

A LONG OR SHORT TIME.

THE QUESTION OF LONG AND SHORT ENGAGEMENTS

Discussed by Readers of "Progress"—A Great Many Different Opinions—What a Bald-Headed Man Thinks—Rough on the Dude—Hugging the Delusion.

The correspondent who asked PROGRESS which was preferable, a long or short engagement, will, without doubt, find a variety of answers to the question on this page. Such a query requires a good deal of thought, and as PROGRESS said last week, there is evidently much diverse opinion upon the subject. It is impossible to print all the replies this week, and a number have been held until the next issue. As they are arriving by every mail, interest in the matter under discussion seems to be undoubted.

What "Astra" Thinks About It.

To be or not to be a long engagement, that is the question. Whether it is nobler, and at the same time more satisfactory to suffer the gibes and jeers of our outrageous married friends, who having got into the scrape themselves would fain see others in as sad a case; or else embark upon a sea of troubles, and by opposition to them only make them worse. To exchange the ills we are only too well acquainted with, to fly to others that we know not of. Thus does the near approach of matrimony make cowards of us all, and induce us to beg for a little more time in which to think the momentous step over. "Happy is the wooing that is not long a-doing," said our grandmothers, and there are well authenticated cases on record where those warm hearted dames met their lovers for the first time on Monday morning, and eloped with them on the following Sunday evening while the rest of the family were comfortably snoozing away in church. A post chaise with four horses and a hall sovereign to the post boy made the road smooth for the ardent lovers in those days when the bride did not trouble herself about a trousseau; and pullman cars and ten-dollars-a-day-hotels were unknown luxuries, and yet I doubt if these hasty unions were any happier in the long run than the better considered matches of today.

Somehow or other there is a prejudice against long engagements; the popular opinion seems to be that they seldom come to anything, and many young people are afraid to enter openly into one, from a dread of the comments which they have so often heard in connection with others, and which they well know will fall to their own share. Their married friends will take an undying interest in their affairs, and ply them with questions as to why they don't get married, what there is to prevent them from doing so, and when they think they will really make up their minds, until the unhappy couple are almost tempted to wish they had never seen each other. And added to these trifling disadvantages, the perennial rumor, which never fails to spring up like the thistles which bloom in the summer, is that the engagement is broken off, one faction of devoted friends insisting that "she jilted him," while the opposing party have it on the best authority that "he grew tired of her," as they always knew he would.

These, of course, are drawbacks, shadow on the bright, and thorns on the roses, in spite of which, in my estimation, long engagement is far more to be desired than a short one. Think of it, girls! Year after year of unalloyed bliss, summer after summer of cheerfully rendered homage and unlimited ice cream! Winter after winter of *le-toi-toi* sleigh drives and cosy evenings in the back parlor, when the fire burned low and the lamp did likewise, or else did not burn at all; when you reigned as sovereign over the entire realm of one manly heart, and wore your crown with a dignity any ordinary queen might have envied, when you were free to enjoy the society of the one boy in the world to an unlimited extent, to dominate over him and heckle him to your heart's content, knowing he enjoyed being bullied, above all things, and thought you so clever for being able to take charge of him as you did, always provided he knew you were not in earnest about it. Wouldn't he be kicked if he thought you were? Oh, it is a delightful state of existence! You know each other quite well enough to have differences of opinion which amount to the end to absolute fights, when each gives the other their freedom with a freezing hauteur, which Lady Macbeth might envy, only to make up ten minutes later and seal the reconciliation with self-reproaches and oscillatory exercises; when the cares and responsibilities that come with marriage are still far off and life is one long holiday. A long engagement by all means girls, because then you learn to know each other's disposition so perfectly that you are unsuitable for each other, you find it out before it is too late, and part before you have taken the irrevocable step which might have made two people miserable for life.

I don't talk from hearsay, girls. I have been through it myself and know all about it. Geoffrey and I were engaged for five years, and if I had it to do over again I would have the engagement just three months long and no longer. Do you agree with me or not? Those in favor of this motion will please signify the same by saying "Aye."

A Bald Headed Opinion.

