

## The London Chronicle

The History of Male FASHIONS. (1762)

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*The History of MALE FASHIONS.*

*First Chapter of Hats, after Hippocrates.*

HATS are now wore upon an average fix inches and three-fifths broad in the brim, and cocked between Quaker and Kevenhuller. Some have their hats open before, like a church-spout, or the tin scale they weigh flour in: some wear them rather sharper, like the nose of a greyhound; and we can distinguish by the taste of the hat, the mode of the wearer's mind. There is the military cock, and the mercantile cock; and while the beaux of St. James's wear their hats under their arms, the beaux of Moorfields-mall wear theirs diagonally over their left or right eye.

Sailors wear the sides of their hats uniformly, tacked down to the crown, and look as if they carried a triangular apple-pasty upon their heads.

I hope no person will think us disaffected; but when we meet any of the new-raised infantry wearing the buttons of their hats bluff before, and the trefoil white worsted shaking as they step, we can't help thinking of French figure dancers.

With the Quakers, 'tis a point of their, faith, not to wear a button, or loop tight up; their hats spread over their heads like a penthouse, and darken the outward man, to signify they have the inward light.

Some wear their hats (with the corner that should come over their foreheads in a direct line) pointed into the air; those are the Gawkies.

Others don't above half cover their heads, which is indeed owing to the shallowness of their crowns; but between beaver and

eyebrows, expose a piece of blank forehead, which looks like a sandy road in a surveyor's plan.—Indeed, people should hide as much of the face under their hats as possible; for very few there are but what have done something, for which they ought to be out of countenance.

I remember at a droll society established in Dublin, called the Court of Nassau, a gentleman was indicted for wearing his hat in the court: the attorney general moved in favour of the defendant, that the indictment was falsely laid; for in it was expressed, the gentleman had his hat upon his head; and the attorney proved his client not to have a head; now if, in London, no persons were to wear hats, but such as have heads, what would become of the hatters? yet this we may safely avow, that a man may shew by his hat, whether he has a head. or at least by the decorating it, whether his head is properly furnished. A gold button and loop to a plain hat, distinguishes a person to be a little lunatic; a gold band round it, shews the owner to be very dangerously infected; and if a tassel is added, the patient is incurable.

A man with a hat larger than common, represents the fable of the mountain in labour; and the hats edged round with a gold binding, belong to brothers of the turf.

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## CHAP. II. Upon Wigs

ELABORATELY have both ancients and moderns expressed themselves concerning the Brain, the Pineal Gland, Ideas, and Cogitations, by which the Head, or the Animal Spirits of the Head, properly trammel'd, might pace in good order.

But the only persons who can properly be of benefit to Heads, are Periwig-makers, and Doctor Monro, Physician to Moorfields Hospital.

Wigs are as essential to every person's head, as lace is to their clothes; and although understanding may be deficient in the wearer, as well as money, yet people dress'd out look pretty; and very fine Gentlemen, thus embellished, represent those pots upon Apothecaries shelves, which are much ornamented, but always stand empty.

Behold a Barber's Block unadorned: Can we conceive any higher idea of it, than that of a bruiser just preparing to set to? Indeed, with a foliage round the temples, it might serve in an auction room for the Bust of a Caesar; and provided it was properly worm-eaten, would be bid for accordingly. But of that hereafter, our business now is to shew the consequence of Wigs.

### Imprimis.

The 'Prentice Minor-bob, or Hair-cap; this is always short in the neck, to show the stone stock-buckle, and nicely stroaked from the face, to discover seven-eighths of the ears; and every Smart we meet, so headed, seems, like Tristram Shandy, to have been skating against the wind; and his hair, by the sharpness of the motion, shorn from his face.

Next the Citizen's Sunday buckle, or bob-major; this is a first rate, bearing several tiers of curls, disposed in upper, middle, and lower order.

Then the Apothecary's bush, in which the hat seems sinking like a stone into a snow heap.

The Physical and Chirurgical ties, carry much consequence in their fore-tops, and; the depending knots fall fore and aft the shoulders, with secundum artem dignity.

The Scratch, or the Blood's skull-covering, is combed over the forehead, untoupeed, to imitate a head of hair, because those gentlemen love to have every thing natural about them.

The Jehu's jemmy, or white and all-white, in little curls, like a fine fleece on a lamb's back, we should say something upon, were it not for fear of offending some gentlemen of great riches, who love to look like coachmen.

### CHAP. III. Frocks, Coat's, Surtouts, and Walking Sticks

EVERY gentleman now, by the length of his skirts, seems Dutch-waisted or like a Bridewell-boy, with a garment down to mid-leg; and they are so much plashed sometimes behind, that I have, when following, in a dirty day one of those very fashionable frock-wearers, been tempted to call out,—'Pray, dear Sir, pin up your petticoats.'

Then their cuffs cover entirely their wrists, and only the edge of the ruffles are to be seen; as if they lived in the slovenly days of Lycurgus, when every one was ashamed to show clean linen.

The Mode-makers of the age have taken an antipathy to the leg; for by their high-topped shoes, and long trouser-like breeches, with a broad knee-band, like a compress for the Rotula, a leg in high taste is not longer than a Common-council-man's tobacco-stopper.

Fine scarlet shag frocks were becoming, while no  
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Blue Manchester velvets, with gold cords, or rich button-holes, are generally the uniform of Bum-bailiffs, Slight-of-hand-men, and Money-droppers. But plain suits of those cottons, of grave colours, are the dress of shop-riders, and country traders.

Walking sticks are now almost reduced to an useful size.

Is it not wonderful, we should put forth so many paragraphs concerning Female fantasticalness, as we are prone to do, and never consider, that our own heads are but mere Piece-brokers shops, full of the remnants of Fashion. Do not some of us strut about with walking-sticks as long as leaping-poles, as if we were pioneers to the troop of Hickerry-cutters; or else with a yard of varnished cane; scraped taper, and bound at one end with wax-thread, and the other tipt with a neat-turn'd ivory head, as big as a silver-penny, which switch we hug under our arms so Jemmy.— Could our fore-fathers be such fools? like enough faith; and as we are but twigs of the same trunks, we scorn to degenerate from our ancestors.

Surtouts now have four laps on each side, which are called Dog's-ears; when these pieces are unbuttoned, they flap backwards and forwards, like so many supernumerary patches, just tacked on at one end—and the wearer seems to have been playing many bouts at back-sword, till his coat's cut to pieces. When they-are button'd up, they appear like comb-cases, or pacquets for a penny-post-man to sort his letters in. Very spruce smarts have no buttons nor holes upon the breast of these their surtouts, save what are upon the ears—and their garments only wrap over their breasts, like a morning gown. A proof, that dress may be made too fashionable to be useful.

How far several sorts of people dress above themselves, and “wear the cost of Princes on unworthy shoulders,” is not in the compass of our plan to examine; but we must beg leave, to observe, that propriety in dress is an indication to a fine understanding; and those persons are blessed with the nicest tastes, who never sacrifice sense to show, or derogate from that great rule of right, The Golden Mean.