

Woman and Her Work

Matrimony, like the poor, is with us always, and if it were not I really don't know what would become of the modest and dry goods men, for it seems to me that if it were not for the boom that such events give to trade, things would languish greatly in those two important branches of commerce. I don't know what would happen if the advanced woman should ever succeed in abolishing marriage and compelling the race to universal bachelorhood and I sincerely hope that day is too far off to affect the present generation, because I think we all love the bustle and excitement that a wedding always brings in its train, and we should be sorry to miss it for the rest of our lives.

Luckily for those amongst us who are not on the verge of matrimony, there seem to be two especial seasons set apart for weddings; if it were not so, I don't see how the rest of us would ever get any clothes made, since all things must give way to the trousseau, in every dress making establishment, and the ordinary customer usually gives way also, whether she wishes to or not.

September is one of the favorite months for weddings, but still a great many brides choose "golden October" as the pleasantest month for travelling, especially when the bridal journey is to extend to New York, and other American cities where October is like our September, and resembles late summer rather than autumn. After all it is a charming season for a wedding and if one happens to live in the country nature herself seems to provide ample material for decorations every field and hedge teeming with golden rod, red berries, and brilliant leaves. Those who live in cities and have well lined purses need only leave their orders with the florist and the caterer, but after all there is far more pleasure and satisfaction to be obtained from the work of one's own hands, and the result is often far more original and pleasing than the work of professional decorators.

First of all think out your plan of decorations and arrange your scheme of colors, white and yellow, is one of the easiest and prettiest combinations for this time of year when sweet peas are still abundant, and white asters, phlox, and white and yellow garden chrysanthemums abound in the gardens, while the fields are still bright with golden rod.

The drawing room, hall, and dining room are the only parts of a house needing special decoration. In the drawing room the principal decorations should consist of a flower screen before which the bride and groom stand, and an artistically arranged mantel which should be the real focus of the whole scheme of decoration. Should the bride's family be so fortunate as to possess an old fashioned pier-glass the work of making the screen will be a mere trifle.

Tack four or five fine picture wires invisibly at the top of the glass, and carry them across the face of the glass to the bottom where they must be securely fastened. Twine these wires with ground hemlock, moneywort or any of the creeping vines, which abound in the woods just now. At equal distances on these perpendicular wreaths, fasten bunches of the yellow and white flowers alternating the bunches, so as to avoid a stiff appearance, and at the same time give the look of a regular design to the screen. Above this build a high bold frieze at the top of the mirror with ferns, cedar, or any pretty green branches which will lend themselves readily to the scheme. At the bottom of the glass bank up a mass of green, small cedar or laurel bushes, potted palms or ferns, with the pots concealed, or better still masses of asparagus, if it can be obtained; and you will have a most beautiful and artistic screen.

If the pier glass is not obtainable a very good substitute may be made by covering a light clothes horse with wide meshed wire netting, and then making it a mass of greenery set, at intervals with bunches of yellow and white flowers in groups which work out some simple design. The frieze and bank at the foot may be managed as I have already described, and the screen will be almost as pretty as if it had the mirror for a background.

For the mantel decoration it is well to begin with a drapery of white silk ornamented with touches of gold embroidery. Make the wall behind the shelf itself a mass of green, with trailing vines ferns and delicate foliage; this can be done with comparative ease as smilax, ivy, etc., can be used, and the pots hidden behind cut foliage. On the mantel shell place jars or vases filled to overflowing with white asters or white and yellow chrysanthemums, if they

are obtainable. There is no prettier way to finish the mantel than by banking it with fresh green moss up to the tops of the vases and flower pots, and sticking fresh cut fern leaves through the moss both in groups and singly; the effect is that of a bank of ferns growing in their native woods. Should there be an open grate beneath the mantel it will add greatly to the general effect, as it can be made a mass of green through which stalks of goldenrod and asters are thrust. The chandelier should be twined with green and from the top white satin ribbon four inches wide and twined with a single green vine, should be carried to the four corners of the ceiling. Over doors and windows that are poled and draped, branches of green will be found very effective; in fact it is scarcely possible to use too much green as it all adds greatly to the decorative effect. For the hall and stairway lagre potted plants such as are to be found in every home, are especially appropriate, they can be massed in the corners on small tables, built into pyramids on their wire stands, and arranged on brackets, the pots being concealed beneath masses of foliage moss, and ferns.

For the stairway nothing can be better than ferns, especially those of the larger and coarser growth which abound in every bit of woods just now. They can be grouped on post and balustrade so as to completely cover the wood, and fastened in place with a thin cord the color of the baluster. The landing at the top can be set with ferns and potted India rubber plants, and palms, or even with com-moer plants, carefully and effectively arranged.

Drawing room, hall and stairs being finished we come to the most important room of all, the one where the wedding luncheon is served. Where the guests are at all numerous the table is usually in the form of a T, a short table placed across the end of a long one securing the desired shape. At this short table, which is known as the bride's table, facing the longer one, sit the bride and groom, the bride and groomsmen, the rest of the guests occupying seats at the longer table. The father and mother of the bride face each other in the centre of the long table, and a male guest of honor, perhaps the clergyman, occupies the foot.

