

so much as one of a pair. The disputant were put out of the house, though how the financial question was settled appeareth not. In spite of this warning of the transitory nature of things fictile, the eagerness of bidders in nowise cooled. A pair of vases, only 18 inches high, was bought by Lord Dudley's agent for 7,500 guineas, and so forth, the day's sale realizing 43,000*l.*—a good day's work. But something must be done with too eager purchasers. An ang, bric-a-brac hunter, is, at a sale of Sévres, more dangerous even than a bull in a china-shop.

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### AN ECONOMICAL WIFE.

The following letter from Lady Compton to her husband, Lord Compton, afterward Earl of Northampton, written in the year 1610, the eighth year of James I., shows that our grandmothers were not so sparing of their husbands' purses, after all, as some would have us think them:—

“MY SWEET LIFE,—Now I have declared to you my mind for the settling of your state, I suppose that it were best for me to bethink and consider within myself what allowance were meetest for me. I pray and beseech you to grant to me, your most kind and loving wife, the sum of £2,600, quarterly to be paid. Also I would, besides that allowance, have £600, quarterly to be paid, for the performance of charitable works, and those things I would not, neither will, be accountable for. Also I will have three horses for my own saddle, that none shall dare to lend or borrow, none lend but me, none borrow but you. Also I would have two gentlewomen, lest one should be sick, or have some other let. Also, believe it, it is an undecent thing for a gentlewoman to stand mumping alone when God hath blessed their lord and lady with a great estate. Also, when I ride a-hunting, or a-hawking, or travel from one house to another, I will have attending; so, for either of those said women I must and will have for either of them a horse. Also, I will have six or eight gentlemen; and I will have my two coaches, one lined with velvet to myself, with four very fair horses, and a coach for my women, lined with cloth and laced with gold, otherwise with scarlet, and laced with silver, with four good horses. Also, I will have two coachmen—one for my own coach, the other for my women. Also, for that it is undecent to crowd up myself with my gentleman usher in my coach, I will have him to have a convenient horse to attend me, either in town or country, and I must have