

so dear to her ! Is not this far purer and sweeter than if, with cold-blooded selfishness, she had loaded all her money on her own back, to parade the streets and make a show of herself ? — If she has no needy relations who require her help, she has the opportunity of doing something to help the wretched and afflicted poor ; to feed the hungry and clothe the naked ; and to receive the Lord's benediction in return, the same as if it had been done for Himself, according to His promise : « Inasmuch as ye have done it unto the least of these my brethren, you have done it unto me. » (Matt. 25-40.) — If you do not relieve the poor, you may, like St Mary Magdalen, anoint Our Lord's feet with spice and balm. How can this be done ? By contributing to the erecting and beautifying of churches and altars. The girls who live out have been called the church-builders, and it is a glorious title for them. Out of their hard earnings they have done so much for the glory and honor of God, and for the salvation of immortal souls, that God will never forget. « Dost thou see that I dwell in a house of cedar, and the ark of God is lodged within curtains ? » (2 Kings 7-2.) And David gave his whole attention to provide for the Temple, so what a heartfelt pleasure it must be to the pious girl to deny herself something in dress, in order that the Lord of Glory may have more suitable adornment in His House, where He dwells out of love to us. Surely it can be but little satisfaction to be bedizened out of the height of the fashion, and to see everything mean and unsuitable about the altar and tabernacle.

But, may be, the good girl intends, in God's good time, to settle down in life as the head of a family. If her heart and soul are in dress, what kind of a husband will she be likely to get ? I fear a very poor stick as they say ; some one as giddy-pated and thoughtless as herself. Probably some dissipated young man, who is taken by mere outside show ; for a more prudent and steady young man would think a good deal before he would make up his mind to take such a woman for wife. — Let us suppose, however, by unusual good fortune such a girl gets a good husband. Now they start in life to maintain themselves and provide for the future. Had she been saving, she might have laid up a snug little sum that would have given