

TALKING TO THE POINT.

MORE TALK ABOUT INCOMES WHICH JUSTIFY MATRIMONY.

Some of the Previous Estimates Analyzed and Criticized—Economy as a Fine Art—An Interesting Table of what Housekeeping has Cost.

The letters from various correspondents, last week, on the subject of the cost of living, excited a good deal of comment from all classes of readers of PROGRESS. No one of them, however, appears to have attracted more attention than that of the young woman of 19, who treated the subject in such a practical and business like way as to win deserved admiration. Many people have spoken to the editor concerning her, and several correspondents have written her in terms of approval. As most of them, however, fail to throw any further light on the subject, it is not necessary to reproduce their letters. Here is one, however, which contains the valuable lesson of not mortgaging the future for the present, and we give it as a sample:

I must write you a few lines to express my admiration for that young lady of 19, who writes with so much good sense. If I were a young man in quest of a wife, I would like to find her. She is one in fifty. If we had more girls like her there would be more happy homes. They all want so much to start with. Everything depends on living within your means. A man or woman has no business to live in a style which the income cannot support, or to mortgage the earnings of next week or year to keep up that style. A man knows what his actual position is. If he pays his way as he goes, he can keep within his means, and so reserve a fund against a time of need. I have done all that young lady says she could for the past fifteen years, and raised a large family, and my husband kept his life insured also. A large part of the time I had only \$400 per year. I have \$650 now, and expect to save quite a sum per year. No young man need be afraid to get married if he gets the right kind of wife, and his own habits are good.

S. L. E.

Another In Earnest" takes the lowest sum mentioned by PROGRESS, \$600, and gives his estimate as follows:

House rent.....	\$120.00
Provisions.....	160.00
Clothing.....	180.00
Fuel.....	40.00
Life and fire insurance.....	25.00
Doctor's bill.....	30.00
Church and charities.....	15.00
Amusement.....	10.00
Sundries.....	14.40
Washing.....	15.00
\$609.00	

Will the Official Answer?

A good many people, in common with the next correspondent, would like the official in question to give the world the benefit of his researches into the science of household economy on \$8 a week. The columns of PROGRESS are open to him, and he will never have a better chance to explain himself and benefit his fellows:

I have been very much interested in the letters on the question of how to live and enjoy matrimonial bliss on salaries of from \$450 to \$1200. I was thinking of the time the labor commission visited this city, collecting evidence on the labor question. If you remember, a gentleman connected with one of the government institutions in this city, told the commission that a man ought to live comfortably and keep a family (I forget the number of persons) on \$3 a week, and save something for old age. If he would kindly tell your readers, through your paper, how it is done, and itemize, leaving out life insurance and servant's wages, he would confer a favor on more than ONE OF YOUR READERS.

Thinks the Estimates Queer.

"A Practical Housekeeper" takes exception to the estimates furnished last week and thinks it is no wonder that some people never get ahead, and often get in debt. She says:

My husband has a salary of \$1,000 a year, and he had that at the time of our marriage, two years ago. As a matter of fact in our case he had enough ahead at that time to comfortably furnish a flat, and I presume that this is to be understood in all cases. Otherwise there would be a serious inroad on the income for the first year or two. As it is, few people consider that a house is ever fully furnished, and there is always need for something more. Furniture and utensils get broken and worn out, to say nothing of carpets, curtains, etc., which must be renewed from time to time. Every housekeeper should allow an annual sum for maintenance and repairs, and I put this at \$50. Of course, if needs must, this sum may be encroached upon for other objects, but it is a good idea to try and appropriate something for the purpose.

I do not agree with the estimates of "One who has had experience." In the first place, I would like to know where a decent flat in an eligible locality can be had for \$150. It costs us \$190, and we are no better situated than we should be, though of course we could do better by going to a less central locality. Let us suppose that a fairly good flat can be had for \$175, here is my estimate:

House rent.....	\$175.00
Taxes.....	20.00
Housekeeping.....	300.00
Fuel.....	80.00
Light.....	20.00
Insurance.....	5.00
Clothing.....	150.00
Church and charity.....	30.00
Books and papers.....	30.00
Life insurance.....	70.00
Maintenance, doctor, and sundries.....	100.00
\$1,000.00	

I do not think \$200 too little for housekeeping, where a woman is anything of a manager. My fuel estimate is as low as I can make it, to keep a house comfortable day and night. As for clothing, supposing one has a supply to start with, \$150 is amply sufficient for all purposes. It may be that the figure for church and charity is a little low. We own a pew, which costs us \$15 ground rent, and always contribute silver to the offertory. Allowing for services that we miss, and special collections where we give an extra amount, at least \$10 a year goes into the "plate." Then there is scarcely a week that we do not contribute something to this object or that, so that in our case \$50 does not cover this item. We take two daily papers, Pico, News, a religious paper and a monthly magazine, besides buying really good books as we feel disposed. I would like to spend even more for literature, an item which your other correspondents seem to have ignored. It is the best kind of "amusement."

