

bearing, (*p*) the expectation of life is greater in favour of females, than of males. (*q*) There is, however, some reason to believe, that although an unquestionable state of celibacy, as that of the condition of nuns in a convent, has no effect in shortening female life before fifty; yet that after that age the mortality among them becomes more severe. (*r*) So that it must be regarded as an established truth, and a general rule, that there is something in the physical constitution of males more frail and delicate than in those of females; or that, in general, there is a greater degree of tenacity of life in females than in males. (*s*) And it must likewise be borne in mind, that in fixing a general rule, or adjusting a table of the duration of human life, so far as any judicial inquiry is concerned, the object is not to lay down a rule which may be safely or profitably followed by an insurance company, but to establish the truth, which involves nothing more than a consideration of those facts in relation to the actual continuance of human life in the place where the specified life exists, so as to calculate from them a proper average as to its reasonably expected duration.

It seems to be generally admitted, that marriages are not more fruitful now than in past ages, and in stages of society having much less of the comforts, or even of the necessaries of life, than at present; that the poor bring forth more children than the rich, but preserve fewer; (*t*) and yet that the population increases much more rapidly in modern than in ancient times. (*u*) These facts only shew, however, that the present is more friendly to human life than the past state of society; and that the probability, as well as the average duration, or mean term of life, as people advance from a savage to a highly civilized state of society, have improved with their improved habits and condition; which has certainly been the case in England, and much more so in France since the revolution in that country. (*w*) The duration of the lives of those who come into existence, is not only very materially affected by the greater abundance of the means of subsistence with the increase and variety of comforts to be had, in a generally improved state of society, but also by the climate and salubrity of the coun-

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(*p*) 2 Price Obser. 408, 442.—(*q*) 1 Price Obser. 8, 89, 95, 129, 136, 233; 2 Price Obser. 43; Rees' Cyclo. v. Marriage and Mortality; 9 Westm. Rev. 397, 398; Seybert Stat. An. 44; 2 Southern Rev. 177.—(*r*) Finlaison's Rep. 8; 2 Price Obser. 132.—(*s*) 2 Price Obser. 111, 230.—(*t*) 9 Westm. Rev. 413.—(*u*) 2 Southern Rev. 178; 9 Westm. Rev. 402.—(*w*) 1 Malth. Popu. 52, 385, 401, 413; 1 Price Obser. 182, 186; 9 Westm. Rev. 388, 395, 398, 399; 2 Southern Rev. 175.