

WHAT SHE PAYS FOR DRESS

HOW "MY LADY" MANAGES TO SPEND \$10,000 A YEAR.

Five Hundred Dollar Gowns, \$300 Coats, \$15 Stockings, \$50 Skirts, \$25 Corsets, \$10 Vests, Are Articles Which Are Indispensable to a High Society Woman.

In this big town of ours it takes 2,000 dressmakers and one seamstress, over 300 milliners, 600 jewelers and 800 fancy goods dealers to keep "my lady" in gowns, underwear and trinkets that make her the exquisite object that she is. It takes 6,000 legal minds to separate her and that man, and one hardly knows just how many confectioners to attend to her wants for sweets. Dress is a bit of weakness to be found in the best, truest and noblest of them, in the old as well as in the young.

To dress well costs a great deal of money. Of course one can spend, if they have the wherewithal, as much money as one cares to; but to buy a sufficient number of gowns and undergarments, and to buy the best quality from a "house with a reputation," takes a pretty big bit out of one's income.

In the first place, she will probably have four or five silk vests, they are generally of purple, or possibly of navy blue, or of some other color. They are quite as dainty affairs as one could imagine, but not so dainty in price. They are of silk, of course, and in price range from \$8 and \$10 apiece up. She will have a dozen pair of calsons. They will be long and elaborately trimmed with lace, and cost from \$4 to \$10 a pair, the range in price depending largely upon the richness of the lace.

Eight pairs of black silk stockings will come next on the list. They are made plain, but the price is fancy. They will cost about \$8 per pair, and if embroidered or of a little better quality, one can pay \$15. These black stockings will be necessary. They are trimmed, as a general rule, with lace, and cost \$15. You can pay less, but would hardly care to after having the first part of the wardrobe fitted out as above.

Two black silk skirts with Spanish lace will cost from \$25 to \$30—quite as much as an ordinary man's suit of clothes. A high society lady would pay \$50 without grumbling, and probably think \$100 for the two quite reasonable.

Mrs. Langtry pays \$40 for a single pair of corsets. She has them made in Paris and of a special style. It would seem, perhaps, that the Jersey Lily's form was too superb for corsets at all, but she has six pair of them made at a time, and those six are worn during the year. As a general rule just half as many will do, and they can be purchased at \$10 a pair. Evening corsets about \$5 per pair, and two pair are necessary. They are like a riding corset, but much shorter. The total cost of the above wardrobe of undergarments is as follows:

- Four vests at \$10..... \$40
Three pairs of drawers at \$10..... 30
Three suspenders at \$3..... 9
Eight pair of stockings at \$15..... 120
Two flannel skirts at \$15..... 30
Two silk skirts at \$50..... 100
Two pair of corsets at \$10..... 20
Two pair of evening corsets at \$5..... 10
Total..... \$474

The total amount represents the cost of the undergarments worn only during the season. Then there are the gowns, winter, summer, spring and fall, morning, evening and driving. One cannot buy a gown from White for less than \$80, and possibly \$100. The same may be said of Donovan and others who are patronized by society. "An \$80 gown! Bah! Think of wearing a gown that cost \$80! Why, I never did such a thing! This morning gown I have on— isn't it pretty?—cost me \$120, and that isn't much," said a pretty young woman yesterday, as she held up her hands in a deprecating manner at the suggestion of an \$80 gown. She had just settled with her modiste, and here is a copy of the bill, containing a few ordinary gowns worn during the summer:

- 1 black and gold tulle ball dress..... \$150
1 blue and white lace summer gown..... 150
1 green velvet gown..... 100
1 black silk walking dress..... 125
1 black lace carriage dress..... 150
1 foulard silk..... 100
1 bougainvillee dress..... 150
Total..... \$825

Nine hundred and twenty-five dollars for summer gowns alone! One can imagine, then, another \$1,000 paid for fall gowns, half as much, if not fully that amount, for spring gowns, and from \$300 apiece up for each ball gown and ordinary evening costume. Bonnets may be purchased at \$25, and quite pretty ones at that, but "my lady" pays \$50, \$75 or \$100 apiece for them. After all a good bonnet, trimmed with real lace, French flowers and hand some ornaments, is worth at least \$50; and if it be particularly becoming, and the wearer looks particularly kissable, husband will pay the bill. Then she will wear a set of Russian slippers. They are to be all the fashion this season, and don't cost the wearer much. Something like \$1,200. It seems like a pretty big sum, but when one can afford to pay almost any reasonable amount for clothing, one will hardly stop at such an item. Besides, the following will be needed:

- One empire coat..... \$150
One Scotch plaid frock..... 100
One capsize cloak..... 225
One silk and brocade empire costume..... 350
One Russian coat, with gray crinoline..... 300

By adding the \$474 for undergarments, the \$825 for summer gowns, and the \$1,125 for the frocks and coats, the sum total will be \$3,724. This does not represent the bonnets, the footwear, the winter, spring and fall gowns, nor the ball dresses. These together would figure up to almost any amount one could imagine within a reasonable sum. A very wide range has to be allowed for ball dresses particularly, but allowing a fair number of them at a fair amount, would soon bring the figures up pretty high to the \$10,000 line.