This leaves \$100 to go and come upon, and we always manage to make it suffice.

The Experience of Twenty-One Years.

Here is a copy of an account of the cost of living of a citizen of St. John who was married in April, 1869, and has kept a record of the household expenses ever

since. There have been three births and one death in the family, but no long illness. The figures represent what it actually cost, whether paid for at the time or not, and in some of the years the man was in debt. For the last ten years he has carried \$10,000 insurance, and previous to that time he carried \$2,000. The tables explain themselves, but it may be stated that under the item of "self" are placed only pocket money spent among personal friends, etc. Under the head of "wife" are all sums given to her for her own use, apart from the purchase of clothing and household necessities. If she asks him for \$5 he gives it to her, when he has it, and has no questions. It is purely her own business.

The figures show a wide range of possibilities, and will be found worthy of careful and intelligent study. The date is to April 15 in each year:

Year.	Food, Fuel and all other articles consumed in the household.	Household Expenses.	Wife's pocket money, and other sums paid to her for her own use.	Rent.	Self.	Wife.	Total.
1870	266.33	170.92	60.00	17.92	41.58	556.75	
1871	253.88	190.64	80.00	40.51	38.39	593.42	
1872	223.69	325.66	75.00	91.65	53.04	772.04	
1873	322.35	350.39	100.00	77.49	39.71	899.85	
1874	288.98	307.78	100.00	75.45	66.58	841.75	
1875	366.64	309.95	115.00	148.14	36.31	976.04	
1876	379.57	339.60	144.00	50.31	122.85	1,076.33	
1877	407.60	369.19	152.00	121.64	77.64	1,156.26	
1878	470.90	399.19	150.00	121.64	77.64	1,156.26	
1879	517.48	193.88	188.00	121.90	38.48	1,090.74	
1880	430.38	175.89	170.00	139.94	39.32	954.53	
1881	424.34	194.19	180.00	132.92	76.76	957.14	
1882	333.41	262.10	106.00	78.62	32.35	812.48	
1883	477.08	247.56	82.00	93.51	44.60	944.75	
1884	312.45	165.80	90.00	62.27	32.29	662.82	
1885	399.44	190.54	102.50	97.69	54.89	844.97	
1886	363.33	264.29	110.00	134.27	48.15	928.15	
1887	482.37	301.59	130.00	73.44	83.60	1,161.00	
1888	470.50	425.35	130.00	110.73	98.55	1,235.15	
1889	401.77	588.38	130.00	24.28	49.29	1,193.63	

Several other letters on the subject, including one from the girl of 19, have been received too late for insertion in this issue, and are held over until next week. As the discussion on the topic cannot be protracted, it would be well for those who have any thing to say to send it at once.

YOUNG HICKORY EXPLAINS.

A Great Deal of Good Advice to Those who Would Like to Marry.

When Young Hickory contributed a short and sensible letter last week, PROGRESS suggested that he explain his theories more in detail. He now does so, and this is what he says:

When you contemplate marriage, the first thing before going into housekeeping is to buy all the furniture you may require, as the prospect of adding materially to your stock afterward is very slim. Therefore obtain as much as you think you may require for a long time, and the money usually wasted on wedding tours will do much in that direction. I think these honeymoon trips must have originated at Gretna Green and it would be a goodsend for thousands had they terminated there. Never marry if you have to board; have a home of your own, or none.

When looking for a partner, have all your wits about you. Let there be the greatest physical contrast possible, a tall thin person should choose a short, plump one. Dark and fair should mate, opposite temperaments likewise, and the result will be better developed offspring than where like marries like. A mistake delicate people make is in marrying the same class as themselves. Delicate constituted persons should wed the healthiest partners they can find, if indeed they marry at all. Avoid marrying relatives, yea though they be far removed. Socially, marry nearly as equals as you can, thus avoiding the consequent incessant gossip, too prevalent among all peoples. But if the girl or man of your choice possesses a fair share of the needful, love him or her no less on that account. Let not beauty or social standing be the main attributes required in the partner you seek, and remember that however far above or below you may be socially in relation to your affianced, the moment you are pronounced one, you two are equal. Morally, be sure each others' nature is in harmony. The young lady labors under a disadvantage in this respect inasmuch as, however tainted her lover's life may be, her's must be the concentrated essence of purity, under pain of social ostracism. The fault lies at society's door and society can correct it at will, but then the male proportion of it would have to lead too tame a life.