In case you care for a little variety in answers to your query, will you kindly receive a word from one who, though not one of your own "sect," is yet deeply interested in such an appeal as that you have made to PROGRESS. You know it is a very common occurrence for young men and women, between the juvenile age of sixteen and that pleasant era of emancipation, twenty-one, to discuss with flippancy the most vital of all questions. Although having arrived at that age when men struggle

(in vain usually) with the problem of a cure for baldness, yet I am not opposed to the youthful habit. On the contrary I enjoy it. I have listened with unfeigned pleasure to proposals, and even heard the love whispers between each kiss. But that is not all! I have popped the irrevocable question myself and been accepted. Oh! the ecstasy of that evening hour (eight years ago) and every moment since is beyond comparison.

Engagements today are as common as mosquitos in New Jersey, or as tickling in fly time. And there is much to be said to encourage them. But what's the use of me talking, since the tendency of the age is to disregard the opinions of men of mature life. Besides I do not wish to exhaust the resources of my thought tank; to do so would deteriorate the growth of my hirute covering, which will positively refuse to grow at all should my brief sentiments find a lonely burial in the waste basket. Do you see the point? Well I follow the example of your friend,

She Is Rough on the Dude.

Circumstances alter cases. There would be fewer short engagements were people in a position to marry. Many a young man today would like to get married had he ready cash to start housekeeping. As a rule a young man never thinks of that, he flirts around, spends what he earns, and when the right person comes along there is of a necessity the long engagement. I do not believe in a girl waiting until a young man has every thing easy for her, let them begin and help each other. Most girls think their husbands ought to begin where their fathers leave off, they forget their long years of hard labor. And another thing, if two young people are in a position to marry, they know as much about each other at the end of six months as they would the same number of years. I do not see why marriage should make them think less of each other if either of them had any sense. If that is the way it works, it is no wonder marriage has been termed a failure. I think it would be a long engagement and a decided failure in the end with a certain class of young men, I speak of these half dudes, or whole ones, they think they are. Their greatest ambition in this world is to get a collar high enough and stiff enough, added to a light overcoat of the latest style, then stand on a nice public corner and make all the remarks they like about the passers by. Small foundation there is about them either in the shape of cash or wit.

I would marry a man on two weeks acquaintance, were he the right stamp, and like a stamp, they generally bear the mark. I'd like a peep at him in his home life, though that is where the devil gets in his fine work. It's not his society face that tells the tale. Were I engaged to a young man who was in a position to marry, and he would keep coming at a dog trot year in and year out I am afraid his love would be like himself, slightly slow; I would, as the boys would say, "give him the bounce on the double quick." But then again, I suppose, long engagements are pleasant for some people; I speak of those who have nothing to think about but having a good time. A society girl for instance, after she's married she must settle down somewhat. So it's Charlie here, and Charlie there, and spin the engagement out as long as possible; such people are rarely happy together. I guess it would be something similar to the Frenchman and his kisses, I would not like that, and would prefer a steady, sensible love. So my opinion is, if you can marry, why marry, and it depends a great deal with yourself whether you are happy or not.

Let Them Hug the Delusion.

"Which is preferable, a long engagement or a short one?" Well, I don't know? I think the chief difficulty in answering this momentous question lies in deciding upon the point of view from which to take it. It bears as many heads as Hydra of ancient fame, and every aspect has its extenuating circumstances. It depends upon what you want in an engagement. Some people like to keep the excitement up to fever pitch, and live in a brief paradise of bliss, and to them I should say make it short, very short! But there is danger of the tide ebbing, only to leave one high and dry upon the bleak sands of reality.

Pour moi, I shall never "hold up both hands" and declare for a short engagement—not by a large majority! There is too much fun to be got out of a long one.

It is very delightful to feel that one man cherishes the idea that he has won a very treasure among girls, and though you know he is awfully mistaken, it seems a pity to have the pleasing delusion dispelled as it too often is, by a few months of married life. One may protest against his hugging the fond delusion, but such conscientious attempts always go for naught, and the inevitable awakening must invariably come "after taking," not before. So let us prolong the dream as long as possible.

Proposals.

The violet loves a sunny bank, The cowslip loves the lea, The scarlet creeper loves the elm, But I love—thee.

The sunshine kisses mount and vale, The stars they kiss the sea, The west wind kisses the clover bloom, But I kiss—thee.

The oracle weds his mottled mate, The lily's bride of the bee, Heaven's marriage ring is round the earth— Shall I wed thee.

