

NOW WED AT HOME.

FASHIONABLE BRIDES TABOO CHURCH FUNCTION.

Simplicity of Arrangements Contrary to Former Elaborateness—Society Leaders Say Home Wedding is a More Sacred Event—Guests Still Numerous.

The weddings of the fashionables are no longer "brilliant functions," says the Chicago Chronicle. The elaborate affair of the past few years has been replaced by a quiet home wedding, which does not lend itself to long descriptions. "And why have a home wedding?" some people ask. "Wasn't the old way the best?"

These fashionables who have planned and executed the change have many reasons for it. In the first place they say a home wedding is so much more sacred. One is inclined to ask them why they did not think of that long ago, before Mrs. So and So or Mrs. Somebody Else thought of it. Why didn't they have a plain home wedding when their first daughter was married. Why was the church so much better then than it is now? Not that it would do any good to ask all these things, for the fashionable mother of the fashionable bride would look at you in grieved wonderment if you did. "A home wedding is so simple and pretty and my husband likes it so much better, really, we never could think of having another church wedding," she would repeat, much impressed with the words. All of these reasons are an avoidance of the point in question, which is simply that home weddings are now fashionable and are, therefore, generally observed. Within the past three months there have been thirty weddings among the ultra-fashionable of Chicago, and of this number but three were church functions.

But there is more to it than the mere fact that the home has succeeded the church as a place for such affairs. With the change the whole tone of the function has changed, the bride is no longer so elaborately gowned, the decorations are not so extravagant, the bridesmaids and groomsmen are not so numerous and the guest list is essentially much reduced. The wedding is still a pretty affair, but it is not gorgeous and the efforts of the most imaginative society editor could not

have a whole family of daughters married in exactly the same way. The first could have a pink wedding and the second a blue one and so on to the end, but as for any further individuality it was simply impossible. A bride could be a bride after just so much fuss and flurry and running to the church and back again. There was a strict code for the arrangement of such an affair and no one dared to depart from it. For all these years society has been a slave to this code and when it did finally rebel it was to the great satisfaction and relief of numerous brides-to-be.

Now that it is not only proper but proper to have one's wedding at home and to have it a simple, unpretentious affair, the ordeal is no longer so trying. The preparation and celebration of her wedding will not leave the bride in a state of nervous collapse and her entire family exhausted. The last of the church weddings were eight-day wonders for splendor and no one would have dared to outdo them. They had worked themselves out of novelty as a means of display and it only remained to repeat the wonders that had already been accomplished. The home wedding is a kindly respite from these shows and a respite for which both society and the newspaper reading public is thankful.

Bibles for the Heathen.
Over 5,000,000 copies of the Bible were sold by the British and Foreign Bible Society last year. This is an increase of 1,000,000 over the sales of the year before, says a London newspaper. Sixty thousand "parts" of the testaments were printed and bound for the use of the troops in South Africa. But for this number the sale of Bibles in England has remained for two years at 2,000,000 copies. The missionaries are responsible for the additional million in the output. The heathen has more Bibles than ever before. Most of the books were printed in China and in Chinese characters. Many were printed in Hindostan. If the present rate of increase is kept up and each Bible represents a converted heathen, the world may be all Christianized about two centuries hence.

Age of Big Trees.
Referring to the age of the big trees of California, Prof. C. E. Bessey records in "Science" that he once counted with much care the rings of growth of the tree of which the stump constitutes the floor of the so-called dancing pavilion.

STYLISH LONG COATS.

GENERALLY LINED OR TRIMMED WITH FUR.

Long Capes Now in Vogue Recall the Once Popular Circular—Fashions in Evening Dress Are Now Marked by Romantic Tendencies.

New York correspondence:



ANY woman early in the winter almost cooked in her big coat for the purpose of showing she had one, but that's over. Now the fine, long garments are a useful protection as well as a mark of stylishness. All the big coats are loose and they gain thereby in coziness, for there can be no real warmth in a garment that squeezes. All varieties of box coat and every kind of empire cut, together with plain half-fitted effects, share popular favor. Only the woman who is blessed with a carriage should venture the big, loose all fur ulsters that sweep

lines and is light-weight stuff. The sleeves are too close at the shoulders to permit their being slipped on with entire ease, and that is a pity, but they are otherwise well adapted for wear over dainty dresses. They are made of delicate putty color, pale gray and such shades, and lined handsomely that they may be suitable for wearing to the theater over handsome dresses. There is a fancy for ornamenting such coats with stitching, or even embroidery, and some handsome effects are accomplished in applique work. Two empire coats appear in the accompanying picture. Biscuit broadcloth was the material of the one beside the initial picture. Its fronts were ornamented with brown soutache, and the white satin of revers and collar were embroidered in gilt. Light tan broadcloth was the fabric of the shorter empire coat pictured. Embroidery and stitching in white and white cloth folds were its trimmings.

