

**A SUMMARY ACCOUNT
OF PRIZES FOR COMMON
THINGS, PP. 1-185**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649065813

A Summary Account of Prizes for Common Things, pp. 1-185 by Miss Burdett Coutts

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

www.triestepublishing.com

MISS BURDETT COUTTS

**A SUMMARY ACCOUNT
OF PRIZES FOR COMMON
THINGS, PP. 1-185**

SUMMARY ACCOUNT

or

PRIZES FOR COMMON THINGS.

It is hoped that those who have received a copy of this
Work in a shorter form will take an interest in the additions
which have now been made to it.

A

SUMMARY ACCOUNT

OF

PRIZES FOR COMMON THINGS

OFFERED AND AWARDED BY

MISS BURDETT COUTTS

AT THE

WHITELANDS TRAINING INSTITUTION.

IN THREE PARTS.

PART I.	Prizes Offered and Awarded in	1853.
PART II.	" " "	1854.
PART III.	" " "	1855.

New Edition.

LONDON:
HATCHARD AND CO., 187 PICCADILLY.

MDCCCLX.

[*Price One Shilling and Sixpence.*]

260. B. 27.

PREFACE.

THE present edition of *The Summary of Prizes for Common Things* appears, not only because the first and second are exhausted, but because suggestions have been received from several quarters where the knowledge of the subject in which they have originated is likely to be sound and reliable, that the *Summary* would be more serviceable to teachers, and more generally useful, if reprinted in a cheaper form. Another competition for prizes having taken place at the Whitelands Training Institution since the publication of the first edition of the *Summary*, its results are added to the present, of which they form the first part. The competitors on this last-named occasion were pupil-teachers in schools who had previously competed, and pupils under training at Whitelands, the greater part of whom had entered since the former competition. On this occasion, lessons were not required to be given by those who tried for the prizes. Some of the essays, and the answers to the questions, are printed, in full, to show how the subject was handled generally; and may be taken as a fair sample of the whole. The prizes were awarded to those who had given the best answers to the written questions, or who

had produced the best essay on the *subject given*. The subject of this, as well as the questions (with the exception of questions 4, 5, 6, 7, 8), were selected so that they should be nearly identical with some of the questions previously proposed, and might thus afford some test of the effect of the previous examination, and of the habits of observation and adaptation of the competitors.

It is interesting to observe that the real expenditures set forth in the first Summary have been carefully considered, and that many charges not previously taken into account—such as for tools, wear and tear of furniture, and purchase of beer—are now entered in the supposititious expenditures. It will likewise be seen that the competitors have not treated the first question merely as a repetition of the question relating to wages in the former Summary, but that they have answered it with an especial reference to the distinction between a fixed annual salary and weekly wages. This is quite right; for, though the two classes of income may not vary materially in amount, taking the whole year through, still, when the income is certain, and not liable to the fluctuations of wages, strictly so called, many arrangements for comfort and economy are practicable, which in the case of weekly wages are far more difficult.

In connexion with the subject of wages, statements of the real expenditure of persons in receipt of quarterly or monthly salaries have been obtained through the kind exertion of friends interested in promoting the usefulness of the Summary; and some additional items of expenditure have been furnished by a lady, to whom this endeavour is also much indebted for recipes for cheap cookery, and for useful hints on furniture and on the utensils best suited for the kind of cookery under consideration—very important matters in small kitchens and in cottage eco-

nomy—and which were presented by her a few years since to the Royal Agricultural Society. The recipes seem to afford a variety of economical and palatable food; and will probably be found to be as wholesome and pleasant to the taste as were the dishes made from the recipes formerly given. But they are specially valuable from the cost of each dish being named, and the price of each article used in making it. The price is that for which it could be purchased in the north of England; but the London price for the same article at the small markets where the poorer classes usually buy their provisions has been also stated. This selection, together with the statements of real expenditures, will be found to follow the answers to the first question. It was thought that this arrangement would render a comparison between the real and supposititious expenditures, and the information to be gathered from them, more interesting and instructive to teachers with regard to the lessons given on similar subjects. The supposititious income of 78*l.* was calculated to be about the average yearly amount of the weekly wages of the real expenditures given in the first edition of the Summary; and many persons will be probably surprised to find this amount larger than they had expected.

It would seem certain that the condition of the labouring classes, generally speaking, might be greatly improved by the exercise of more forethought, and of economy during the summer-time, and at other seasons favourable to saving. It is certain that it would be immensely bettered by their being more prudent and self-denying previous to marriage. As a rule, a single woman can of course earn more, from having fewer domestic duties to engage her time and attention, than a married woman; but a man usually receives the same wages whether he be married or single. The following quotation, taken from the letter of a much-valued

friend, whose sympathy for the working-classes is very sincere, appears so apposite, expresses so clearly and forcibly the results which would attend the exercise of prudence early in life, that it is given in lieu of a feebler expression of the same sentiments: "Not only a man's own happiness, but the happiness of many others, would be much advanced by his reflecting, while yet young, that an income which is quite sufficient, or something more than sufficient, for the expenses of one person, can be with difficulty eked out to cover the charges of a family; and by his considering that a few years of saving and forethought at that period of his life would lay the certain foundations of a comfortable home. Nor is it requiring too much of him to take these things to heart; because it is not to be doubted that he may be by this means enabled to establish himself in life with even less of exertion, postponement, and anxiety, than often has to be endured by his employer before he can attain the same ardently-desired end. It is of unspeakable importance to their own happiness, self-respect, and rational enjoyment of life, that the youth of both sexes among the working-classes should accustom themselves to thus much of preparation and honourable forethought before they take upon themselves the responsible duties of heads of families. Surely this would not be incompatible with that help to morality, domestic virtue, and religious habits, which many whose opinion is entitled to all respect, hold to be furnished by early marriages, notwithstanding the many privations and evils that often follow in their train."

It appears important to bring these considerations prominently under the notice of teachers. The following calculation has therefore been made, showing how much money might be accumulated in five or ten years by a steady investment of a certain weekly sum:—