Well-Posted Cattle. Fair maiden (a summer border)—How savagely that cow looks at me. Farmer Haysseed—It's your red parasol, mum.

Fair maiden—Dear me! I knew it was a little out of fashion, but I didn't suppose a country cow would notice it.—Ez.

A Circulating Ring. Alice—I met Minnie Renee today and she showed me the engagement ring that Horace Fledgely gave her. Gwendolin—Is it a pretty one? Alice—You remember the one he gave you and me? Gwendolin—Let me think. Oh yes! Alice—It's the same ring.—Jewellers' Circular.

The Correct Reply. A widower, not long after the death of his wife, married the sister of the latter. A friend of his, returning from a distant journey, sympathetically inquired whom he was in mourning for. Somewhat embarrassed at the question, the widower replied: "For my sister-in-law."—Flegende Blatter.

THE GREATEST DISCOVERY OF THE AGE. THE GREATEST DISCOVERY OF THE AGE.

relentlessly hunted to his own undoing! Ah, yes! I long engagement fairly bristles with good points. Of course, I know there are men who object to their fiancées having anything to do with men other than their own charming selves, but kind fate preserve me from an engagement, long or short, with any such!

Seriously, I believe there is every advantage in a man and woman having ample opportunity to learn to know one another; and if a mistake has been made, it may be rectified before it is everlastingly too late. There might be fewer wretched couples chafing and dragging against each other all through life, had they waited to find out their unsuitableness before the irrevocable step was taken. Marry in haste and repent at leisure may be an old saw, but it is in a good state of preservation. So, at least, it seems to me. This is, of course, considering the question purely from a feminine point of view, but I fancy very much the same thing might be said from the other side. If men and women would use the same common sense that is brought into play in the other and less important matters of life, marriage would less often be a dismal failure, *que pensez vous?* ISLAY BLEND.

Three Months Usually, but Six Months for Saratoga.

In reply to the question, "Which is preferable, a long or a short engagement?" I beg to submit the following as the candid opinion of one who is at present numbered among the bachelors. I would prefer a short engagement, but please do not think for a moment that by "short" I wish to introduce an engagement lasting two or three weeks, or in other words to be introduced to your affianced on a Monday, engaged Wednesday and married Saturday. No, far from it, but I would make the limit six months, although I consider three months quite long enough, but it depends greatly on circumstances; for instance, if a young man met one of the fair sex for the first time at Saratoga or some favorite resort, and both parties concerned were utter strangers to each other and were captured by Cupid, then I would approve of engagements extending to six months if not longer, according to the circumstances of the case in question. PHILLOS.

Drugging in the Mother-in-Law.

An engagement—long or short; which should it be? It does seem to me there can be no very definite rule to govern this matter. Circumstances often play an important part in determining when an engagement should be consummated. For instance, one's prospective mother-in-law may be obtrusive. She may lay down too many rules for the fair daughter. She often may want to know just a little too much. And when you call to pass a few short hours with the girl you love she—the mother—generally succeeds in finding the most comfortable seat in the parlor. And it is this which makes two hearts beat as one and resolve on immediate freedom.

To the young man with a small income I would say: Let your engagement last as quickly as possible. The sooner you are married the sooner will you begin to lay up wealth; for many a young man has proved it possible for two to live cheaper than one.

For myself, I should say three months would give a very good idea of a young lady's character. If I could not form correct opinions in that time, I could not in a whole year.

It is really a love affair, and he thinks his beauty is the fairest of all; the baster, and she adores him as her ideal of manhood, then the minister's services will soon be called into requisition.

A Stern View of the Question.

How does a woman love? Once, no more. Though life is full of love, it is not love. Deep in sorrow or deep in sin, One long reigneth her heart within. One alone by night and day, Moves her spirit to curse or pray.

How does a man love? Once for all. The sweetest love life may ever know, Sorrow daunt him, or death dismay, 'Tis the love that is true and true, Fortune smile, or jeat or frown, The cruel thump of the world turn down, 'Tis the love that is true and true, Through storm or sunshine, by day or night, Wandering far from sleep, awake, Though souls may madden or weak hearts break, Better than wife, or child, or self, Once and forever he loves her well.

