

the prize, which usually consists of rice-confections and fruit.

Little pilgrim, pious pilgrim,  
From house to house you go,  
Wandering over bridge and valley,  
All this wide world through.  
Eagle, crane, and vagrant swallow  
Wing their joyous way ;  
Little pilgrim, weary pilgrim,  
You must walk all day !  
Kneel before the bright sun-goddess ;  
Then, from where you come,  
Little pilgrim, happy pilgrim,  
Gladly hasten home.

#### SHELL GAME.

JAPAN, the glorious island-country, is surrounded and divided by the deep blue sea. Its great cities are by the sea, for the most part built along the shore, and the temples, villages, and meadows are near charming inlets. What wonder that the little Japanese are good friends with the blue water, and that shells and sea-treasures are favorite, every-day playthings !

One of the most common amusements of the children is the following shell game : The two parts of a mussel-shell are painted on the inside with pictures exactly alike ; for instance, with two butterflies, birds, grasshoppers, fishes, spiders, and all sorts of figures, stars, rings, etc. Some twenty pairs of such shells, each pair having a different picture, and one odd shell, painted with a devil, belong to the game. They are all laid down on the ground, with the unpainted side up, mixed together, and then divided in equal parts among the children, who sit down on the ground in a circle. Each one looks through all his shells and puts all those that match together, and lays them on the ground in the middle of the circle, and the rest they lay out in front of them, with the unpainted side up.

Now begins the real play. Each child takes at the same time one shell from his right-hand neighbor. If the picture on it is like one he has, he puts the two together and lays them in the middle of the circle. No child must let another see the pictures on his shells. The game continues until all the shells are matched, and only the devil's shell remains. Its possessor must allow himself to have two great red rings painted around his eyes. The rest make fun of him, you may be sure. But the one who matches all his shells first is winner, and can claim and keep a pair of the painted shells.

"How comical !" you will say ; yet we have a game very similar, played with cards. You see, children and their games are very much alike the world over.

Like and like together pair,  
Stork with stork, and star with star.  
Fish to fish, and ring to ring,  
Butterflies we match, and sing,  
"Sun, here is a sister sun,  
A gold pheasant,—another one."  
House to house,—what fun ! now lay  
Flower spray and flower spray,  
Crab to crab, and stone to stone,  
Till only the devil is left alone.

### Practical Etiquette.

#### X.

#### WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES.

**N**EVER since the days of good old John Gilpin—and nobody knows how long before—people have had a liking for celebrating their "wedding days," although they have differed widely as to the pleasantest and most appropriate way of doing so.

Some friends of mine, who are persons of refinement and culture, and at the same time quiet and home-loving people, think that the Gilpin family chose the best kind of celebration ; and they therefore have a pleasant family excursion to some pretty rural spot, where they picnic with the children, returning, perhaps, by moonlight. They take care, of course, to select good, steady nags to draw their vehicles, and as they carry no wine, the wine is, naturally, not spilled.

Other people invite a few intimate friends to dine and pass the evening in friendly chat. A married couple of my acquaintance recently celebrated their silver wedding by repeating their wedding tour. They left their own home very quietly, old shoes hastening their departure. They then went to the bride's native place,—where they had been married,—and hiring a buggy and a pair of stout horses, spent a fortnight in driving over a beautiful, mountainous country, visiting the same spots, and staying at each the same length of time, as on the occasion of their original wedding journey.

The old-fashioned "wedding-day" of our ancestors has blossomed into an anniversary—for everything is an anniversary now with us, unless it be a centenary, or a bicentenary, or some other monster of time. I like the quaint sound of "wedding-day," however ; and why should not we use this expression as well as the common one of "birth-day?" (I am glad to see that Prof. Hill, of Harvard College, has strongly pointed out to his fellow-Americans, the folly of such pompous expressions as "the anniversary of my birth.")

A few years ago, wedding anniversaries, and the celebration thereof in all sorts of materials, were very much the fashion. We heard of paper, wooden, and tin weddings, glass, china, and silver weddings, until it seemed as if some sort of wedding ceremony were taking place every day. But time corrected this excess, as it does all others, and one hears less frequently now even of tin weddings, although these were at one time very popular.

Silver weddings occasionally take place, although guests are not usually expected to make presents. In fact, it is no longer considered "good form" to issue invitations to a silver wedding in such a way as to solicit, or to appear to solicit, gifts. Some people request that no presents shall be sent, and this seems a very good way out of the difficulty. When a gift is sent, it should be accompanied by the card of the donor, the same as any wedding present.

A wooden wedding occurs, if it occur at all, after five years of matrimony ; and the guests if they bring presents should select those made of wood in some form.

The tin wedding marks the completion of a decade of married life, and therefore has a plea for existence, which its younger sister cannot urge. Divisions into periods of tens have a charm for most people, and especially for a nation which uses a decimal currency.

I think it is in better style, at the present time, to have the invitations for tin, silver, and golden weddings printed in ordinary black ink, rather than in silver or gold, and to omit any special mention of the nature of the occasion, which is sufficiently indicated by the two dates, thus :

1879.

*Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Littell,  
At Home,  
Thursday evening, June fifth,  
at eight o'clock.  
4 Regent Street.*

1889.

The above would be a correct form to use for a tin wed-

ding; but those who preferred to do so might add the words "Tin Wedding."

