

THE TELEPHONE REGISTER

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THE FACTS IN TWO CASES

THE MILLIONAIRE'S WIFE AND THE FARMER'S WIFE.

Marion Harland Thinks They Are Too Ambitious, and Writes Strong Words Condemning Their Desire and That of Their Husbands to Be "Smart."

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They were as far apart in education and social station as the poles are to different races and had lived in different hemispheres.

They were as near akin in circumstances and in suffering as if they had been twin sisters, and brought up under the same roof.

The husband of one wrote "Honorable" before his name and reckoned his dollars by the million. He was, moreover, a man of imposing department, bland in manner, urbane in language.

As riches increased he set his heart upon them and upon the good things that riches buy. He had four children, and he erected "villa" was too small a word a palatial home in a fashionable street.

Each child had a suite of three rooms. Each apartment was elaborately decorated and furnished. The drawing rooms were crowded with bric-a-brac and monuments of upholstery ingenuity. It was a work of art and perit to dust them every day.

He developed a taste for entertaining as time went on and hours thickened upon him, and he mistook the most of his guests for ostentatious hospitality. Every dish at the banquet for which he became famous was a show piece. He swelled with honest pride in the perusal of a popular personal paragraph estimating the value of his silver and cut glass at \$50,000.

The superintendent, part owner, and the slave of all this magnificence was his wife. She was her own housekeeper, and employed the cook, the maid, the woman whose business was in the stables and upon his box, three servants. There were twenty-five rooms in the palatial house, giving to each woman servant eight to be kept in the pick-and-pan array demanded by the social position and taste.

As a matter of course something was neglected in every department, the instinct of self preservation being innate and cultivated in Abigail, Phyllis and Bridget. Even more as a matter of course the nominal mistress supplemented the deficiencies of her aids.

The house was as present and forceful a consciousness with her as his Dulcinea with David Copperfield at the period when "the sun shone Dora, and the birds sang Dora, and the south wind blew Dora, and the will flowers in the hedges were all Dora to a bud."

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It is, furthermore, ambition without knowledge, hence misdirected. We have the most indifferent domestic service in the world, but we employ as a rule too few servants, such as they are. It is considered altogether sensible and becoming for the mechanic's wife to do her own housework as bride and as a matron of years. Unless her husband prospers rapidly she is accounted "shiftless" should she hire a washerwoman, while to "keep a girl" is extravagance, or a significant stride toward gentility. The wife of the English joiner or mason or small farmer, if brisk, noticable and healthy, may dispense with the stated service of a maid all work, but she calls in a charwoman on certain days, and is content to live as becomes the station of a housewife who must be her own domestic staff.

It is the root of the difference. In a climate that keeps the pulses in full leap and the nerves tense we call upon pride to lash on the quivering body and spirit to run the unrighteous race, the goal of which is to seem richer than we are, and make "smartness" (American English) cover the want of capital. Having created false standards of respectability we crowd insane asylums and cemeteries in trying to live up to them.

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PHOTOGRAPH HOLDERS.

Handsome Case for the Preservation of San Diego Portraits.

Photographs today are in highest favor, as well as in the greatest respect, and they may be made in all sorts of attractive designs. The open fan design is a particularly pretty one, and would be an appropriate gift to a young man who possessed photographs of all the reigning belles in his own locality. It enables one to see one's friends, as it were, and place them where they belong, according to the sentiment on the square shield. A handsome photograph board is easily cut in shape of an open fan.

Paraphs have been going the rounds regarding New York dressmakers, their income and their class of patronage. It is not generally known that the women who are the most successful household words have grown rich by their art. These dressmakers are usually known by their last names. Donovan, Connolly, Egan and Lambelle are the names we conjure with when we want a new gown. The provincial modiste is usually addressed in the full tottery of her name, not so the successful fashioners of trossaus and toilettes in metropolitan New York. These are no longer known as "Mrs." this or "Miss" that. They have passed out of the fashion of the past. There is a money making business, of this there is not the slightest doubt.

