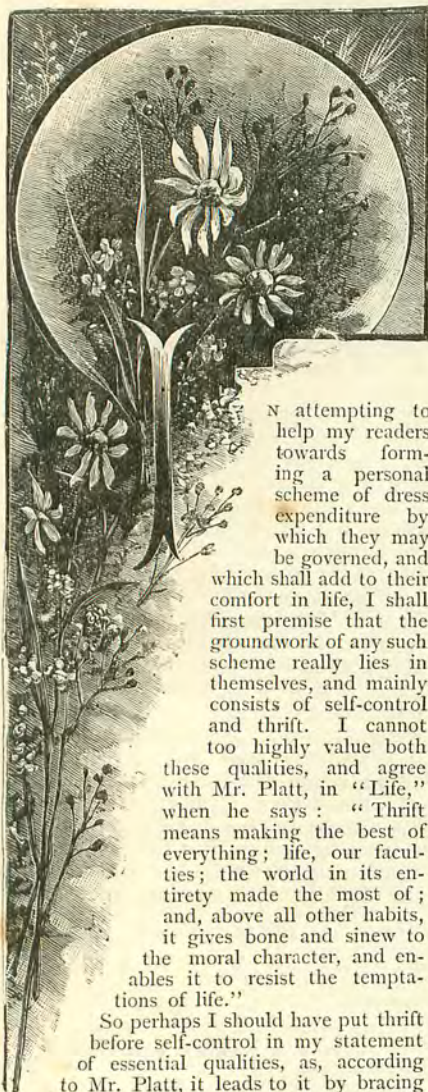


## WHAT SHOULD WE AFFORD FOR DRESS?

By DORA DE BLAQUIERE



N attempting to help my readers towards forming a personal scheme of dress expenditure by which they may be governed, and which shall add to their comfort in life, I shall first premise that the groundwork of any such scheme really lies in themselves, and mainly consists of self-control and thrift. I cannot too highly value both these qualities, and agree with Mr. Platt, in "Life," when he says: "Thrift means making the best of everything; life, our faculties; the world in its entirety made the most of; and, above all other habits, it gives bone and sinew to the moral character, and enables it to resist the temptations of life."

So perhaps I should have put thrift before self-control in my statement of essential qualities, as, according to Mr. Platt, it leads to it by bracing the whole moral man or woman. It seems that one cannot put too high an estimate upon it, and he also quotes Burns to show that the practice of thrift leads to higher privileges and blessings. He says—

"Be thrifty,  
Not for to hide it in a hedge,  
Nor for a train attendant;  
But for the glorious privilege  
Of being independent."

That, of course, is thrift in the widest sense; in the narrower one it means, not to spend a shilling when sixpence will suffice, and to purchase nothing not absolutely needful, to waste nothing, and to economise clothes by taking due care of them. And here a friend of ours gives us a hint, that we are saved from much temptation to spend money when we make a rule to carry very little in our pockets. This rule, however, appears to us to be capable of abuse in the carrying out.

For we may succumb to a worse temptation, *i.e.*, that of making our friends spend for us. We most of us have had experience of the friend who never seems to have any money, or who has "forgotten her purse," and whose

little debts, run up in this way, seem to be forgotten with only too much facility. So perhaps we must add to our thrifty ways honesty in the practice of it, and then we shall not offend against the highest law of being equally careful of our neighbour's interest as of our own.

Another rule seems to be that we must keep a strict account of our dress expenditure, and be very apt in comparing one year's outlay with another, so as to learn the lessons of each year's demands and experiences. A fixed time for a thorough review of the wardrobe is also needful; and likewise a fixed period for the renewal of certain expensive articles, which, under the limitations of small dress-allowances, we cannot obtain every year.

