

**The Bride's
Cake.**

This time-honored dainty is an indispensable feature of the properly-conducted wedding, now as ever; but it is not now, as formerly, cut and eaten in the course of the wedding feast, the modern fashion being to have the cake cut into small wedges and packed in dainty white boxes, tied up with white ribbon, previous to the ceremony. The boxes are then put in a convenient place, ready for distribution when the guests depart. The bride's cake is, of course, a specially prepared confection, and is not to be confounded with any one of the various kinds of cake served in the ordinary course of the festivities. It need not necessarily be of the costly variety usually supplied by the fashionable caterer, but it should be of the distinctive character ordained by ancient custom, or the special virtues attributed to it by sentimental and superstitious maidens will be lacking. The old custom of placing a gold ring and a silver thimble is still occasionally observed, but when this is done the cake is cut and distributed by the bride herself, the guest to whom the ring falls is supposed to be destined to speedy marriage, while she who secures the silver thimble is positively fore-ordained to spinsterhood.

**Paying
the Bills.**

The bride's family pay for the invitations, carriages, the decorations at church and at home, refreshments, music, the organist the sexton and all incidental expenses.

All the bridegroom is allowed to furnish is the clergyman's fee, the gloves, ties and boutonniers, and souvenirs for the men, the bouquets of the bride and bridesmaids.

If the bride is alone, or of a family of limited means, it is much better to have a home wedding without display than to allow the groom to provide for the many necessities of a large wedding, even though he be willing and eager to do so.