In this jewelry is an outside consideration, of course, for it would be impossible to put it down at any stated sum. The good woman who spends from \$3,000 to \$5,000 per annum on herself, may easily, as can be seen, wear the same underwear as the other women, but would have to reduce a bit on her gowns. This she certainly could do very easily and look quite as fetching. After all, some of the most beautiful and best appearing young women one meets on the streets or at a dance dress on much less than \$1,000 per year, and would think it a great fortune if they had that amount to spend. They don't wear black silk underwear. They don't pay \$8 a pair for stockings, and their skirts are not edged with rare lace. The \$500 a year woman makes her own dresses or has a seamstress come to the house, and a later pair \$25 per day for an ill-fitting garment. A great trick of the trade is the padding of a bodice to make an ill-shaped woman

wear the form of a Venus. A little cotton here to fill out a hollow, a bit of a gather there to make it even, and my lady's bad form is made quite perfect. Everybody likes to see a well dressed woman.

THE STATE BIBLE ASSOCIATION.

Annual Meeting to be held in Columbia November 7 and 8.

To the Friends of the Bible cause in South Carolina: The South Carolina Bible Association, at its meeting in Columbia last winter, resolved to hold another such meeting here this year. The undersigned was made chairman of the executive committee, whose business it was to arrange for the same. This is to notify the friends of the Bible cause throughout our whole State that arrangements are being made for the annual meeting, and to ask that they will do all in their power to make it a grand success. The time chosen is November 7 and 8.

On Wednesday evening, November 7, at 8 o'clock the Association will convene in the hall of the Young Men's Christian Association, where there will be an address of welcome, devotional exercises and the enrollment of delegates. On Thursday, at 10 A. M., the Association will meet at the same place, and reports will be received from the various Bible societies of the State, and any other business calling for consideration will be then attended to. On Thursday evening, at 8 o'clock, there will be a union mass meeting in one of the churches of the city, where addresses will be delivered by several prominent speakers of the State who have promised to attend. All who receive this circular letter are earnestly requested to see that county papers publish the notice it gives, and that Bible societies in their vicinity send up delegates and full reports of their work and condition. The lowest rates obtainable from the railroad companies will be secured for all who attend this meeting.

Delegates will have to pay their own expenses also at hotels and boarding houses, but special low rates will be gotten from them also, so as to make the expenses light. Respectfully, NEANDER M. WOODS, Chairman Executive Committee. COLUMBIA, S. C., Oct. 10, 1888. All papers in the State favorable to the Bible cause are requested to publish.

THE CROPS IN SOUTH CAROLINA. The Report of the State Weather Service for the Month of September. The State Department of Agriculture furnishes the following report on the weather and the crops, October 1:

THE WEATHER. The sunshine for the month of September was considerably below the average. The rainfall was excessive. Reports of observers to the State Weather Service show that the rainfall for September, 1888, was 9.8 inches, while for the same month in 1887 the rainfall was only 9.7 inches. Frost was general in all the middle and upper counties on the 30th of the month.

COTTON. The continuous rains in the latter part of August, extending to the middle of September, did great damage to the cotton crop. The full loss cannot be accurately estimated at this date, but in some sections it is stated at 25 per cent. The average decline in condition, as estimated from the reports of correspondents since the 1st of September, is 10 per cent. The greater part of the crop on bottom lands was destroyed by floods. On Edisto and Wadmalaw Islands the long staple cotton was injured by rust and caterpillars. The rains there were excessive. The yield on those islands is estimated at 125 pounds lint to the acre. On James Island the yield is estimated at 250 pounds lint per acre. In Berkeley county the yield has been reduced 15 to 20 per cent, by the heavy rains and the worms. The average condition for the State is reported at 77 and indicated yield is given at 165 pounds of lint per acre.

CORN. A large part of the corn crop on bottom lands was totally destroyed by floods, and on uplands by excessive rainfall. In some sections the grain sprouted, and in the parts of the middle and upper counties the fodder was seriously injured by the frost on the 30th of September. The condition for the State is reported at 76; indicated yield 9 bushels per acre.

RICE. The rice crop in the low country has been badly damaged by the floods, the rivers rising higher than ever known before. In Georgetown county, on the Santee River, the entire crop, covering over 4,000 acres, was injured 35 to 40 per cent. In some places in the county the crop is considered an entire loss,—one correspondent reporting that many planters will not save a grain. In Colleton one correspondent says the crop is cut short one-third, both in quantity and quality. In Berkeley highland rice is safe, but on North and South Santee River it is almost a total failure; possibly one-tenth of the crop will be saved in a damaged condition. Berkeley, Colleton and Georgetown counties produce nearly 60 per cent. of the entire rice crop of the State. The condition for the State is reported at 88; indicated yield 22 bushels per acre.

OTHER CROPS. The condition and prospective yield of the smaller crops is reported as follows: Peas condition 72; indicated yield 5 bushels per acre; Irish potatoes—condition 91; yield 66 bushels per acre; sweet potatoes—condition 94; yield 97 bushels per acre; sugar cane—condition 90; yield 94 gallons per acre; sorghum—condition 88; yield 64 gallons per acre.

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