It is rare to find an English household where there is not some definite arrangement about money-matters and the amount to be spent by both the husband and the wife on dress, what departments of expenditure it is intended to include—stationery, short journeys, books, essentials of the toilet, charity, in short, all the small expenses of daily life that must be provided for. If a woman do her duty as a wife and mother, she has a right to be treated as well, at least, as a paid housekeeper, and have the comfort of a clear and definite understanding on money-matters; and however generous and loving the husband may be, it is better that he should, from the first, place his wife in this position, rather than treat her as a child or a mere plaything, and to place her under the necessity of asking for money at the last moment when she wants it, and perhaps undergo a thousand tortures, for fear she may be asking too much in his estimation or spending more than she has a right to spare. Be the income large or small, the working partner at home has her right to a reasonable and proper share; and no honourable man will consider the allocation of such money either a grievance to him or a favour to her. It seems to me that half of the causes why "marriage is a failure," or why husband and wife may make shipwreck of their matrimonial peace, lies in the fact of the lack of a clear, mutual understanding on money matters. The happiest married people that I ever knew, who had been happy for fifty years, had prescribed to themselves one unvarying rule—*i.e.*, outside the house the husband ruled unquestioned by the wife; inside the house the wife ruled unquestioned by the husband; while each leaned on the other for advice in all things relating to the general welfare of the home.

I have thus far been endeavouring to clear the ground in advance of me before proceeding to the consideration of my subject, for many things are included in my title. These really begin with the economical management of the income, and of the true way of doing it—*i.e.*, that the husband and wife, as joint partners in the concern, should put their heads together and consult first as to the wise partition of the general funds. Of these latter funds the rent and household expenses form the greatest part, of course; and most people who reside in London have to make up their minds to pay too heavy a rent in proportion to their income. In a flat this is in some measure made-up to them by the absence of certain other expenses.

Lastly will come the question of dress, what the dress allowances are to include, and whether stationery, charities, and travelling expenses are to be chargeable on them. The extra cost of evening dress has also to be considered, and (if the person be a girl) who will supply her ball dresses? Or, if court dress be required,

who will pay for that? All these things take some time to discuss, and we must remember that a professional man's wife is always a good deal criticised, and the amount of success with which the husband follows his profession is gauged by the apparel of his spouse. In America it is said that this is carried on to a vast extent, and the credit of a business man may be very seriously injured if his wife should fail to follow the prevailing fashion, or to wear some extravagant ornament on which she is by no means entitled to spend her money. But it must be done, such expenses must be entailed, or the economy practised will have disastrous effects on her husband's affairs.

And here we seem to feel it well to discuss another side question, which amongst women is often warmly debated, and has partisans both for and against. This consists in the sale of cast-off clothing, a custom which seems so universal amongst us, yet one at which all sensible persons must wonder, if they do not actually revolt at it. The prices paid are so small, while the garments sold, as a rule, are so good, too valuable, one would think, to their owners to be parted with so lightly. There are two reasons for this sale of good and half-worn clothes. The first is, that the wearer herself is not sufficiently clever, or not sufficiently industrious, to turn and remake them to advantage. The other reason is, that the prices of dressmakers are so high that they would not be worth remaking, while women who go out to work by the day are not often able to advise, and even supposing they could be obtained, they are not always satisfactory workers, and take a very long time to perform their work, which sometimes costs more than the materials are really worth. It seems strange that in all the outcry about "work for women" we should be always at a loss for good dressmakers, and good needlewomen of all kinds are so hard to be obtained. One would think that the quiet, sheltered life of a visiting needlewoman would be suitable and pleasant to many women, and the needful education which would enable them to cut out and fit new gowns, and cut down and remake old ones into children's frocks, would not be difficult to obtain. Evidently the true difficulty lies here, for the trade in ready-made clothing, the demand for it, and the enormous amount sold of it, increases day by day, whether it be in the department of children's clothing or in the ready-made apparel both of women and men. The shops also of the dealers in secondhand clothing increase and multiply, showing that but little use is made of the half-worn clothes by their original owners, which might be made over for children or altered for themselves again and again. When one hears of the small prices given, one is tempted to ask whether, if instead of selling, it would not be better to bestow it in charity on the many poor governesses and people of gentle birth and manners who cannot afford to clothe themselves.

