

Mount Lebanon

Dearlly Beloved Ministry

In passing among our good and well-meaning Sisters, we are often accosted with questions regarding our late fashioned dresses which for want of time and fore-calculatation, and finally want of rule we are unprepared to answer satisfactorily. Again we are pained to see extravagance in width and impropriety in style of dresses, especially those worn in uniform in our Sabbath Meetings.

Good Ministry, we love the Sisters we wish to make their pathway easy, and their appearance beautiful in the worship. And now as something is doing about uniform fabric, we have called upon Eldress Polly Reed, in union with other Sisters whose experience in the line of dress-making has made them competent to the task to labor upon this subject, and measure and reason till a rule can be found, by which all whether large, medium or small, shall have a proper proportion of cloth and look alike. Thus we commit to your charge and care the accompanying regulations, which we trust may prove a blessing; and with them a renewal of Mother Lucy's counsel which may be of use. Mother said Tayloresses should keep their business in its order as really as Eldresses or Deaconesses. Therefore we wish these rules to be kept among Ministry, Eldresses, Deaconesses and Tayloresses and not be made a common talk with those unacquainted with fabric and dress-making.

In love we have written these lines and our blessing and love does and will continue to flow to every faithful

Sister in the Lion of God.

Betsy and Eliza Ann.

Beloved Eldresses, Deaconesses and Tayloresses

By request, and in union with the Ministry we humbly present the following rules, regulations & remarks, accompanying the Graduated Scale of Waist Measure as the results of our most careful and thorough investigation and calculation.

In the Graduated Scale we have numbered the inches of different Waists, grouping 2 or 3 measures varying one half inch each, Thus dividing 40 measures into sizes commencing at the largest. No 12 Allowing 12 varying widths of Shirts.

^{ru}The distance between the plaits where they are set under the waist are three fourths of an inch for large, medium and small persons. For the very largest sizes they may have to be spread a trifle more; and if the plaits in the apron are laid on inch, they correspond with each other and look very pretty.

^{ru}The space between the plaits in the apron is graduated from 4 to 5 inches. The largest sizes are calculated for four plaits in the apron, smaller ones three.

Our Ministry with other competent judges have given the Graduated Scale of Waist measures, which embodies the entire system and rule for width of Skirting, plaiting &c. their most careful attention.

It is approved and admitted sufficient cloth for our

uniform and nice gowns. For gowns to be worn in the kitchen and every day, make nine or eighteen or twenty-seven inches narrower and as much narrower still as the wearer may desire.

Never add more than three inches to the width because it is on the cloth or to accommodate for seams &c. for such a strip is often useful and economy covets her own. If three or four inches is wanting in width, it may be dispensed with and will never be misused in a full skirt. One tuck only in a gown skirt admissible for grown people: that, no higher than four inches from the bottom.

A rule for length of waists cannot be given.

The best one we can recommend is this.

Guard against getting them too long, especially if the sense is a little worldly. Make them so that the Ministry of each Bishopric, can own and bless them. Scarer right than this we cannot do.

Remarks concerning Leno Dresses.

By making a few gowns of this kind, we find it necessary to face them around the bottom as high as the tuck, with something as light colored as the gown itself, or, it will look darker when done.

Edge them around the bottom with light braids, to prevent their immediate wear.

Some prefer wearing a white Spencer to lining the gowns. This is right if chosen, and a white

skirt is the proper dress over which they should be worn.
Note - In our rules for width we have allowed from $3\frac{1}{2}$ to $5\frac{1}{2}$ inches to the plait for the Leno cloth. Therefore seven inches from each size in the graduated scale, for all kinds of finer and more pleable fabric might easily be dispensed with and still retain the number of plaits. It is nothing binding whether we have 2, 3, or 4 plaits in our gown aprons if we do not over go the stated number of plaits in the whole skirt, nor fall short in the given distance.

In Love and good-will, we subscribe ourselves
your fellow Laborers & Tayloresses of
Mount Lebanon -