

An Eighteenth Century Budget

THE budget in all its forms is attracting so much attention at the present time that we are inclined to think of it as exclusively a twentieth century institution. A small pamphlet belonging to the Business Library, however, is evidence that it had its origin at least as long ago as 1744. This very early example of a family budget, "An Estimate of the necessary Charge of a Family in the middling Station of Life, consisting of a Man, his Wife, Four Children, and One Maid-servant," occurs in a pamphlet interesting in itself, being "An Apology for the Business of Pawn-Broking, By a Pawn-Broker." The Pawn-Broker makes out a very good case for his pilloried and despised trade. He gives statistics to prove that he and his confreres could not afford to stay in business and charge any less than their accustomed rate of interest, taking into consideration the time consumed in the transacting of so many small loans, the necessity of employing two assistants, and the interest his money would produce out of trade. Besides the expenses of carrying on business, says he, the broker "may find it convenient or necessary to marry," and he demands with Shylock whether a pawn-broker's family can live without food and raiment more than other people, or whether his children must not be "fed, cloathed, educated, and put out into the World, as well as those of other Men?"

He demonstrates that his trade does not average an interest of more than eighteen per cent per annum, an income less than the annual percentage made by most shopkeepers on their capital. He answers the charge of the shopkeepers that a pawn-broker is not a fair trader by maintaining that he fills an economic want at the smallest practicable charge.

As an illustration of the reasonableness of his charges, considering the expenses he has to meet, the writer quotes from the *Essay on Trade* of a contemporary merchant, who has compiled a budget for a middle-class tradesman's family in London. The budget is reproduced in facsimile herewith. The bill of fare includes bread, butter, cheese, "fish and flesh meat," mustard, pickles, tea, and other groceries, and "milk, one day with another," but seems to be weak in vitamins, unless we take "roots and herbs" to mean green vegetables. The family expenses include some items that do not appear in our budgets, like "ten-shilling small beer, a firkin

AN ESTIMATE of the necessary Charge of a Family
in the middling Station of Life, consisting of a Man,
his Wife, Four Children, and One Maid-servant.

	d.	Daily Expence.		Weekly Expence.		Yearly Expence.
		s.	d.	l.	s.	
B READ for Seven Per- sons, per Head, per Day, } 0		0	5 ½	0	3 0 ½	
Butter _____ } ¼			5 ½		3 0 ½	
Cheese _____ } ¼			1 ½		1 0 ½	
Fish and Flesh-meat. _____ } 2 ½		1	5 ½		10 2 ½	
Roots and Herbs, Salt, Vine- gar, Mustard, Pickles, Spices, and Grocery, ex- cept Tea and Sugar, } 0 ½			3 ½		2 2 ½	
Tea and Sugar _____ } 1			7		4 1	
Soap for the Family Occa- sions, and washing all man- ner of Things both abroad and at home, _____ } 1 ½			10 ½		6 1 ½	
Threads, Needles, Pins, Tapes, Worsted, Bindings, and all Sorts of Haberdashery, } 0 ½			3 ½		2 0 ½	
Milk one Day with another Candles, about Two Pounds ½ per Week the Year round, } _____			¾		5 ½	
Sand, Fullers-earth, Whiting, Smallcoal, Brickduft, } _____					1 3	
Ten-Shilling Small-beer, a Firkin and a Quarter per Week, _____ } _____					2	
Ale for the Family and Friends, _____ } _____					3 1 ½	
Coals, between Four and Five Chaldron per Annum, may be estimated at - - } _____					2 6	
Repairs of Household-Goods, as Table-linen, Bedding, Sheets, and every Utensil, for Household-Occasion, } _____					2 6	
Six Shillings and Two- pence weekly for Seven Per- sons, amount to near - - } _____					1 6	
					2 3 1 ½	112 10 0

	<i>l.</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>
Brought over	112	10	0
Cloaths of all kinds for the Master of the Family	16		
Cloaths for Wife, who can't wear much, nor very fine Laces, with _____	16		
Extraordinary Expence attending every Lying-in, 10 <i>l.</i> supposed to be about once in Two Years,	5		
Cloaths for Four Children, at 7 <i>l.</i> per Ann. for each Child, _____	28		
Schooling for Four Children, including every Charge thereunto relating supposed to be equal, at least, 10 <i>s.</i> per Quarter for each Child,	8		
The Maid's Wages may be _____	4	10	
Pocket-Expences for the Master of the Family, supposed to be about 4 <i>s.</i> per Week, _____	10	8	
For the Mistres of the Family, and for the Four Children, to buy Fruit, Toys, &c. at 2 <i>s.</i> per Week, _____	5	4	
Entertainments in Return for such Favours from Friends and Relations, _____	4		
Physic for the whole Family one Year with another, and the extraordinary Expence arising by Illness, may exceed _____	6		
A Country-Lodging sometimes, for the Health and Recreation of the Family; or, instead thereof, the extraordinary Charge of nursing a Child abroad; which, in such a Family, is often needful, _____	8		
Shaving, 7 <i>s.</i> 6 <i>d.</i> per Quarter; and Cleaning Shoes, 2 <i>s.</i> 6 <i>d.</i> per Quarter, _____	2		
Rent and Taxes may be somewhat more or less than Expences of Trade with Customers, Travelling-Charges, Christmas-box Money, Postage of Letters, &c. for the sake of even Money, at least, _____	19	8	
Bad Debts, which may easily be more than 2 <i>l.</i> per Cent. on the supposed Capital of 1000 <i>l.</i>	20		
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	315		
There must be laid up one Year with another, for Twenty Years, in order to leave each Child, and a Widow, if there should be one, 500 <i>l.</i> apiece,	75		
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One 1000 <i>l.</i> therefore, by this Estimate, should gain, one Year with another, _____	390		
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and a quarter per week," and ale for the family and friends. The wife "can't wear much nor very fine laces with 16 s. a week for cloaths," but the family expects to have a country lodging sometimes for its rest and recreation, and to employ a maid servant. The pocket expenses of the master are 10 pounds 8 shillings a year, and 5 pounds 4 shillings do for the mistress and for the four children to buy fruit, toys etc. Schooling for the children amounts to 8 pounds annually, at least, and "entertainments in return for such favors from friends and relations" to 4 pounds. Their 390 pounds must also cover expenses of trade, travelling charges, and the like; but even so, the standard of living in the middling station of life in the City of London in the eighteenth century seems to have provided for a fairly comfortable and well-rounded existence.

"An Historical, Geographical, Commercial and Philosophical View" of the Americas

FOUR volumes of this comprehensive view of the Western Hemisphere, written in 1795 by an English dissenting minister, are among the many curious items which are continually being added to the collection of the Society. They derive peculiar interest from the fact that the author, William Winterbotham, at the time it was written was a prisoner in Newgate, to which he had been committed for expressing too liberal views in his sermons. The work is a compilation, and he quotes Benjamin Franklin and Buffon among his authorities. Winterbotham was a close friend of Southey, and the latter left his manuscript of *William Tell* with him in prison.

The first volume begins with the discovery of America, and after a very fair-minded account of the Revolution, the author proceeds with a description of North, Central, and South America, and the West Indies. Two cuts from the section on American quadrupeds are reproduced on the next page.

Along with the dissimilarities to be expected between this and later books on the same subject, in the matter described and the manner of expression, there are some amusing resemblances to the modern point of view. One section, entitled "Prospects and Advantages of European Settlers," begins with an effort to disabuse the minds of prospective immigrants of some mistaken