This question of the making of dress is one of the burning questions of the day. Never were the materials of which dress is composed so cheap, and never was there a time when the dressmakers' bills were so long, and it seems more and more likely that this work, which is peculiarly women's own, will lapse from them; and that the private dressmaker will disappear before the outfitter and the "ready-made clothing" dépôt. Many women will tell you that they infinitely prefer seeing the skirt of the dress made-up before making a

purchase, as they know then exactly how it will look, and they are saved much disappointment when things come home. They also enjoy the additional advantage of knowing the exact cost of the dress when complete, of which most shops supply an accurate estimate beforehand.

Of course, many women have not the time needful to spend on the making of a dress at home; and they earn or save the money in many other ways. For example, they teach or take charge of their children themselves; they have an invalid to nurse, or the parish work must be aided; the household, it may be, is large, and the servants few; or the garden and the fruit and the poultry take up their time. Few people lead a more busy life than the female head of the house in England, especially if her home be in the country; and it has been truly said that while the master of the house shuts up his office and goes home to

dinner to rest the remainder of the day, women's work is never done until they retire to bed, and a large proportion amongst them not even then, if there be a baby or invalid in the house!

So far as our girls are concerned we are of opinion that they should be carefully instructed in the art of dressmaking, cutting out, and fitting and also in millinery; for with but a small allowance they will require all this knowledge to make things up inexpensively; and by doing so enable them to save something for other purposes, such as charities, gifts to others, and their own small pleasures. A girl of the present day requires a good deal of what may be termed "extra" dress. If she play tennis she needs a special kind of dress and shoes. If she ride she needs a habit and suitable gloves and hat; and the "tailor-made" gown seems to be one of the most useful things in her wardrobe. Ulsters, waterproofs, warm jackets,

and the heaviest item of all, boots and shoes, these last being articles in which it is almost impossible to pinch oneself, as most girls in England walk out in all weathers, and therefore a change of boots must be kept, and in the house the feet must be tidy also.

To do all this the utmost care must be given by our girls with moderate incomes. Three pairs of thick boots are generally required, if not four, as requisite in the country; and with careful mending at once when required, one new pair a year should be enough to keep up the stock. Many women consider that boot-trees are one of the most saving of investments, and enable their boots and shoes to stand double the wear and tear that they otherwise would. Certainly wet boots never recover their shape except by the use of boot-trees, and for gentlemen's use they may be almost regarded as one of the necessities of life.

## THE PRIZE COMPETITION FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE MISSION TO THE "DEEP SEA FISHERMEN."



HIS interesting and worthy society has, we are glad to say, received a very large addition to its stock of warm woollen articles through our competition. It was both large and successful, though it contained too many