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Go to the Picnic well supplied with all the necessities, and luxuries. If you will, such as deviled ham sandwiches, ox tongue, corned beef, potted meats, poultry and game, coffee and milk, fruit, berries and cream, &c., &c., which you can get from J. S. ARMSTRONG & BRO., 32 Charlotte street.

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Advertisements under this heading not exceeding five lines (about six words) cost 25 cents each insertion. Five cents extra for every additional line.

LADIES' POCKET BOOKS, Note Papers, &c. (plain or ruled), extra values at McLAREN'S, 39 King Street.

AGENTS WANTED! Celebrated Book Leaf Holder. Send 25 cts. for sample and prices.—A. A. TURPIN, 128 Germain Street, St. John, N. B.

FURNISHED HOUSE WANTED, in a sea-side place, for the summer months or longer; near a good market.—Address at once, stating terms, A. B., Office of "PROGRESS."

NO DUST IN IT THE NOVELTY INK—Keeps as long as it stands. Keeps ink clear; does not smudge; writes as fast as any ink at sight. Sample mailed for fifty cents; agents wanted. CANADIAN NOVELTY CO., Milltown, New Brunswick.

SAFETY BICYCLE, NO. 5, SAMSON make, 20 inch wheel, full ball bearings, in perfect order. Used 3 months; sold because too short for my legs. Best cash offer over \$65 takes it.—A. M. HOZAN, Knowles' Bookstore, Halifax, June 6.

THE GRAND ORACLE. GIVE THE date of your birth, (year, month and day), and send 25 cents for a forecast of coming year, your fortunate days, etc., compiled from special predictions by "Zikriah," "Laphase" and "Giron," the noted English Astrologers. The above and an "Easy Day Guide" for any month in 1891, 40 cents; any four months, 75 cents; or for the remainder of the year, \$1. "The Alphabet of Truth," 25 cents; stamps or silver. From \$5 to \$10 has frequently been charged for precisely the same matter that is here offered! Communications in confidence.—W. L. SAWYER, 109 Lincoln street, Portland, Maine, June 7.

SERGES AND CHEVIOTS. FOR general wear there is nothing more durable or better to keep its color than a Serge or Cheviot. We have in stock in English, Scotch and Irish makes in all qualities. A. GILMORE, Montreal, every day.

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FLOWERS, HOUSE AND BEDDING plants for sale, at greenhouses, and in City Market.—A. J. STEPHENS, Mount Pleasant, June 1.

SUMMER LODGINGS, roomy and pleasant, can be had, ten minutes walk from Nauwigwak station. A cooking stove ready for use and some furniture goes with the room; a Post Office, Store and Telegraph Office.—All useful accessories to country life, and close by.—Apply to J. D. M. KAYTON, May 29.

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LADIES' NOTE PAPER AND ENVELOPES.—special low prices. Automatic Fountain Pen, 25c each, at McARTHUR'S Book Store, 30 King St.

SHORTHAND, FRED DAVINE (Court Reporter, Typographer), will receive pupils gratis, and will be glad to give a regular course; east and evening. Scovill system. May 23.

BOARDING, A FEW PERMANENT or commodious, transient and pleasant rooms, in very centrally located houses, 75 Sidney Street, Miss. McLEIN, May 23.

EVERY WEEK THERE ARE THREE where we have no agencies, leading to secure the right to sell PROGRESS. There are scores of small places where the people would be glad to have a boy willing to make money. He can do so easily by selling PROGRESS. Splendid profits and little work.—Address for particulars, Circulation Dept., Progress, St. John N. B.

COUNTRY RESIDENCE, situated at Rotherby—30 minutes walk from station.—For sale or to let for the summer. Just the place to spend a summer holiday. Two minutes walk from house to station; plenty of ground. House in good repair; barn attached.—Apply for particulars, at Progress Office.

FRIENDS OF PROGRESS who know of bright, honest boys who would not object to making some money for themselves, or keeping their parents, by two or three hours every Saturday, in such towns and villages in the Maritime provinces, where PROGRESS is not for sale at present, can learn of something to their advantage, by writing to Progress "Circulation Department," St. John, N. B.

