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THE MARYLAND GAZETTE,

Containing the freshest Advices foreign and domestic.

THURSDAY, July 4, 1754.

The BATCHELOR's Estimate of the EXPENCES of a MARRIED LIFE.

Being an Answer to a Proposal of Marrying a Lady with 2000 l. Fortune.

S I R,

TO the Proposal you made me (for which I acknowledge the Obligation, because I am sure it proceeded from your good Opinion of me) I return the following Answer.

You propose I should marry your Relation, who is worth 2000 l. down, which is indeed a handsome Fortune, and such, that I have the Modesty to think I do not deserve, yet, at present cannot accept of the Proposal, because the following necessary Expences arise so frequently, and so openly to my View, that I must own, whenever I have thought of Matrimony, they have (contrary to my real Inclination) deterred me from entering into that agreeable State.

I now live in Chambers which cost me 20 l. a Year, as soon as I am married I must take a House, which I cannot have suitable to me and my Business, under 50 l. so that there will be a yearly Increase in House Rent only,

Church, Window and Poor's Taxes, Payments to Rector, Reader and Lecturer, Water, Trophy-Money, Militia, Lamp, Scavengers, Watch, Constable, &c. all which I am now free from, must be then paid,

Expences of Tea, Coffee, Chocolate, Sugar, Spirits, and fresh Supply of China yearly,

To my Bed-Maker, I pay about 50 s. a Year; when married, I must keep two Maid Servants and a Man, whose Wages, and the Man's Livery, must at least come to 20 l. a Year; so that here is an extraordinary Expence of

Coach, Watermen and Chair Hire, for my Wife to make Visits, take the Air, to see Plays, &c. at a reasonable and yearly Computation,

Her Expences at those Diversions I now seldom go to see above a Play in a Season, I must in Compliance to my Wife, sometimes wait on her, and partake of those Entertainments (for I don't think it proper she should go alone) which I will moderately compute at

It costs me now about 40 s. a Year in Coals, I am sure it must then cost me 12 l. so that here is another yearly Increase of Expence

The same of Candles in Proportion
My Wife's necessary wearing Apparel

Having a Family of my own, I shall diminish little or nothing else out of the Expence of my Dinners; as to the Evening Expences, you know married Men go Abroad as often at that Time as Bachelors, and I won't promise to be more Uxorious than my Neighbours; so that instead of 25 l. a Year at the most it now costs me in Dinners, I shall have the following Bill to pay yearly, viz.

From the former Calculation	122	0
The Butcher	35	0
The Poulterer	10	0
The Fishmonger	06	0
The Herb Woman	07	0
The Oilman	05	0
The Baker	12	0
The Brewer	12	0
The Grocer	06	0
The Confectioner	03	0
The Perfumer	03	0

The Cheesemonger	04	0
Wine, Cyder, &c. at a moderate Computation	30	0
The Fruiterer	01	10
The Milkwoman	01	0
Salt, Small-Coal, Rotten-Stone, Brick-Dust, Sand, Fullers-Earth, Soap, Matches, Vinegar, Ashes, Scouring-Paper, Oat-Meal, Whiteing, and many other little Ingredients in House Keeping I am ignorant of	05	0

So that deducting thereout the 30 l. being the Charge of my Dinners, there will be a necessary additional matrimonial Expence in House-Keeping

If my Wife pleases me, as I do not doubt but your Relation will, (I know my own Temper so well in that Respect, that) I shall be often making her Presents of either Rings, Jewels, Snuff Boxes, Watch, Tweezers, some Knick Knacks, and Things of that Nature, in which, one Year with another, I am sure I shall expend

The Expences of the Buying in, and a Succession of Parrots, Lap Dogs, Canary-Birds, &c.

Then comes an Article I least wish for, but happens in most Families, my Wife's Servants, the Expences of Doctor and Apothecary, and though it is accidental, yet one Year with another, cannot come short of

As for Children, I dare say, our Attempts in that Respect will not prove fruitless, we may reasonably expect one in every two Years, if not oftener, but it shall not be my Fault if it does not.