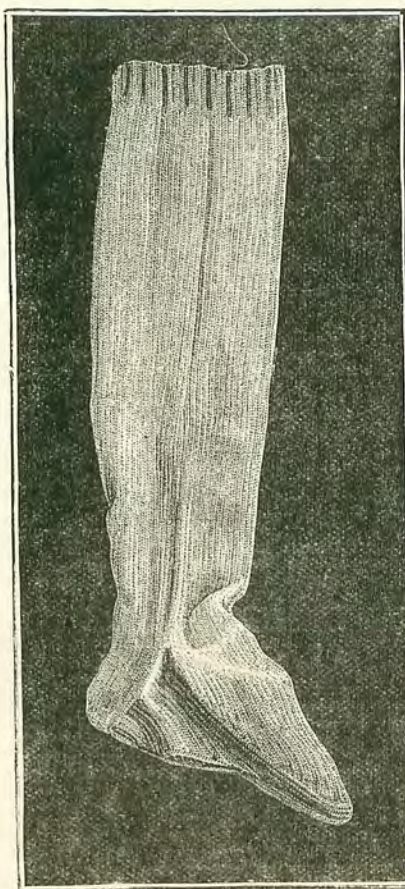
cuffs, and we think the girls who sent them in might in many cases have taken a little more trouble, and have made a muffler, or a pair of mittens. A considerable proportion of the work was excellent, the sailors' guernseys being very well knitted, and reflecting great credit on the workers. The same may be said of the heavy sea-boot stockings. The faults in this competition were those to which attention has been constantly called—i.e., knotted ends, cut off closely, and not run in, and tight knitting, especially at the finishing off row. In one case the examiner tried the knot with a slight pressure of the nail, when it immediately came undone and parted. Fancy the trouble of the poor sailor if all the knots were tied in the same fashion. Everyone who knits at all ought to know that knots are inadmissible, and that the two ends of wool should be laid side by side, and knitted in together. But it was evident, from the ages of those in whose work these faults occurred, that they were entirely the result of ignorance. The number and variety of the articles in the competition proved that its object commended itself to the sympathies of our girls. One competitor's wool was home-grown, and also home-spun by her mother, and, being undyed, it will certainly have the best chance of wearing well, and of affording warmth. Several of our girls knitted with crippled hands, and two of them had been called to a happier home of rest and peacefulness before they had completely finished the work they had commenced for the benefit of the poor toilers of the sea. In both cases the work laid down by the poor lifeless fingers was finished by the sorrowing mother, and sent in to the competition.

Of our blind girls, their many labours, and their excellence in finish, it is difficult to write. One of our competitors of 21 years writes:—"I have been blind from birth." But, though sightless, her work takes a first-class certificate worthily in seventy-one competitors of her own age. The industry shown in their pains-

taking work is very beautiful, and demonstrates how careful and godly has been the training of the English home and parents.

We have also one boy competitor, to whom we offer our thanks and congratulations, and a first-class certificate. Now that needlework and knitting are taught in our schools, we hope to welcome more industrious young people into our competitions on those subjects.

In spite of the clear directions given for the



"BAD WORK."

generality of the articles in this competition, there were some mistakes, one of which the Editor has illustrated. This sea-boot stocking had been decreased at the seam along the sole of the foot instead of making the proper decreases at each ankle, with the queer effect of producing a kind of bag where the heel ends. Others of our girls had sewn up the helmets wrongly, making a wide square of knitting instead of a long narrow bag. These the Examiners unpicked and carefully altered into the right shape. One of them, however, nothing could alter except unravelling, and that was out of the question, so it had to be sent in, hoping some clever sailor would find a use for it.

### Age Six.

Two competitors.—Work very excellent; the muffler being especially good.

### Age Seven.

Two competitors.—Work not quite so good.

### Age Eight.

Two competitors.—Muffler and cuffs; but, perhaps owing to more lessons, the work at six is better.

### Age Nine.

Nine competitors.—The pair of stockings sent in by Agnes Knight are quite wonderful for her age.

### Age Ten.

Twenty-six competitors.—Work better, and showing much care.

### Age Eleven.

Twenty-seven competitors.—Work good.

### Age Twelve.

Thirty-three competitors.—Work excellent and painstaking.

### Age Thirteen.

Thirty-nine competitors.—The finishing off in this class not so good.

### Age Fourteen.

Thirty competitors.—Knots in many cases.

### Age Fifteen.

Sixty-one competitors.—Eight pairs of sea-boot stockings, and the prize a seaman's guernsey, beautifully knitted. Work excellent.

me that if I married you I should have seen the last of him."

"It is hard, very hard," said Sir Michael, thoughtfully. "Your twin-brother, so closely tied that you seem to have the same face, the same look."

"And hitherto the same heart and soul," cried Eleanor.

