

The Price of Board. We have received a communication written in reference to the price of board in the boarding-houses of the various Corporations. The writer thinks the price is too low, and that it should be raised. It is a subject about which we know very little; and it is one of those questions which, we think, the newspaper press, strictly speaking, have little to do with. It is a question which lies between the boarding-house keepers and the Corporations, and by them it must be settled. It is a private contract between the parties. The question whether one dollar and twenty-five cents per week is a sufficient remuneration for the board of a female, is a practical one. We believe that has been the price paid by the Corporations nearly ever since Lowell had a being. If, then, after these many years of trial, it is ascertained to be inadequate, we think it is the duty of the Corporations to raise the price. Our theory is, that there should be allowed for board a sufficient sum to procure good healthy food, and plenty of it, and that the persons who keep the boarding-houses should be fairly remunerated for their toil and care, not only that they should make a living, but that they should be enabled to support and educate their children and lay by something for old age and want.

Our correspondent says that under the present prices the boarding-house keepers find it difficult to make both ends meet, and that many of them have their furniture mortgaged, and many of them fail, leaving their shop-keepers' bills unpaid. If these be the results of the low price of board, we want no argument to prove that the sum paid is too little, and that it should be raised. It is not only unjust, but cruelly unjust to work and toil, as we know our boarding-house keepers do, and then, after all, not be able to make a living and pay their honest dues. But if these results should be from improvidence in the management of certain boarding-houses, why then it leaves the question an open one, which ought to be thoroughly investigated by the parties, to see that justice may be awarded to all. The price of board should not be so low as to induce boarding-house keepers to provide poorly and inadequately; but, as we have said before, it is a matter about which we know comparatively nothing. We have, however, heard very frequently complaints in regard to the present price of board, and from persons of the highest respectability. We think that there is a very general sentiment in the city that the price at board is too low. If by these remarks we draw the attention of gentlemen to the subject who in a great degree have the control of it, we presume that we have performed all the writer of the communication desired us to do; and as the writer is a boarding-house keeper, we hope that the facts which he possesses will be laid before the parties in whose lands it rests.

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