A few wise women realize that there is nothing for real warmth like the cape, if it is only long enough and close enough. So there are current several varieties of cape recalling the comfortably long circulars that used to be a necessary part of every well-planned wardrobe. The red broadcloth, fur-lined circular reaching to the knees is seen occasionally, but it is trimmed a bit, its wearers usually insisting on a finish of fur in lapels and collar. The one sketched was red ladies' cloth finished with fine silk braid and stitching in black, and lined with Russian sable. This garment is a favorite abroad, but there it is quite plain, gaining its trimming in its transference here. Romantic fancies rule evening dress fashions. Stylish dressers are aiming at



STYLISH PROTECTION FROM SEVERE COLD.

the ground and trail at the back, for such are very heavy. They are made of all great-coat materials and usually are lined with some cozy long-haired fur that shows at the edges and makes a big collar. These great collars often are detachable, and when one with cuffs or muff to match is applied to a modest great-coat the garment takes on a queenly look. Corduroy fur trimmed is excellent and very stylish, but it crushes early. The real thing, however—that is, the all-fur garment—is away above the art of imitators. The one sketched here was broad-tail finished with Russian sable, and Persian lamb is seen in similar garments. For promenaders such are dreadfully out of place.

The square box coat to the heels, of light-weight covert or kersey, is the popular garment. It is made up in light-weight waterproofed stuffs and serves all possible needs. Waterproofed fabric is

simplicity and gentleness in tailor street wear, and at distinctness in all other dressing. Soft materials, made up to show their softness, straight lines, unbroken draperies, sweeping sleeves, all are features of the evening gown. Dress-makers strive to make a general simplicity piquant by a sudden dash of elaboration, as by a great massing of tulle in a pompon at the bust on one side, a scarf sweeping therefrom, the color of the tulle contrasting strongly with the gown. A flaming artificial orchid may give dash to an otherwise demure gown, and gold ribbon or black velvet bunched effectively may lend a striking touch to a gown that without it would be quite commonplace. The orchid trick was used at its full value in one of the gowns pictured here. The counterfeit blossom was purple velvet, and the dress was white crepe de chine, white lace being the only other trimming. Trimming of handsome ivory



TYPES OF EVENING GOWNS.

always very warm, the process that keeps out water usually keeping out wind, too. Where the covert is not treated in this way the coat may be worn frankly over a knit under jacket. For all sporting occasions such a coat is just the thing, and the winter jumper and gaffer especially affect the style. Empire coats, with deep yokes are developed along dressy

white lace was the distinctive feature of the next one of these dresses, pink silk muslin being its fabric. The third gown, of pale blue corded silk, was embroidered in silver and crystal, and its cut-out was outlined with silver lace. Black lace medallions stood out from the coral-colored satin of the last model shown.



CHURCH WEDDINGS ARE NOW OUT OF DATE.

make it so. One maid of honor and one bridesmaid are at most the attendants of the party and frequently the maid of honor alone accompanies the bride, while the groom has no attendant. The bride is gowned simply yet with all the adornments necessary to the proverbial bride and the costume of her maid is likewise simple.

In spite of all its apparent simplicity, the home wedding is not a small affair, 200 or 300 guests are frequently in attendance and the reception which follows is always largely attended. Take it all in all, the home function is no less brilliant, though less showy, than that of the church and even when it is announced as simply a family affair there is a reception afterward for friends. There is still the "Lohengrin" wedding march and the "Oh, Promise Me," played softly through the service, and there is always the bride, a happy and altogether charming person, who is after all the center of general interest. And there is still a wedding ring, although there is no page in white velvet to carry it on a cushion, and there is still a bride's bouquet to be thrown at her girl friends after the ceremony, although there is no small flower girl to hold it. And there is always the rice and the old slippers to be thrown at the departing couple, for happily the wedding journey is not as yet tabooed.

Home Wedding is Better of Two.
Take it altogether, there are a great many people who will agree with the society matron that the home wedding is the better of the two, although it is noticeable that they are in every case the people who will be guests at the affair wherever it is held. Yet if there is to be a change in the style of marriages, and it has undoubtedly been deemed necessary, it is perhaps wisest that the wedding should be celebrated at home, "quietly," as the society columns say, and in the old-fashioned way. The church wedding has held sway for more than ten years and it certainly was getting to be a bore to

This count was made from circumference to center, and every ring in all that distance was counted, no estimates or guesses being made. The result was that 1,147 rings were counted and accordingly it is safe to say that this tree, which was fully 24 or 25 feet in diameter, and considerably more than 300 feet in height, acquired these dimensions in eleven hundred and forty-seven years. Prof. Bessey doubts whether any of the existing trees approach the age of two thousand years.

How Many.
Jonesby and his wife took the family tandem with them on their summer vacation, and in due time returned home, greatly refreshed by the outing. "You are not as much tanned up as I expected to see you, Jonesby," remarked Brownson, meeting him the next day after his return. "Tell me candidly how far you traveled on that tandem."

"Well," he replied, lowering his voice, "I have hired a boy to turn the front wheel just one hour. As soon as he has finished I'll look at the cyclometer and tell you exactly how many miles we made on it."

Education of Mme. Chrysanthemum.
The Japanese are truly making rapid strides in their march toward western culture. The latest innovation is the formation of commercial schools for the training of female clerks, and one of the largest railway companies in Nippon has intimated that after a certain date women only will be employed in the clerical department.—Hong-kong Press.

Microbes.
It has been stated that 250,000,000 microbes can stand on a penny postage stamp without undue crowding.

There is a great deal of satisfaction in being able to deceive the deceiver.

Woman is a complication of contradictions.

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