Sir Michael spoke again somewhat stiffly. "You have my offer; take it, and let me leave you; or refuse it again,

and I cast all mistrust to the winds, and deem myself the happiest man on God's earth to-day."

Eleanor stood up before him and stretched out both her hands. "I cannot accept your sacrifice," she said, "so marry me. I will be a good wife; your generosity has made me trust you as I never trusted man before, much less Whig. Be kind to me. I will try that you shall never repent your goodness. I cannot change the politics ingrained in

my blood, but at least this much I can promise you—long adherence to a vanquished cause has taught me how—I will hold my tongue."

Sir Michael bent down and pressed her hands to his lips. He would fain have spoken further of his love, but he forbore, for the colour was coming and going in her cheek, and her lips were quivering; and he judged wisely that she could bear no more.

(To be continued.)



## WHAT SHOULD WE AFFORD FOR DRESS?

By DORA DE BLAQUIERE.

### PART II.

THE usual remark on returning to England after an absence from it is, "How very well dressed everyone appears to be." And, in truth, social position seems to make but little difference in this country, where the materials are so cheap. The chief difference really consists in the style of the making-up, the goodness of the materials, and in the way of wearing them. The lady who has one hundred a year for all her needs must look as well as her equal in station who has a husband to supply her wants, and an income of £1,500 or £2,000, and in allotting £8, or £10, or £30, or £40 to clothes per annum, both have the same problem to face, and both must present an equally suitable and good appearance to the world. The case is the same with men, amongst whom the rate of spending on this object seems curiously alike. The only difference is to be found in the quality, and in the style of shops where the things are bought. This fact will, I hope, help us to make a general table, or list, of the needs of everyone, leaving out, of course, the accidents (as they may be called) of life—the extra apparel for fêtes, Court dresses, and for games. In these last, however, nearly every young man and girl of the present day seem to join. Both for the warbrobes of men and women, the articles really needed would be much alike, of course. We all wear gowns and bonnets, and men all wear coats and hats. I have slightly altered a reasonable list of apparel made out by a contemporary, for a young fellow living on an income or a salary of £1 per week.

|                                                      |     |    |   |   |
|------------------------------------------------------|-----|----|---|---|
| One overcoat, to last two years,                     | £2  | £1 | 0 | 0 |
| One umbrella, to last two years,                     | 9s. | 0  | 4 | 6 |
| Repairs and re-covering,                             | 5s. | 0  | 2 | 6 |
| Two felt hats at 4s. 6d.                             | ..  | 0  | 9 | 0 |
| One best coat and vest, to last two years, at £2 2s. | ..  | 1  | 1 | 0 |

|                                                         |         |    |    |    |    |   |
|---------------------------------------------------------|---------|----|----|----|----|---|
| One black serge jacket and vest, for office wear,       | £1 10s. | .. | .. | £1 | 10 | 0 |
| Three pairs trousers, to last two years, 12s. per pair, | £1 16s. | .. | .. | 0  | 18 | 0 |
| Two pairs boots, to last two years, at 10s.             | ..      | .. | .. | 0  | 10 | 0 |
| Repairs                                                 | ..      | .. | .. | 0  | 7  | 0 |
| Four pair socks, at 1s.                                 | ..      | .. | .. | 0  | 4  | 0 |
| Three flannel shirts, at 5s.                            | ..      | .. | .. | 0  | 15 | 0 |
| Two pairs pants, at 2s. 6d.                             | ..      | .. | .. | 0  | 5  | 0 |
| Two under vests, at 1s. 6d.                             | ..      | .. | .. | 0  | 3  | 0 |
| Nine collars at 4d. each, 3s.                           | ..      | .. | .. | 0  | 3  | 0 |
| 12 handkerchiefs, to last two years, at 6d.             | ..      | .. | .. | 0  | 3  | 0 |
| Three neckties at 1s.                                   | ..      | .. | .. | 0  | 3  | 0 |
| Three pairs cuffs, at 8d.                               | ..      | .. | .. | 0  | 2  | 0 |
| Two pairs gloves, at 1s. 6d.                            | ..      | .. | .. | 0  | 3  | 0 |
| Two night-shirts, 3s. each                              | ..      | .. | .. | 0  | 6  | 0 |
|                                                         |         |    |    | £8 | 9  | 0 |