Next, when any man or woman is about to marry and their stock-in-trade is chiefly common sense, they require an abundance of it to make up for lack of lucre, and if properly mated they can marry much better than they otherwise could with a little more capital. A little common sense and judgment before going to the altar is better than a good deal after. Above all meet your rent bill promptly, thereby saving yourself considerable anxiety, annoyance, etc.

You ask me to prepare a schedule of expenses. Well, it takes two to prepare it properly; I therefore give merely a synopsis, as I do not care to bother my other half, (house cleaning time, see?)

Your lady correspondent last week gave a fair estimate of the cost, which I will further reduce by making the fuel bill read

Matrimony.

HIGHLY RESPECTABLE TRADESMAN, with all means, good appearance, living somewhat retired and quiet, solicits a wife, a working woman, with some means; age, 25 to 45. No notice taken unless full particulars are given. Triflers not answered. Address H. J. News P. O. Box #74, St. John, N. B. Letters addressed to mere initials will not be delivered at the P. O., unless addressed in care of some P. O. Box, or some resident's name.

\$30, and bringing the church and mission allowance down much finer than she does. We can comfortably heat, by the use of hall and kitchen stoves, three bedrooms, kitchen, sitting room, hall and parlor, and any one may do this with the intelligent use of a thermometer. I believe in paying house rent ahead of pew rent; it may not be fashionable, but "them's my sentiments."

Many families might swim where they now sink, but for their efforts to keep up appearances, or having only \$400 or \$500 per year trying to ape the family with \$1,000. As sure as two and two are not five, just so sure will such efforts prove disastrous. Candidly, the only way to get along on a small salary is to cultivate a cold indifference towards public opinion, and be impervious to the sneers and jeers of others; until you do this you will be a mental slave which is far worse than being a physical one. "Respectability" as popularly understood is the bane of the populace. Respectability of character is superior to that assumed by the foolish followers of dame fashion. Boys, be not too fastidious in your choice of a wife in all particulars. I have seen educated young ladies that were not a bit too intellectual, and of the two the latter is preferable, as education is a matter of teaching, while the other is part and parcel of the individual.

And to conclude, either do not expect too much from her whom you intend making your wife, or else endeavor to come up to her expectations regarding yourself.

THE THYCKE FOGGE PAPERS.

The Senator Descants on the Question of Marrying on a Salary.

Those of us who showed up on the usual meeting night were pleased to find our genial entertainer in a very hilarious mood, and at first we had doubts of his sobriety, but knowing his capacity for liquids we dismissed that idea from our minds, and after composing ourselves to refreshment, were content to enquire as to the reason for the Senator's seemingly uncalled for gaiety.

"Friends and fellow-bribers," said Mr. Fogge, "I have been reading PROGRESS, and have been moved to mirth at the contributions turned in, ancient the enquiry relative to the income requisite for a young man to marry on. The contributor who alludes to himself as Geoff seems to have had the rare luck of finding a girl who is possessed of a level head, for she evidently thinks that she would be a fool to marry a man with an income of \$800 per annum, and she is perfectly right. There is no doubt in my mind that a man, situated as Most of you are, is foolish, yes, and more than foolish to marry on less than \$1200 a year. You may think that my ideas are high, but they are not, as I will show you. Take the case of Second of you for example. He is, as is well known to his friends, very much smitten by the charms of a young lady who is in many ways fitted to adorn and conduct a household; now her father is well off, and the young woman has from her birth, been accustomed to have almost every wish gratified, has never had to think about tomorrow's dinner, or her next new dress, or whether she can afford this, that or the other thing. Our friend, who sits blushing under my remarks, is in a good position, has I think about \$1,200 a year, goes into the best society in the city, is a member of the social and athletic clubs, dresses well, and, as we know, is popular. Now, can he take that young woman from the home she has been brought up in, and the various luxuries she has been accustomed to, and give her the same kind of a house to reside over? He can not, and the result of such a marriage would be that in a year or two you would see a husband who would find every other place preferable to his own home, and a wife who was discontented and fretful. You may say that no sensible girl would act in this manner, that she would see that she could not expect to have such a home as she had left, and that she must be content to creep before she can walk. That is all very true, my young friends, but how can you expect any one to change the customs of years simply as a result of the marriage ceremony. No, gentlemen, the trouble is that the young folks of this generation want to start where their parents leave off. When they commence housekeeping they must have a fine house elaborately furnished, silver plate, a piano, and enough bric-a-brac to fit out a bazaar, not to mention a couple of domestics, and my lady has her reception day, and partakes of five o'clock tea, all of which, in the wife of a man in a subordinate position, is absurd and entirely uncalled for.

