

**Preliminaries.** It is the bride's privilege to choose her wedding day, select the clergyman and her bridesmaids, and to plan all of the details of her wedding; she chooses her bridesmaids from among her intimate friends, and the maid of honor is usually her favorite sister or closest friend.

It is a pretty custom for the expectant bride to entertain her attendants at a merry dinner or luncheon about a week before the wedding. On this occasion the young ladies often revive all the old fortune telling superstitions to read their future. The chance discovery of a ring in the cake marks the next bride.

At about the same time the bridegroom usually gives a little feast for his best man and ushers, whom he has previously selected from among his closest friends. On this occasion it is customary for him to present small souvenirs.

**The Bridesmaids.** Eight bridesmaids and the same number of ushers are considered  
**The Ushers.** enough; while there may be fewer, there should not be more than eight.

Then there is a maid of honor or a matron of honor and two little flower girls or wee pages.

The bride decides what her attendants shall wear. The maid of honor should appear in a different costume from that worn by the bridesmaids. A night or two before the wedding there usually is a rehearsal, at which all of the attendants should try to be present, and sink all personal wishes in furthering those of the bride.

**The Church Wedding.** The ushers, who arrive at the church first, find their boutonniers left with the sexton by the florist. The ushers stand two at the head of each aisle. They have lists of guests for whom seats have been reserved, unless those guests have been sent cards worded thus:—