

It may be dressed *à la Titus* or *à la Brutus*, without injury to the vital organs. But when we mutilate our frame, or disorder any of our organs from our natural functions, nature commonly resists, and taste ought to second her punishments. The greatest liberties are generally taken in the fashionable societies of civilized countries with the waists of women, and that part of a beautiful woman which Edmund Burke describes as "the most beautiful." Our great-grand-mothers disfigured their waists with hoops, and many a tough battle did Addison in his *Spectator* wage with them, and with the head-dress. The next deformity was the stays, which cramped the vital organs, and offended the eye by causing women to resemble wasps. Both these deformities in themselves have been discarded; though we occasionally see the encroaching corset assuming the prerogative of the stays. Some of our dandies and even our dandies buckle themselves up in corsets; both the sexes to give themselves an elegant waist, and the females in particular to add to it the beauty of a finely moulded bosom. As to your corsetted dandies I have no patience with them. To them the beauty of a taper person is of far less consequence than it is to a woman; and besides, the most beautiful part of a woman forms no part of man's attraction. With the female corset I will not quarrel if it be kept within the bounds of moderation. If any bandage be used merely to support the bosom and bring it within certain proportions, a sound taste might overlook it. But let us have no non-elastic and unyielding material. Let us have no iron or steel; no prop to press into the chest; no those parts of our anatomy, which some writers consider as excrementitious, are fair subjects for the utmost caprice of taste. We may cut or curl the hair, according to the pleasure of the wearer.