, rising an ell above the head, with curiously fringed streamers attached to their summits, and floating down the wearer's back. (*Paradin's Annals de Bourgoigne.*) It is impossible to form a guess as to how high these specimens of architecture would have risen, if nothing had interfered. But extravagances always work their own