Now, this list contains the usual articles required by men in the way of dress; but, of course the list would not be quite the same every year, and the circumstance of a person being a careful wearer of his clothing, or the reverse, would make a very serious difference in the amount that would be left with which to commence another year. The mending and darning would also be a consideration, and a great assistance towards making everything last out the time assigned to it. Exception has been taken to the two pairs of ten shilling boots to wear for two years, as well as to the fact that no every-day suit is allowed for. Of course a change in either item would entail an increase of dress allowance.

The difference between this list of articles for dress and that of a man with more means, must be regulated by the number of extra things required, as he may rise in the ranks of society. He would then need a suit of dress clothes, linen shirts, set of studs, house shoes,

dress shoes, dressing-gown and slippers, cricketing flannels, caps, and belt, tall hat, railway rug and travelling bag, macintosh, etc.

A suit of dress clothes will last from three to five years, and I find that most men consider a great-coat good for four years. The various allowances made for dress by men with incomes varying from £300, £500, £800, to several thousands a-year, ranges from £18, £22, to £30, £35, £45, and one man only, a great traveller and wanderer, gets as high as £70! and doubtless men with such incomes can afford to go to more fashionable and better shops, and to have a great many more things. I find two suits of clothes a-year, two pairs of boots, half-a-dozen silk ties, and half-a-dozen collars very generally given as the usual amount required. As a rule bachelors appear to spend more than married men, and very rich men are generally careful and economical wearers of clothes, and spend but little upon them. The poor man, in fact, and the poor woman are obliged to expend more lavishly in proportion to their income than those who are better off, for they only have their respectable appearance to depend upon. In the case of the poor clerk or governess, shabbiness is one of the unpardonable sins, and would militate against their securing good situations. It seems to me that in this fact alone lies the answer to the many queries as to the propriety and rightness of paying attention to dress and personal appearance. Thus I would have girls and boys carefully taught every duty of the toilet as well as every secret respecting the due expenditure of money on their clothing, so that it shall yield the best results possible in its wearing qualities as well as in its appearance and style.

The great trouble of young people of both sexes appears to be that they usually enter on life and the command of money before they

have had any lessons on its management. Therefore one cannot but wonder that they get on so well, and how few mistakes they appear to make. I trust that my few notes may prove a contribution towards helping them all considerably.

When I turn to the question of the clothing of girls, I find a very universal rule which fixes girls' allowances at £15, £20, to £30 per annum. In families whose incomes range from £800 to £1,500 per annum, the allowance of the wife would be about £50; or if there were three or four little children under ten, £65 would be a good allowance for the apparel of the mother and her children. Several husbands and fathers on being asked whether they had a certain ratio on which they made these allowances, have answered in the negative. They "only did what seemed usual, and what other people around them did." An income of £100 a year is not an uncommon one for women, from fortunes to which it seems to bear an extravagant ratio. But in this case it is intended to include other things, viz., travelling in all ordinary cases, books, stationery, presents, and charities, one far-seeing husband seeking to include all the wedding presents in his spouse's year's allowance. As these form a very great tax in the present day, when the first year came to an end the lady produced an account, which proved, in spite of her artistic needlework which she had lavished, and clever management, the presents had been too numerous for even her £100 to manage them all. So a compromise was arrived at by which she promised to pay half of six presents, or the whole of three; above six, her husband was to pay entirely for both of them.