50cts. PAYS FOR A SOLID RUBBER Fountain Pen. Made on the same principle as a \$2.50 pen. Guaranteed not to clog. Sent in a neat box with filler. A regular business for agents: \$5.00 to \$10.00 a day made easy. Send stamps, or post office order for sample.—H. V. MORAN, Box 22, St. John, N. B.

SUMMER RESIDENCE to let, for the fall season, or for a situated in a grove of trees, within a few rods of the river bank, and convenient to city by boat or train. House two-story & nearly new; seven rooms; good outhouse; also garden in connection in high state of cultivation. Pure spring water on premises; Good school handy. Rent reasonable. Possession given any time after navigation opens.—Address "Summer Residence" care PROGRESS Office, (Apr 4)

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E. J. SHELDON, ESQ. Travelling Agent of the Mutual Life Insurance Company

Takes great pleasure in testifying that SCOTT'S CURE FOR RHEUMATISM relieved him almost instantly from a severe attack of Rheumatism in the arm, and recommends it highly as a Household Remedy.

SCOTT'S CURE FOR RHEUMATISM

is the greatest discovery of the age for the immediate relief of RHEUMATISM. Applied to a bruised surface, it will instantly relieve pain and allay inflammation. Scott's Cure is a preparation that no household should be without.

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THIS GENT Looks satisfied, pleased, and contented. What makes him so? He's in a nice fitting suit, a nice looking suit. One of ours, like this, would look well on you. Try one on sometime—you may buy it if you see it. They're so nice, If you want a business suit, why we can fix you—Outing Summer Suits, in large lots, very cheap, from \$3.75 up. A nice Blue Serge Suit, very cheap.

SCOVIL, FRASER & CO. COR. KING AND GERMAIN.

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MONCTON, MAY 7, 91. Messrs. C. E. BURNHAM & SON, St. John: Gentlemen,—In answer to your inquiry as to what is my opinion on the Brantford Safety Bicycle, I have much pleasure in stating that I have purchased one of the Brantford Safety Bicycles, and have ridden it for several years past, having ridden the "Brantford Safety" and other wheels, but I have not had a wheel that could stand our rough roads, or give me the comfort and satisfaction as did the Brantford Safety. I wish you a large sale for 1891. I remain, yours, etc., W. C. TOOLE, P. O. Dept., Moncton, N. B.

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Have You Seen Our New Roaster? If not, this cut will give you a fair idea of it. MADE IN FOUR SIZES, For Roasting Meats, Game, Poultry, Etc. For Baking Bread, Biscuit, Cake, Pudding, Etc.

Every Housekeeper should have one. The price is so low as to be within the reach of all, and runs from \$1.20 to \$2.00 each. OUR PRESENT STOCK OF TINWARE, HOUSEHOLD HARDWARE, AND NOVELTIES, HAS NEVER BEEN EQUALLED BEFORE.

EMERSON & FISHER, 75 to 79 Prince William Street. P. S.—Now is the time to buy a Refrigerator. We have 12 sizes, ranging from \$10.00 upwards.

THORNE BROS. SPECIALITIES IN HEADWEAR. Uniform Caps, Tennis Caps, Children's Caps, Embracing many attractive novelties. GENTS' FINE FLEXIBLE STIFF HATS. CHILDREN'S STRAW AND LEGHORN HATS.

Thorne Bros. 93 KING STREET.

Whether matters of a good deal anything, the Monday society's reb were there hardly know come off, he in the autumn. The society ne are requested as possible. The party was St. Jude's very definite particulars as to, as Miss M married last ing. Another Ewing, who as I believe to there. Mr. Arthur week, will be people. He harmonious s great interest peoning has friends in off. On Tuesday evening of the stitate, and al still I may say worse articles are only thing newspaper or shared a induced Miss school. I was work, especia were good, as Chaffee with musical circle said before he and showed to Wren. The first on for some good effects" pup hardly by the young student Miss Hiltchen's breeding typhoid, malarial fevers, bowel diseases, cholera, and a whole train of kindred evils, when you can purchase a "PEARL" WATER FILTER FOR \$1.00. If your faucet has not a thread upon it, we can supply at small cost an adjustable thread, which is always handy. Price of Filter, \$1.00. Adjustable Thread Connection, 35c. Get one, and ensure pure water. MANUFACTURED BY T. McAVITY & SONS, - - - SAINT JOHN, N. B.