

New Series.]

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## QUESTIONS FOR GIRLS.

BY JOSEPHINE POLLARD.

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### HOW DO YOU DRESS?

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**D**RESS is really an indication of character. Bella, who tricks herself out with bows and streamers and countless gewgaws, like a holiday yacht, is light, gay, and frivolous. Doretta, whose flounces hang loosely at odd places, whose buttons fly off at inconvenient moments, and whose general appearance conveys the impression that her

toilet was made during a hurricane, may be recognized as indolent, careless, and slovenly; while Florinda, who prefers a neat linen collar and simple pin to soiled lace, tawdry ribbons, and flashy jewelry, and whose dresses are of quiet colors, neatly made and well fitting, is singled out as a good, sensible girl whose society is worth cultivating.

There is such a thing as being too precise about dress—over neat and particular—which is quite as much to be condemned. Some people are so conscious of their clothes that they always appear ill at ease and uncomfortable, and are more concerned about a wrinkle in a coat or dress than they are about things that are vastly more important. A young girl neatly and becomingly

dressed is far more attractive than one who is arrayed in splendor that surpasses Solomon's; and although the latter may win the notice of the passing throng, it is but a temporary homage to the bewildering beauty.

"Splendid canvas," they say, "but worthless hulk!"

Girls should use common sense in matters of dress, as well as in all things appertaining to their welfare. If you are a "lily of the field," and do not need to sow or reap the reward of honest industry, then you have plenty of leisure to employ in the cultivation of your mind and heart. Good books and good company will enrich the former; while noble deeds, sacrifices made for the benefit of others poorer than your-

self, happiness conferred on those who can make no substantial return, will be like the burning of incense in the temple, making your whole life fragrant and beautiful.

If your means are limited, and there is but a slim purse from which to purchase your wardrobe, study to accommodate your taste to your means, and effect a correspondence that will be pleasing to the eye. There should be harmony in material as well as in color, else you make it patent to the world that you have put all your money into one garment. If you covet a velvet cloak, and have not the wherewithal to purchase a dress or bonnet that would correspond, better, far better, to sacrifice the one rich garment than run the

risk of making an incongruous toilet. Shabby gloves or shoes spoil the most expensive and elaborate costume.

To be well-dressed is to be so completely arrayed from top to toe that you will have no fear that any untoward accident will reveal what would cause you unspeakable shame and humiliation.

That hole in your stocking is concealed by your boot, but in case of a sprain or fracture, the evidence of your neglect will be made apparent to some one who will never forget; and there are times when we are painfully sensible of any defect in our toilets.

Our outward adornings have a certain relation to our inward attire and our spiritual comfort is often seriously

impaired by an ill-fitting garment. It is, then, a necessity that our clothes fit well and feel comfortable; and as we do not dress to please ourselves as much as to please others, we should be tastefully and becomingly clad, avoiding shabby garments unless poverty compels us to wear them.

Always avoid eccentricities of dress, as those who distinguish themselves in this way are considered weak in intellect, if not absolutely insane.

Dress within your means, always selecting the material so that the style will lead no one to criticise the quality.

Wear calico as if it were silk, and silk as if it were calico.

Have your mind so lifted above the foolish things of the world that, what-

ever your outward adornings, you shall seem to those who love you, and to Him who reads your heart, as if always clad in royal raiment.

When we are infants, our clothes seem to be the biggest part of us; but when we attain to the stature of men and women, the value of the parcel should be to us more than the wrappings around it.

Many are willing to sell their birth-right for a mess of finery; but, my dear girl, when death strips us of these externals and shows us what worthless objects they are, those who were wise will rejoice that they have on the wedding garment which admits them into the presence of the white-robed throng; the royal robe, fairer than queen

Esther's, that shall win the favor of the King of kings.

The love of dress has ruined many a soul. Wives and daughters who are anxious to outshine their neighbors in this respect drive husbands and fathers into rash speculations and fraudulent transactions, and, finally, to inevitable ruin. It is the love of dress more than the pangs of hunger that fills our streets with wretchedness and vice; and it is the duty of Christian girls to so order their dress and conversation that they may never be mistaken, as is too frequently the case, for the painted Jezebels whose praise is never in the mouth of good men.

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