And now I propose to give one or two lists of clothes which may be suggestive as to the disposition of a dress allowance of £15, leaving a small margin.

|                                                             | £ | s. | d. |
|-------------------------------------------------------------|---|----|----|
| Four pairs of black stockings (thread), at 2s. 10d. . . . . | 0 | 11 | 4  |
| Four pairs of woollen stockings, at 3s. . . . .             | 0 | 12 | 0  |
| One dozen handkerchiefs . . . . .                           | 0 | 5  | 0  |
| One pair of black stays . . . . .                           | 0 | 10 | 6  |
| Two pairs of house shoes, at 4s. . . . .                    | 0 | 8  | 0  |
| Two pairs of boots . . . . .                                | 1 | 1  | 0  |
| One pair of walking shoes . . . . .                         | 0 | 8  | 6  |
| Gloves . . . . .                                            | 0 | 15 | 0  |
| Winter dress, 3s. per yard . . . . .                        | 1 | 10 | 0  |
| Nun's cloth dress, 1s. per yard . . . . .                   | 0 | 16 | 0  |
| Linings, etc. . . . .                                       | 0 | 3  | 6  |
| Washing dress . . . . .                                     | 0 | 10 | 0  |
| Bonnet . . . . .                                            | 0 | 6  | 0  |
| Summer hat, lace, and muslin . . . . .                      | 0 | 3  | 0  |
| Ulster, £1 1s.; winter jacket, £1 1s. . . . .               | 2 | 2  | 0  |

|                                              | £ | s. | d. |
|----------------------------------------------|---|----|----|
| Furs, 12s. 6d.; umbrella, 7s. 6d.; . . . . . |   |    |    |
| undervest, 4s. 6d. . . . .                   | 1 | 4  | 6  |
| Two flannel petticoats, 10s. . . . .         | 0 | 10 | 0  |
| Underlinen . . . . .                         | 0 | 10 | 0  |
| Winter petticoat . . . . .                   | 0 | 10 | 6  |
| Sundries . . . . .                           | 1 | 0  | 0  |

£13 6 10

This last I have on careful inquiry found can be reduced, so as to meet the wants of a girl who has only £10 to dress upon, or only £100 a year on which to depend for everything; and it will be seen that the second and third year's lists would be much less than this, as there would be no winter jacket to buy, and no ulster.

|                                                 | s. | d. |
|-------------------------------------------------|----|----|
| Three pairs cotton stockings at 1s. 6d. . . . . | 4  | 6  |
| Three pairs wool stockings at 2s. . . . .       | 6  | 0  |
| Eight handkerchiefs at 6d. . . . .              | 4  | 0  |
| One pair of stays . . . . .                     | 5  | 0  |
| Two pairs of house shoes . . . . .              | 5  | 9  |
| One pair of boots . . . . .                     | 10 | 0  |
| One pair of shoes . . . . .                     | 5  | 6  |
| Gloves . . . . .                                | 7  | 6  |
| Winter dress (serge) at 1s. per yard . . . . .  | 16 | 0  |
| Nun's cloth (summer dress) . . . . .            | 10 | 8  |
| Linings . . . . .                               | 2  | 0  |
| Washing dress . . . . .                         | 6  | 0  |
| Bonnet . . . . .                                | 6  | 0  |
| Summer hat . . . . .                            | 3  | 0  |
| Ulster . . . . .                                | 15 | 0  |
| Winter jacket . . . . .                         | 18 | 0  |
| Fur boa . . . . .                               | 7  | 0  |
| Umbrella . . . . .                              | 6  | 0  |
| Under vest . . . . .                            | 4  | 6  |
| Two flannel petticoats . . . . .                | 4  | 0  |
| Underlinen . . . . .                            | 6  | 0  |
| Winter petticoat . . . . .                      | 5  | 0  |

£8 11 5

In both these lists I need hardly say that no provision has been made for the services of a dressmaker, though assistance might be got in the house with a workwoman hired by the day.