The Expence of Lying-in, Childbed-Linnen, Midwife, Nurse, Cawdles, Baskets, Cradle, Christenings, Blankets, Pins, Clouts, &c. must at least be 30 l. so that if it should happen once in two Years, it may be reckoned a yearly Expence of

Nursing, Maintaining, Cloaths, Education, Schooling of our Children even in their Infancy, and which must be increased as they advance in Years, besides their Fortunes (which must be saved or got, to the no small Care, Toil, and Fatigue of the Parent), at a random Calculation, and vastly less than I am well satisfied it will be,

Pew in the Church
Washing my Wife's and the Family Linnen
Repairs of Furniture, new Brooms, Mops, Brushes, and Rubbers, Matts, Carpets, Altering, and Exchange

The Furniture of my House, and Table-Linnen, cannot come short of 300 l. which, with 50 l. for Plate (without which, being so moderate a Quantity, I dare say my Wife, nor indeed should I myself be satisfied) will lie dead, daily decrease in its Value, and bring me in no Income; I must therefore reckon my Wife's Fortune (in Point of its bringing me in a yearly Income) at no more than 1650 l.

Now, Sir, as you have been a House keeper, and married these several Years, pray tell me, if in any one Article, I have charged too much? Whether if I have not rather under-charged them, and omitted several, that I being unacquainted with these Sort of Things, can have no Knowledge of?

If therefore it is a moderate Computation, and necessary, supposing Interest to continue at 5 per Cent. (which is unlikely) the Produce of 1650 l. is only 82 l. 10 s. and if it should fall to 4 per Cent. is only 66 l. In the one Case, I must necessarily expend on my Wife 22 s. in the other 237 l. 10 s. above the

Income of the Fortune she brings, besides the Hazard and Want of the Security for the Money, which ought to be considered, and though it be necessary, yet how reasonable it is, I submit to you. These Things considered (and he that marries without previous Consideration acts very indiscreetly) I do not see how I can marry a Woman with the Fortune you propose, or that I should better myself at all by it, and in Prudence, People should do so, or let it alone; (not that I propose or think to have more) I must therefore live single, tho' with some Regret, that I cannot do otherwise, and increase my own Fortune, which happens to be sufficient for my own Maintenance 'til (if I may so call it) I can afford Matrimony.

I wish the Lady all Happiness and a better Husband, and if it be for her Satisfaction, one who has thought less of the Matter; not but that I have a very good Opinion of Matrimony, and think of it with Pleasure, as hoping one Time or other to enter into its List, but I now wait with Patience, 'til my Circumstances or Thoughts vary.

One Thing I would not have you mistake me in, is, that I do not mean that your Relation will be thus expensive to me, more than any other, only that whenever I marry, let her be who she will, I must necessarily (if she has no more Fortune than you propose) expend considerable more than 200 l. a Year on her, above the Income of her Fortune, and at present I cannot persuade myself to be at so great an Expence, for the Sake of trying a dangerous Experiment, whether the Pleasures of Matrimony are yearly worth that Sum: All which is submitted to your Consideration, by

S I R,
Your most obliged humble Servant.

L O N D O N, March 12.

BY an Account from Upnor Castle in Kent, we are informed, that a Gentleman has lately been surveying and planning the Dock-yard at Chatham, the Town of Brumpton, and Fields adjacent; a Plan being formed for inclosing the Town of Brumpton into the Dock-Yard, and making the adjacent Marshes between Chatham and Gillingham into a spacious Wet Dock, for laying up Men of War in Times of Peace, so as to make one complete Repository, or grand Arsenal of Naval Stores, such as is in Denmark, Venice, &c. The Houses of Brumpton are proposed to be turned into Barracks for the Lodgment of a sufficient Number of Seamen to be ready for Sea Service at an Hour's Warning; who are to be constantly employed as Labourers in the Dock Yard, with the Handicrafts in their respective Branches, as well for defending the same, as for the Purposes of building, and being ready on any Emergency. The whole Spot or Territory to be enclosed by a Wall with Ramparts, Redoubts, and a Ditch, extending from the old Dock to Gillingham Fort for the Defence of the said Dock Yard. The Advantage proposed by this Scheme is, that all Naval Equipments will be ready on any Emergency, without the least Delay, and the Naval Stores will also be secured.

April 6. According to Advices from Paris, the Count de la Galissoniere is appointed Commandant of the Squadron equipt at Toulon; which Circumstance they think sufficient to invalidate the Report of its going to be difarmed. They add, that they wait impatiently for Intelligence from the East Indies, especially concerning the Cession of Dekan, or at least Part of that Country, to their India Company, as it is a very large Region, whose Revenues amount to several Millions of Rupees.

April 19. Letters from Germany of good Credit assure us, that the Archduke Joseph will be elected King of the Romans before the Month of December, whether his Britannic Majesty crosses the Sea or not.

It is reported, that Orders were sent to the Governors of the several Provinces in North America, belonging to Great Britain, to use their utmost Endeavours