

MANNERS

Culture and Dress

OF THE
Best American Society
BY
RICHARD A. WELLS, A. M.
1893.

page 359

THE TOILETTE.



UTY has more to do with attention to the toilette than vanity. We are therefore bound to turn our personal attractions to the very best advantage, and to preserve every agreeable quality with which we may have been endowed.

It is every woman's duty to make herself as beautiful as possible; and no less the duty of every man to make himself pleasing in appearance. The duty of looking well is one we owe not only to ourselves, but to others as well. We owe it to ourselves because others estimate us very naturally and very properly by our outward appearance; and we owe it to others because we have no right to put our friends to the blush by our untidiness.

If a gentleman ask a lady to accompany him to the opera or a concert, she has no right to turn that expected pleasure into a pain and mortification by presenting herself with tumbled hair, ill-chosen dress, badly-fitting gloves and an atmosphere of cheap and offensive perfumes. So, also, if the gentleman comes to fulfill his appointment with tumbled clothes, shaggy hair and beard, soiled linen and an odor of stale tobacco, she may well consider such an appearance an insult.

Self-respect, as well as consideration for the other, demands that the personal appearance of each be pleasing and in good taste.

HEALTH AND BEAUTY.

Upon the minor details of the toilette depend, in a great degree, the health, as well as the beauty, of the individual. In fact, the highest state of health is equivalent to the greatest degree of beauty of which the individual is capable. It is a false taste which looks upon a fragile form and a pale and delicate complexion as requisites for beauty. The strength and buoyancy and vigor of youth, the full and rounded curves of form and features, the clear complexion, fair in the blonde and rich and brilliant in the brunette, tinted with the rosy flush of health,—these constitute the true beauty which all should seek, and to which all with proper care can at least partially attain.

