

agreed that the bridal should take place on the day when she should complete her eighteenth year.

Agnes's cheerful temper and affectionate disposition, had made her a general favorite in the neighborhood where she lived; and her female friends took the present opportunity of evincing the lively interest they took in her approaching happiness, by rendering her every assistance in their power in preparing her wedding dresses, and the thousand and one little essentials for so important a change, as that about to take place.

Agnes was anxious to save her parents as much expense as she possibly could in her outfit, and resolved that there should not be any milliners' bills to pay on account of her marriage,—so it was unanimously agreed by her young friends that they should give Agnes all the help they were able in completing her wedding toilette, and many a pleasant day was passed by the little bride elect, and the chosen few who were admitted into her counsels, in cutting out and contriving, fitting and trimming, and admiring the bridal finery, as each article was completed and consigned to the packing cases that were destined to receive the treasures.

And many were the little offerings of affection that were presented by loving, generous hearts—which, if they lacked something in costliness of material, were rendered charming in the eyes of the little bride, by the kind manner in which they had been wrought and given.

There was the bridal handkerchief, delicately embroidered and edged with the finest lace that gentle and ingenious hands could fabricate; the pretty manchettes and collars, berthes and reticules, were all the work of kind fingers eager to contribute something to please and enrich her little wardrobe,—and not the least admired were the sprigs of myrtle and white rose-buds, tastefully made by George's youngest sister, and which, though from the hands of an amateur artiste in this species of fancy-work, looked almost as natural among the shining ringlets of Agnes and her bride-maidens, as if they had been plucked from the garden and green-house.

But the best of the fun was making the bride-cake. There was a regular 'Bee' for the occasion, conducted, however, with a secrecy and mystery quite befitting so delicate a matter. What will my youthful readers, meet to be made bride's themselves, say to such