Of course the decoration begins with the napery, and if possible the damask should have a plain centre the border being as elaborate in design as possible. For the centre there may be either a wide strip of white silk or satin running the entire length of the table, or a wide scarf of Honiton lace; but quite as effective is the large square of white linen embroidered in an elaborate design of white asters and their green leaves, which is often substituted by people of excellent taste. On this is placed a tall epergne, one of the old-fashioned kind with three or four branch-like receptacles for flowers, if possible, and in these branches mass a quantity of white asters, roses, gladioli, any white, or very pale tinted flowers in fact, with plenty of maidenhair fern. Around the base of this let there be a closely trimmed wreath of smilax which will form a small mound. If desired, this scheme can be carried out as a border to the edge of the table, by pinning small and delicate bunches of maidenhair fern with groups of white carnations, or any other pretty white flower, at equal distance apart. These bunches should be tied with very narrow white satin ribbon in bows with ends, and the pinning should be done from the under side of the cloth.

The part of the cloth which falls in folds below the table, is usually rather neglected but nothing adds more to the beauty of the table than a tasteful garniture here. First see that the folds fall gracefully at the corners, and then group bunches of ferns, and the smallest white flowers obtainable, amid the folds. These little bouquets must be very tiny, tied with loops of white ribbon and fastened securely underneath with good sized pins. The same little bunches should be arranged at equal distances along the lower border of the cloth, and the effect will be found to amply repay the trouble expended. The long table may be decorated after an entirely different plan, the scheme of color being yellow and goldenrod, chrysanthemums and the hardy yellow garden chrysanthemums, upon which frost has so little effect, can form the basis of the decorations, relieved with green. As a table border nothing can exceed in beauty the moneywort, or creeping Charley, of the woods, which should be arranged at the extreme edge of the table.

There is just one essential to be observed with these lovely home decorations—they must be fresh. If the wedding is to be in the evening, leave them as late in the day as possible, preparing everything else, but leaving the flowers to the very last; and if it is to be a morning function, rising a couple of hours earlier in the morning in order to put the finishing touches to the

A Word About

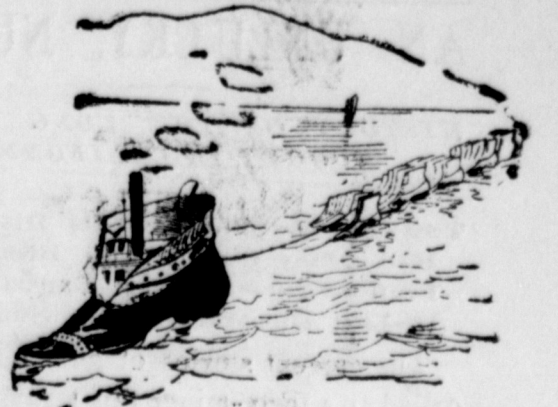
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tables and the more fragile decorations in which cut flowers are to be used.

There seems to be a perfect craze for souvenirs of weddings, a flower from the bride's bouquet a knot of ribbon from her dress even a hairpin which had really helped to support her tresses on the eventful day—all these have been highly prized by her girl friends, while the one who was fortunate enough to catch her bouquet when she threw it into the crowd of friends who were waiting to catch a last glimpse of her at the station, as her train moved off—was accounted lucky indeed.

A novel and very charming concession to this fancy, is a photographic souvenir of the occasion which consists of photos of the bride and her maids framed in cream satin, if possible a real piece left from the bride's dress. To be quite correct the satin ground should be covered with mosaic lines of gold, which can easily put on with a fine brush, and gold paint. In the centre are two oval spaces bordered with a line of gold, and finished at the top with two tiny sprays of leaves turning up in a sort of Napoleonic wreath, in which are placed small photos of the bride and her maid of honor. At each corner is another oval space slightly smaller, and merely bordered with gold without the wreaths for the four bridesmaids. If the wedding has been a quiet one, with but one maid, of course there are but two centre spaces, but there is no provision made for the bridegroom in any case; somehow he does not seem to count at all on these occasions.

The frame is easily made at home and is stretched on card board, and lined at the back with either white silk or linen. The photos are supposed to be of the small "sunbeam" variety or the small diagonal cards which do not take up too much space.

ASTRA.

HER UNEXPECTED GUESTS.

The Troubles of a Young House-Wife and the Cure.

'Oh, Mrs. Tin-Wedding, I'm so glad to see you,' exclaimed Mrs. June-Bride as they met unexpectedly on the ferry. 'You are the very person I wanted to see of all others in the world,' she went on with a suspicion of a tremble in her voice and a watery look in her big soft brown eyes. 'I'm so worried that I could cry, and you've given me some good pointers that have guided me over many a rough place since my marriage.'

'Tut, tut, my dear; what's the trouble now?' said the motherly Mrs. Tin-Wedding giving the other's hand an affectionate little squeeze.

'Mrs. Tin-wedding,' confided Mrs. June-Bride, what do you think? Mr. June-Bride went off to his office in a half this morning, and it was all his fault.'