"I have noticed, as a result of the manner in which many of the girls of the day are brought up, that they reach a more mature age before they are wedded than their mothers did, and also that the number of unwedded maidens grows year by year. It is not that the girls are less lovely or less desirable than those of a generation ago, but simply that, that the young man of the day cannot afford to marry and maintain the position that the young woman he would find make his has been used to."

An indignant groan from Second of us here interrupted the speaker, and We all departed, some of us feeling that perhaps the Sage was more than half right.

CEILING DECORATION a specialty of Wilkins & Sands, 266 Union street.

OH, KATS! KATS! The Latest Recreation of the Genial Citizens of Moncton. The sporting fraternity of Moncton are having a rich treat at the present time of writing. The particular branch of the powers that be—known as the Market committee—has decided that so long as the hungry and suffering collection of citizen, called by courtesy "the free and independent electors of the city of Moncton," cannot have an adequate supply of wholesome food, they shall, at least, have a clean market house, and a lot of fun by way of compensation.

OH, KATS! KATS!

Therefore, as most of the stalls are unoccupied this spring, the cellars empty, and things in general were very dull in the market, it was resolved that a house-cleaning would give the few lonely people, who still linger around that monument of desolation, something to do, and at the same time impart a fictitious look of activity to that deserted and silent building. So they at once proceeded to house-clean, and immediately there was a famine in pearlina and soft soap, and the price of scrubbing sand went up above par.

So zealous did the housecleaners become that they proceeded to take up the floor of the market house, greatly to the discomfort of the large and respectable colony of rats, who had been in the habit of bringing up their families in peace and affluence beneath that same floor ever since the market was built; and they procured terriers of the latter persuasion, and those unhappy rodents had as sad a time in a small way as the christians of old had in the Catacombs of Rome; but what was death for the rats was sport for the terrier, and for a lot of other people besides. Moncton awoke as one man and the rat pit became the popular resort, and the number of rodents that were laid upon the sacrificial altar was duly reported in the public prints from day to day, till not only did the numbers increase till you were lost in wonder as to how the market held them, but their size grew larger by degrees, and beautifully more so, like the pack of wolves which ate each other up until at last the was only one left, and one of the hunters who had witnessed the scene of carnage turned to his companions and remarked, "That wolf is remarkably fat!"

"He ought to be," responded the other, "seeing he has devoured the entire pack of his companions." And the hunters were unable to decide in their own minds how the survivor managed it, and where he found storage room in his internal economy to give all of his friends decent burial. Nor has the problem been solved until this day, although it has almost repeated itself, like history; for only last week a "rude forefather of the hamlet" turned up, who turned the scale at five pounds avoirdupois, so the papers stated, though I confess to finding it a very hard story to swallow. And now the question arises, did that rat devour most of his relatives and friends, or did he merely manage, through superior business tact, to make the market pay, so far as he was concerned, and the immortal "Will" would say, "surfeit with too much, while the citizens starved with nothing?"

I think the general verdict is, that we are unseasonably glad to hear of anything, even a rat, managing to get fat on the products of the Moncton market.

Appropos of rat stories, there is one going the rounds of Moncton, just now, which I scarcely like to repeat, because, tell the honest truth, I really don't believe it myself. So— I cannot say what the truth may be; But tell the tale as 'twas told to me. During the rat baiting of last week, a number of choice spirits assembled in the market building to have a shot at the defenceless quadruped. No sooner was one wounded than his fellows rallied fearlessly around him and carried him off for medical attendance. In one case the wounded knight was of a very large size; so his comrades formed into a tug-of-war by holding on to each other's tails, and thus they were dragging the victim back to his hole when one of the sportsmen, who is the fortunate owner of an air-gun, took aim on the inspiration of the moment, and fired, the steel arrow, with which it was loaded, passing directly through the entire team of rats—there were six of them—and they died without knowing that they were struck! Candidly, I would recommend these rats to be pickled, otherwise taken *cum grano salsi*, but there are people in Moncton who say they saw the entire group strung on the arrow, and as it is a little early for fish stories, yet, and the sea serpent is not up to time this year, I thought I would send it. Next!

GEOFFREY CUTHBERT STRANGE.