If in London, the shopping ground must not be Regent Street or New Bond Street, but Edgware Road, Tottenham Court Road, Westbourne Grove, and even as far away as Upper Street, Islington, where very excellent and cheap shops abound. Oxford Street, during the sales, is very cheap, especially in the matter of straw bonnets and hats. I saw quantities of both during the summer sales at sixpence and a shilling each!

When we come to allowances of £30 per annum, we generally find, as in the case of men, an increased expenditure needful, for out-of-door games have to be considered, a more or less appropriate dress for them being requisite. A riding-habit, too, may be needful, and evening dress must be thought of also. So far as my inquiries carry me, I find that people with £30 a year usually have a great deal to do with it, and much judgment is required to make it stretch over all the wants of their circumstances. In the matter of underclothes, while the stock should never be let down, it should never be a large one, four of everything being quite enough. Four good night-gowns, for instance, the work being renewed when necessary, will last nearly six years; and if the strain on them be relieved by the purchase of two new ones, for two years longer.

The clothes purchased must be divided, so that all the expensive outlay should not come into one year. For instance, you would do well to have one year a tailor-made gown, and the next year a good silk, or an evening dress. A mantle one year, and a summer mantle or jacket the next. I am of opinion that the fewer clothes one has, the better; and I think that the practice of buying many dresses of the same sort is a mistaken one. It is never well to be forced into buying things in a hurry, nor for "an occasion," as it is called. Therefore, the old plan of a "best dress" is not an unwise one. Three dresses a year is the utmost anyone should get on any allowance from £15 to £30 per annum.

When we come back to the question with which we started, of "How much should be spent on the dress of the family?" we think the answer, with reference to small incomes, would be about a tenth of the whole. But circumstances alter the case so often, that this is not a guide. Thus dress expenses resemble the rents paid in London, which are usually quite out of proportion to our incomes, so that we must save in other ways for the money which we are compelled to expend in this. We must have one servant less, or omit the luxury of cabs from our calculations. And in the matter of dress, women are more slaves to the world's opinion than men, for they must have suitable mourning for the dead, proper clothes for the marriage festivities, and when it seems right that the family should be fitly represented at the fête or flower show, it is the women who must consider their apparel. Men's clothes now are so changeless in fashion, and so sombre in hue, that the days when they too "walked in silk attire" seem to have passed away for ever.

## VARIETIES.

### HE CHANGED HIS MIND.

*She (blushing deeply):* And you wish to pay your addresses to me?

*He (enthusiastically):* That has been the dream of my existence since I first met you.

*She:* I scarcely know what to say. I think I must consult mother.

*He:* Certainly. I should expect you as a dutiful daughter to consult your mother on a matter of so much importance.

*She:* You have never met mother?

*He:* I never had the pleasure.

*She:* You will be delighted to know her. She is a noted woman's rights woman, and president of the Society for Woman's Emancipation.

*He (somewhat frigidly):* H'm! is that so?

*She (proudly):* Well, you would think so if you heard her talk. Why, she is just boiling over with fervour on the subject of woman's wrongs.

*He (consulting his watch):* Well—er—I—I—er—ought to have told you that I—er—couldn't stay but a minute this evening. My—er—uncle is in town, and—er—well, I will call again, when we can renew the subject of this evening's conversation.

### ONE, TWO, AND THREE MAKE SIX.

A scholar just returned from the university sat down to supper with his father and mother. Three eggs were served up.

"Why," said the husband to his wife, "your supper is scanty. You should treat your son more liberally."

"Let us be content," observed the son, "since there are six eggs on the table."

"How," asked his father, "do you prove that?"

"Easily enough," he answered. "Do not one, two, and three make six?"

"I will then," rejoined the father, "give one egg to your mother, take two for myself, and you, my boy, may help yourself to the rest."

### DOING AND SAYING.

Mark the instructions of your teachers, And trust to them, as able preachers. But, should their lives incur your blame, Their counsel still remains the same. Observe, while thus you pick your way, Not what they *do*, but what they *say*.