

really sinful. I have always been used to dress in fashion, as well as I was able, and I never considered it in the light that you do."

"And so I do consider it sinful, Mary."

"And what are your reasons for considering it sinful, Julia."

"My reasons are good. Following the fashions leads to extravagance and pride, which are the bane of many a female. These, with the consequent waste of money also, are the cause of bringing many a respectable family to the verge of ruin. God never intended that we should set our affections upon the pomps and vanities of this wicked world, for they estrange our hearts from Him, upon whom all our best affections should be fixed."

Mary remained silent, evidently feeling unable to make any suitable reply to the last forcible argument. Julia, seeing the impression she had made, continued:

"I am glad, Mary, that you appear to feel the truth of my remarks, and hope that you will profit by it.—But I have not yet told you what I came for. It is this. I want you to join the Dorcas Sewing Society in connection with our Church. We want all the assistance we can get to make up garments for the poor, who, in this inclement season, are sadly in want of clothing. Whole families of children are unable to attend the Sunday-school from this cause. And oh! Mary," continued Julia, "how easy it would be to clothe the poor, if ladies—aye, and I may say gentlemen too—would give a portion of the money they are so lavishly spending upon themselves for dress and luxuries. What say you, Mary? Will you come?"

"Well, Julia, I don't know. I have never been employed in that way, and I don't think I could be of much use."

"Mary, this is a labor of love. You cannot refuse. You will only get to do what you are able; and, besides,