Garden Seeds

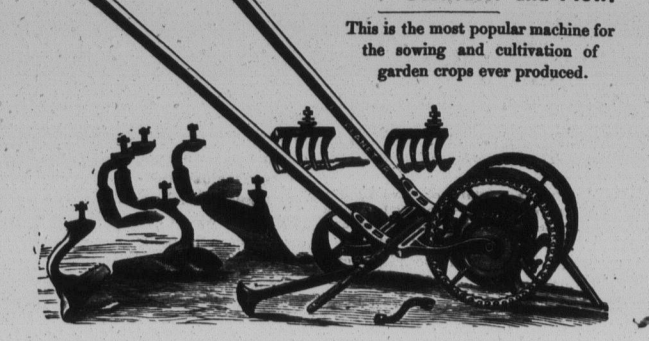
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THE FLIGHT OF THE G...

I hear the low wind wash the softening. The low tide loiter down the shore. Full filled with April forecastr, bathed in the mid farrowers flap in murre. Through the hid farrowers flap in murre. The thash's shy ministers; and hark! Of heaven grows weird and loud flight. Of strong hosts prophesying as they High through the drenched and hollow wings. Best northward hard on Winter's sound. Of their confused sad hollow voices, be Athwart the night to their lone Arctic Comes with a sanction and an awe. A bodied unknown, foreheaded with Charles G. D. Roberts, in N. Y. A.

A MIDNIGHT ES...

At the Castle of R..., a leagues from Bordeaux, at 6 in the morning of the 29th of October, 1793, a man of about 80 years of age, and a child 8 years old, were seated in a low room, with lighted bay window. The elder puffed off a puff of painful thoughts; but the his shouts heard, which were the echoes through the carriage castle. Trunks and packages about the room. Count R... showed movements of impatience and anxiety as he turned his eyes toward and son. His agitation betrayed of his heart. "William is a long time before," he said, rising from his seat, "Has he not failed? Has he not failed? Oh God! save my wife and child." "My dear," said the lady, getting up to go to her husband's room, "is an honest fellow." "Yes; he is a Republican," Count... said. "Still, he is an honest man," lady said. "But William ought to be that we are impatient to see again. I feel very much inclined far as the village." "Do not go out!" exclaimed R... "throwing herself on her neck; "do not go out. I implore you." "Wait only a few minutes, cannot be long." The Count sat down again. Edward, who had been called in the room, now climbed up to the He took him in his arms, kissed him, and then appeared calm. "Hall an hour had passed in silence, when two gentlemen followed by a man who carried a packet under his arm. "Monsieur le Comte," said "here is Jacques. All is must start." "You are very late, my friend Count." "Because I could not get my wretched public horse until I the health of the republic, for as a patriot, as a citizen, and what else beside." "It is true, M. le Comte," "but here we are at last. I clothes, which you must put on. You must disguise yourself. It is the safest thing to do. Madame, here are caps and my wife's, and a cabin boy's Edward. All this is necessary there are no means of saving "Brave man!" said the C his hand with an emotion which not conceal. "Listen, M. le Comte: simple sailor, owner of the late father left me. It is the that terrible north-west gale all I possessed, but it was y ahead again. Do you think folk who don't remember a no, by the faith of a sailor; all our hearts that we are g the sentinels and coast guard put you on board an English you in Spain or Jersey. My vision for a fortnight." "Here is my purse," said "take it." "I have no need of it." "Keep it, you will want it in. Before long it will be midni be high tide; then you my one, to the shore at Martine altogether it would arouse we have a bad lot in the vi sleep. I know very well w never sleep." The Count R... had give courage and his love for the both at Paris and at Vers one of those brave men who than to death on the 10th of to allow the Queen's s professed by a furious mob. The Count had retired to the hope of living there ut the peasants who loved him. One morning he saw a str on a fine horse, covered with enter the castle courtyard; a note and at once departed. astonished, opened the note as "Fly, Monsieur le R... is threatened. The Repres ordered your arrest; you ment to lose. Fly! it is a plores you to do so. This is too late." When he R... Count thought it might be was laid for him; he resolv home rather than separate wife and son. However, the Countess of the message, dent than her husband, with eyes, implored him to go. But how were they to fly? deliberating when William, of business, was announced young; he had been brog tie. He was a peasant w the usual education of b concealed under a coarse e mon clothes a quick penetr Count R... therefor his fears, and informed h which he had just received William perceived the neces departure. He prepared a plan wh "Do not trouble yours Comte," he said. "I will the hands of a man who w Sign Writing done promptly Bands, 266 Union street.