

## Editorial Articles.

### AN APPEAL TO CHRISTIAN WOMEN.



EVERYTHING that affects humanity affect the Christian. And though at first he might be inclined to smile at the phantasies of "fashion," as beneath his notice, yet, when he sees these invading Christian households and insidiously paralyzing Christian effort and affecting human life, he becomes interested at once. We jibe at the Chinese fashion of compressing the feet of infant girls, that the women may attain with their feet the superlative smallness of two and a half inches in length. We think it is clear evidence of remaining barbarism. Why? "Because," we argue, "any practice which takes any part of the human body, so wisely and wondrously fashioned by Almighty skill, and changes it from its proper function and degrades it from its proper form, is an unwarranted interference with the Creator's work, and is a sin!" Have we a single Christian reader who will deny this proposition?

Look at some of the fashions among ourselves. Time was when we thought compression of the waist, among our women, had been largely laid aside. Physicians had exclaimed against it for twenty years; and the practice, as well as that of wearing thin slippers on the feet, had apparently come nearly to an end. Then the narrow skirts, and the corsage tightly fitted to the person, came in. There were some plain words uttered, ten or fifteen years ago, in many quarters, how that right-thinking men had no desire to have the exact contour of every lady's form thrust upon their observation at every turn. But the fashion prevailed.

Sculptors, who have studied the human form and put their thoughts into marble, have let us into some of their calculations. The human head, in any form of ideal perfection, is never so small as to be only one-eighth of the whole height; and never so large as to be one-seventh. In like man-

ner, the circumference of the waist, in a female figure of ideal perfection, is two-fifths the height of the figure. A well-known example is that of the Venus Medici at Florence. The Venus, not quite erect in her posture, is 5 ft. 1 in. in height. Call it 5 ft. 2½ in. "erect" and you have 25 inches for the waist, which is the exact measure.

We are conscious of speaking to the wind, if addressing the general public; but we speak to the members of our Missionary Board, W. C. T. Union and the Churches. Do you know that a full average measure, as allowed by "fashion," is twenty inches? Every merchant will testify to that. And can you compress the most delicate and sensitive part of the body FIVE INCHES more than the Creator intended it should be compressed without fatal consequences? Thousands of our professing Christian women are at this hour suffering all kinds of ailments and maladies from this very cause. Bloodlessness, want of circulation, weak eyes, lassitude, liver complaints and many other *life-long miseries*. There is hardly a healthy woman in the country. We have told the reason. Have our Christian women enough courage and Christian principle to emancipate themselves and to save the lives of thousands of their sisters? You who love the Lord Jesus Christ, do you love him enough to obey his physical laws, as your Creator? We leave the responsibility with you.

### CONSTITUTION-MENDING.

There is a strong bias in many minds toward Constitution-mending, and time that would be better spent in going practically to work, is used in theorizing about status, and privileges and claims. There are many persons in the Congregational churches of the Dominion who do this. We never like to hear it, or to take part in such discussions. Surely, we see clearly enough in the New Testament, how the Church was founded by the Apostles. How the perfect independence of each Church was carefully secured; the ultimate appeal being to the Scriptures and the inspired Apostles. That the Apostles and Evangelists were extremely silent on the questions of creeds and formularies—organs and choirs—fruit-socials and sacred concerts—and all denominationalism in general; but were very clear and outspoken about Chris-