

CLOTHES and the MAN



*Costly thy habit as thy purse can buy,
But not expressed in fancy; rich, not
gaudy;*

For the apparel oft proclaims the man.

—Shakespeare: *Hamlet*

Those who make dress a principal part
of themselves, will, in general, become
of no more value than their dress.

—Hazlitt: *On the Clerical Character.*

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The world must be getting old, I think; it dresses so very soberly now:

—J. K. Jerome: *Idle Thoughts.*

Mr. Pepys' Wardrobe

31st. Up and to the office, where we sat all the morning, and at noon home to dinner, where Creed came and dined with me, and after dinner he and I upstairs, and I showed him my velvet cloake and other things of clothes that I have lately bought, which he likes very well, and I took his opinion as to some things of clothes. Thence to the office where busy till night, and then to prepare my monthly account, about which I staid till 10 or 11 o'clock at night, and to my great sorrow find myself L43 worse than I was the last month. But it hath chiefly arisen from my layings-out in clothes for myself and wife; viz., for her about L12, and for myself L55 or thereabouts; having made myself a velvet cloake, two new cloth suits, black, plain both, a new shagg gowne, trimmed with gold buttons and twist, with a new hat, and silk tops for my legs, and many other things. I hope I shall not need now to lay out more money a great while; but I hope I shall with more comfort labour to get more, and with better successe than when for want of clothes I was forced to sneake like a beggar.

—Samuel Pepys: *Diary (1660-69).*