'Poor little dear,' said Mrs. Tin-Wedding soothingly. 'Tell me all about it, for you know it won't go any further and you might just as well have the benefit of my experience.'

'You see it's been brewing all summer,' began Mrs. June Bride, and all the men around deliberately neglected their business and listened. 'You know when we took



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the cottage in the suburbs and decided to keep house during the summer we agreed to keep open house, but Mr. June-Bride promised always to let me know when he was going to bring people out from town, for you know what an inexperienced house-keeper I am. Well, he did so all during the month of July and I never was so happy in my life. I was always ready for guests when I knew they were coming, and when they arrived was able to take my ease and enjoy them. Along about the first of August Mr. June-Bride brought one of his old college chums out without letting me know. It was wash day, the range was out of order, the laundress, who comes in by the day had gone back on me, and the cook had to do the laundry work, and altogether it was the last day in the world that I wanted company. We had about the poorest dinner we've had since we were married, but I made the best of it, and didn't say a word to my husband about being put out.

'In a few days he came home bringing two college chums without letting me know, and, if you please, the next week in he walked with three. When you have provided dinner for two persons it is no laughing matter to have three extra big strapping men walk in to dine. I didn't know what to do, for it wasn't like being in the city, where one can send out and get anything. But I dashed around and pieced up some kind of a meal. We certainly had some queer dishes for a dinner, but I murmured something about the groceries not coming out from the city, though it hurt my conscience awfully to do it. That night I gave Mr. June-Bride particular fits for the first time, and told him that when he knew our finances did not permit of a lavish every-day provision that would tide over unexpected guests, I thought it was as little as he could do to telegraph me when he was going to bring people home with him. What do you think he said Mrs. Tin-Wedding? He only laughed at me and said he thought the dinner was O. K., and that the fellows seemed to think so too, and that I was a dear little goose who worried unnecessarily.'

'Just like a man,' remarked Mrs. Tin-Wedding.

'It seems to me that every man my husband ever knew at Yale came to New York during August, and I know he brought every one that did come out to our house unexpectedly. I was as patient as I could be for awhile, but the thing has been terribly wearing on my nerves, and the explosion came last night when he brought three men again, all howling swells at that, and I had six little lamb chops for a meat and had ordered raw oysters for two, for the cook won't touch 'em. After the men left I let out on Mr. June-Bride and he got angry too, and this morning he left without kissing me. It's very hard when I try so hard to be economical and do the right thing. He insists that we shall stay in the country and keep house through October, but it will make me crazy if he keeps bringing company home without warning me, as he has done for the last six months. Can't you tell me some way out of it? Arthur said this morning that he was disappointed in me, because he never expected the day to come when I would nag him about asking his own friends to his own house, and that just broke my heart. Can't you tell me some way out of my trouble?'

'Simplest thing in the world, my dear,' responded Mrs. Tin-Wedding cheerfully. 'I had the very same trouble the first year that I kept house, and now my husband can bring six men to dinner or luncheon or breakfast or supper unexpectedly, and I defy him to make me cross or nervous doing so.'

The men all looked at her in amazement and the women within hearing distance listened attentively.

'You see,' continued Mrs. Tin-Wedding, 'I hit upon a plan of always being ready for the unexpected guest. I provided myself with what I call an emergency shelf. I took the top shelf in my pantry and on that I placed a dozen cans of French peas, a dozen cans of tomatoes ready for soup, a dozen bottles of beef extract ready for bouillon, a dozen cans of sweet corn, a number of jars of canned whole tomatoes, which make a very good salad, and a half dozen bottles of salad dressing. To these I added corned beef, salmon, codfish, and such things, and a large package of self raising flour. So as not to be worried when it came to sweets, I placed there a few cans of preserves and fruit and several glasses of jelly, and I assure you I can get up a fine dessert in a quarter of an hour. In my ice box I always keep steak, chops, veal cutlets, or some meat that can be quickly prepared if Mr. Tin-Wedding comes in bringing friends. All of the things I keep on my emergency shelf, you see, can be prepared very readily. Such a lot of edibles cost only a trifle, and their saving in temper and comfort of mind and heartaches is worth their weight in gold. Sometimes it is only necessary to use one or two articles from the shelf for an unexpected guest, but each one should be replaced the very next day, for the comfort of the thing lies in knowing that everything is there. Get up an emergency shelf, and you can let your husband bring as many people home as he pleases without warning you. Don't you want to come with me to the grocer's and let me help you select the things for your emergency shelf now, dear?' she asked as the gong sounded.

'Oh, thank you so much my dear Mrs. Tin-Wedding,' exclaimed the young woman. 'But couldn't you meet me there at noon and then go out to lunch with me. I want to run by Mr. June-Bride's office to tell him he can bring the Yale alumni home at any time without letting me know if he wants to.'

'Poor little thing!' ejaculated a crusty, unmarried-looking man.

'Let it be you, that old woman has a lot of common sense,' commented his companion. 'I wish my wife could get some pointers from her. That woman isn't specially good looking, but I'd gamble on it that she could manage a whole regiment of men.'

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