Mrs. Connolly, or, as she is in fact, Mrs. Liddy, is the richest dressmaker in New York. She is a tall, striking looking woman, with brown hair and eyes, a commanding carriage and the pleasant manner possible. She was born in Ireland, but came early to this country, married and entered the dressmaking business. Everything she undertook was singularly successful, and from the few good diamonds she has in her real estate, so that she is now a fortune teller in Long Branch, and in New York, three in Sixteenth street, one in Forty-fourth street, where she lives, and one on Fifth avenue and Thirty-second street, where she conducts her business. Her fortune is estimated at from \$750,000 to \$1,000,000. Real estate is her hobby; she revels in it to the exclusion of jewelry, horse and other conventional channels in which woman's money usually runs away. She has a few good diamonds and a pair of bays which she drives, or rather has driven in a Surrey around Long Branch, where at Spray cottage, an offshoot of the Howland house, she makes her summer home.

Connolly is a devout Catholic, and while in New York attends the cathedral, but her heart is with the little church of St. Michael's at Monmouth, to which last summer she gave a beautiful triple window in memory of her second husband, Mr. Liddy, to whom she is now devoted.

Connolly moved to New York with the tide and now her big Fifth avenue house is barely adequate to the demands of her business. The visitor is always shown into a cheerful looking room with big mirrors, but with little other furniture. Half a dozen pictures of the prettiest Long Branch houses hang on the walls, and delightfully easy chairs invite one to spend an almost unreasonable time talking over the stuffs and gowns thrown on the long bare walnut tables.

Mrs. Connolly is rather autocratic about the toilet for which she is responsible. She regards the business of the average society woman as to appear properly, and protests that the most terrible results would ensue should she relax her firmness for a moment. She would gently but decidedly decline filling an order, she claims, rather than permit the desires of some would-be purchasers to take palpable shape in her establishment and be shown to the world. Quarterly accounts are sent from this house and there are absolutely no standing over. Checks come the next day, and often are sent immediately on the receipt of an unusually successful gown.

Katherine Donovan was born in County Kavan, Ireland, about forty-five years ago. She came to this country as a child, married and was early left a widow. She was always a thorough woman of affairs, and has built up a business that is worth at least \$400,000. She owns a house on Madison avenue and Fortieth street, two on Tenth street valued at \$14,000 each and a lot on Long Branch which were real estate of her first husband, Mr. Donovan. Mrs. Donovan, while she hires for her own use during the summer an expensive cottage at Newport, on Perry street near the residence of ex-Secretary Whitney, and next to the villa of Col. Best.

Her establishment consists of a victoria and a coupe, with a pair of steady going bays, with which she is driven quietly about in the most inconspicuous of toilets. Indeed, it is a source of real sorrow to her affectionate assistants that she prefers to be comfortable in an old skirt and hat, and refuses to dress in a proper sense of the term, at all. She is industrious to a fault and often her workwomen arrive at eight in the morning, find that she has had breakfast and is off on a hunt for novelties. She makes semi-annual visits to the other side, and it is said that Worth pays more heed to her suggestions than to those of any dressmaker in America. I found that Donovan considers the question of gowns, and takes a little natural pride in the statement that her customers never permit their fancies to interfere in any radical way with her inspiration. They simply tell her for what occasion they want a costume and leave all to her. This principle, however, admits of one exception, and here the famous modiste reveals a little of her genius. The exception she makes is in favor of brides. These charming creatures, Donovan explains, sometimes have very strong ideas of their own and usually carry them out, because there is in nearly every instance a sentimental reason for each eccentricity. But it is to brides alone that the true instinct for beauty is conceded, and only in house gowns that much daring and originality are permitted. The more conservative dressers, she affirms, hesitate long before adopting anything new for street attire.

Mrs. Donovan's customers naturally comprise the wealthiest people in town, nevertheless she finds, with a little real fun, "these ladies who have the most money are harder to satisfy as to the full worth of a \$10 bill than those whose income is quarter the size." She sends the bills at the end of every season, but scarcely ever hopes for an immediate settlement. Bills run on an average from \$3,000 a season upward.

MILLIONAIRE MODISTES.