

HULDAH the prophetess who pressed suits
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(2 KINGS 22:14)

A certain famous clothing firm has specialized in the advertisement, "You can always tell a man by the way he is dressed," and a little while ago the appearance of their sandwich-board man in the streets of Glasgow caused a great deal of mirth. He patiently walked up and down the main streets proclaiming to all and sundry the virtue of being dressed by his employers-yet he himself was a tramp in rags. Huldah the prophetess was probably a very handy woman to have in the royal palace. Her constant care of the royal wardrobe assured the king that his various uniforms were always ready for use. Every Christian has been presented with a similar wardrobe, and this demands constant attention. Huldah should be the example of every follower of Christ.

The Garment of Salvation

"I will greatly rejoice in the Lord . . . for he hath clothed me with the garments of salvation, he hath covered me with a robe of righteousness" (Isa. 61:10). After their act of disobedience, Adam and Eve patiently made garments with which to clothe themselves; and as far as we are able to judge, they were very satisfied with their efforts. Yet when the voice of God sounded in the garden, they fled; for they realized that in spite of their commendable efforts, they were still naked. The demoniac of Gadara furiously tore the clothing from his body, for in his unbalanced state of mind, he considered his appearance to be perfectly satisfactory. Yet when Christ expelled the indwelling demons, the man realised his great need and gladly accepted the garment which Christ offered. The most elementary Gospel truth teaches that man's best righteousness is as filthy rags; that he is naked in the sight of the Lord, and needs to be clothed with the garment of salvation.

The Garment of Holiness

and the holy garments for Aaron the priest, and the garments of his sons, to minister in the priest's office" (Ex. 31: 10). Divine law required that he who entered within the veil to intercede on behalf of Israel, should be clothed in consecrated vestments. He who would prevail in the secret place should be suitably arrayed to reveal the magnificence of his office. Thus we are introduced to the next item of the royal wardrobe. He who claims allegiance to Christ and professes His salvation, should be clothed in the garment of holiness; for there is no one so disappointing as the man who fails to practise what he preaches. If Christ be the object of my admiration, it logically follows that His holiness will be my example.

The Garment of Humility

be clothed with humility: for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble" (1 Pet. 5 :5). That the apostle Peter should give this advice to the elders of the Church seems to suggest that if they needed to be humble, then the entire assembly needed the same grace. Holiness and humility are twin sisters. They belong to each other. There are people who advertise their holiness and at the same time strut about like peacocks. There are truly godly saints who proclaim to all and sundry, "I am

HULDAH the prophetess who pressed suits the chief of sinners." Humility is the shy emanation of inward godliness; spiritual pride is the evidence that one's head has outgrown one's heart; that one's holiness is but a reflection of self-esteem.

The Garment of Praise

the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness." This suggestive portion of Isaiah's prophecy was read by the Saviour in the synagogue at Nazareth (Luke 4:16-22); and when He went on to say, "This day is the Scripture fulfilled in your ears," He clearly demonstrated that He had come to give joy. One cannot walk with Christ and remain sad, for the very essence of His message leads to joy. At the conclusion of His ministry He said "These things have I spoken unto you, that your joy might be full." The Christian wardrobe contains a glorious selection of exquisite clothing; but this adds to our responsibility. HulDAH's activities seem to say, "You can always tell a man by the way he is dressed."

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