

Mrs. Jones on Domestic Economy.

When Mr. Jones came in to dinner the other day, his better-half tackled him for \$2.50. Jones caught his breath and vociferated:

"What silly thing, now, are you thinking of spending money for?"

"Silly thing! Jones," said she "silly thing! you, yourself, are the silly thing! Pray tell me if you ever knew of my spending money foolishly?"

"Ah!" said Jones, "it wasn't silly to spend money for three or four masquerade suits; little bells to set off the dress of one of the girls, jingle, jingle, jingle to attract attention; bronze shoes, two or three dollars for a ticket, supper, etc. Besides yourself standing on a bench, in company with others, just as foolish as yourself, in the attitude of a walk-flower—"

"Just at this juncture Jones tho't himself at a county election, and some one had fired a beer glass at him, on account of his hostile opposition to the peoples party, just grazing the side of his head, but striking his "hearer" which is uncommonly large; but upon second thoughts he knew it was only a slight cuff given by Mrs. Jones to remind him of whom he was talking to.

"Jones! I will have every woman in this town—"

"Please let me finish, Mrs. Jones. Four long hours watching the motley crew waltzing up and down the hall acting the fool, guessing who the masqueraders were and declaring a knowledge of everyone, when you knew as little of their identity as a methodist preacher does of paradise; caught cold, took the tooth ache, come home, raised 'ned' the balance of the night, and the next morning necessitated an expenditure of one dollar, by your poor suffering husband, to have that tooth extracted."

"Have you finished," she said. "As I said, I'll have every woman in this town box your ears for this; see if I don't; its like pulling a man's eye teeth to ask him for a nickel. A married woman has no rights or privileges. Just so soon as she puts on the shackles of a marriage contract her liberty ceases and she becomes the slave of a tyrannical, selfish, jealous husband, who begrudges her a dollar, and still expects his wife to look neat and tidy, the house to be kept in the same condition, but never thinks of giving his wife a few dollars each week for household expenses."

"Well, Mrs. Jones, I would like you, if you can, to tell me where the husband's money finds anchorage, if not spent in supporting his wife and family."

"Shall I tell you, Mr. Jones?"

"If you please," said he.

All right," she said. "How many 'bits' go for cigars? How many for billiards, how many for drinks, how many for smoking tobacco, how many for so-lo—or it shud' be so-'high'—how many for bets, and a thousand other ways you men have of spending money; but when your wife asks you for a few dollars to buy something for herself or family, to make herself attractive or the children respectable, then comes a kick."

"Whv, my dear wife, would you have your husband to become a miser and lost to all those social qualities of friendship and generosity that distinguishes civilized life from the heathen or savage?"

"Not at all, husband," said she, "but I would have men draw the line on an equal and conservative basis. Should your friends be more dear to you than your wife and family? Is it right that you should spend money foolishly to please your friends or satisfy your own personal pleasure, when you feel your own dear ones at home need comforts?"

"Well, wife," said Jones, "I must tell you I think your imagination carries you away and your ills and hardships are very much over-drawn. The most of husbands have certainly great affection for their wives and families."

"If so," said she, "the most of them have a poor way of showing it. What must most men think of the nselves—if they ever stop to think—when they contemplate the lover and then the husband, how fondly every loving look, every hand pressure was cherished by them when a lover, and now how different the husband—"

"Hush, Hush! my dear," said Jones. "Here's the \$2.50 I have business up town."

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