

cap ? What mean those glittering pearls and diamonds which sparkle on the crown of the monarch or grace the hands and neck of the wife of the millionaire soap-manufacturer ? Here is another use for dress than that of protection. It is meant to adorn.

Adornment and protection: the question mark shrinks to a pin head as I roll them forth from my lips. My eyes fall on my boots (occupied by a pair of feet) as they are outstretched before the fire. Are they for adornment ? Certainly not. Ah ! they must be for protection, though those fiendish corns do seem to get more protection than anything else.

There are some articles of dress which seem to fall under neither of these heads. Mr. Gilbert Chesterton has heaped such ignominy upon the trousers and the beaver hat that I hesitate to add further, be it ever so little, to the burden of their existence. But consider the hard collar. Does it protect ? Not unless it be from hairpins. Does it adorn ? In the name of all that's beautiful, no ! What about the stiff-bosomed shirt ? How came such an atrocity to be a part of the only garb in which a man may appear in a formal gathering—if he does not wish a blush of shame to dye his cheeks ? As for woman's dress, may the ink thicken and refuse to flow from this pen ere my unhallowed words should enumerate the list of garments of the gentler sex, which, alas ! neither protect nor adorn.

As I mused on these things the night waned. Suddenly I heard the clock of the cathedral toll twelve, and by the glow of the dying fire I saw a figure approaching, tall and massive, yet strangely stooped and withered with age. Her garments were of varied cloth and texture, old and new, beauty and ugliness, filth and purity, rags and rich cloth were matched and fastened together. From her hands and over her arms dangled bunches of fetters of all shapes and sizes, while her shoulders and waist were wound with chains and shackles, some rusty with age yet heavy and massive, others bright and shining yet small and fine. In spite of her load she walked with the greatest ease. Catching at her