Occasions of this sort are usually quite merry and jolly affairs, the guests taxing their ingenuity to invent all sorts of odd gifts, useful and sham-ornamental, such as tin jewelry, etc. Sometimes the presents are adorned with bouquets of fresh flowers, thus adding a pleasant element of sentiment to the decidedly prosaic character of tin implements. These bouquets are tied to those objects which have handles or other suitable projections. A tin colander or large grater with a single blossom stuck through each hole, has a very pretty effect.

The hostess may, if she choose, wear her wedding-gown, minus the veil and orange-blossoms, or she may be in reception dress. A repetition of the marriage ceremony is sometimes gone through with, but this is in the worst possible taste, if not absolutely shocking to one's sense of propriety. Excepting for its special significance and the gifts, the affair is, indeed, like any other reception. There may be dancing, if the rooms be not too crowded to admit of it, and if the lady of the house like to have it. The refreshments should be like those at any evening party or reception. A wedding-cake with a ring in it is often placed upon the supper-table, and cut by the pseudo-bride.

After fifteen years of married life, a crystal wedding may be celebrated; and after twenty years, a china one. This merely means, in the majority of cases, that friends are at liberty to send presents of "crystal"—practically speaking, "glass"—or china ware, at these dates, if they wish to do so. I have never known anyone who had celebrated either of these very fragile weddings, although I have known several instances where friends sent pretty and suitable gifts in remembrance of the day. It would seem ostentatious and in bad taste to send very handsome gifts in this way, unless where great intimacy existed between giver and receiver, or unless under unusual circumstances. Thus a rich and kind-hearted friend who wished to make a handsome present to a married couple, might avail himself of their wedding anniversary as an excuse for his generosity.

After a quarter of a century comes the silver wedding, which is often celebrated in some way, although not so often as fifteen or twenty years ago. It was my good-fortune to be present, as a very young girl, at the silver wedding of Senator Henry Wilson, afterwards Vice-President of the United States. I remember being somewhat disappointed because the bride wore a silk dress of quiet color—gray, I believe—instead of the bridal robe which I had expected to see, and because the ceremonies did not more closely resemble those of an actual marriage-service: which shows the folly of very young people. It was a very interesting occasion, however, with plenty of speeches, handsome presents of silverware, according to the fashion of the time, and many congratulations from warm friends. I remember very clearly the bright, honest, cheerful, and manly face of Senator Wilson, with roses still in his cheeks, and it was a proud thought for all of us, as well as for him, that he had made his own way from the shoemaker's bench to the Senate of the United States, and afterwards to a yet higher office, and all without one breath of suspicion upon his sterling honesty or manly honor!

It is always a pleasant feature of a silver wedding where the clergyman who originally performed the marriage ceremony is among the guests, also any of the bridesmaids or groomsmen.

The formula given for an invitation to a tin wedding is equally suitable for a silver or golden wedding, or the more formal style may be used:

1864.

*Mr. and Mrs. Elliott Sampson  
request the pleasure of your company  
on Wednesday evening, June fifteenth,  
at eight o'clock.  
Silver Wedding.*

*Elliott Sampson.*

*Estelle Levison.*

1889.

Frequently the words "silver wedding" and the names are omitted at the end, and the sentence "No gifts received" is added at the left hand.

As invitations to weddings proper are on note-sheets, it would seem to be more appropriate to follow the same fashion for wedding anniversaries, especially for silver and golden weddings, rather than to use cards, although the latter could certainly be used where the "At Home" formula was adopted. If it is not possible to attend, the invitation should be acknowledged by sending a visiting-card on the day of the anniversary, if the invitation be on an "At Home" card, or, if it be in the more formal style, by a formal "regret," in which congratulations on the happy event might be embodied.

Some people have the invitations printed in silver for a silver wedding, and in gold for a golden wedding; but, as I have said above, the simple style seems to be in better taste, and also that a line should be added requesting that no presents be sent.

Intimate friends are always at liberty to make gifts; and as antique silver is now so much in demand, it is easy to select some quaint and graceful article of ancient fashion, for which you will probably pay a good deal more than its original value if you buy it from a dealer in bric-a-brac. Old candlesticks, snuffers with tray, tall candelabra, and teapots, sugar-dishes, and cream-ewers of simple shape are much admired. One lady of my acquaintance was very much puzzled as to what she could give to a wealthy relative on the occasion of his twenty-fifth wedding-day, as he possessed silver plate "to a fabulous amount," and in very great variety. She finally selected a perforated silver ball and chain, such as the Chinese use for making tea on table, and had engraved on it the good old legend of "Polly put the kettle on, we'll all take tea." Postage-stamp boxes, of seemingly antique design, are among the pretty modern trifles which are continually being invented in order to give rich people an outlet for their superfluous wealth. Silver toilet-sets, of brush, comb, hand-glass, boot-buttoner, etc., are now very fashionable, but the use of such expensive furniture of the dressing-table seems decidedly inappropriate for people of moderate means.

Golden weddings are naturally of rare occurrence. The only one which I ever had the pleasure of attending was a delightful affair. The bride and groom, old but not aged, and still perfectly hale and hearty, took the greatest pleasure in greeting their friends, who assembled in large numbers to felicitate the happy couple. The golden wedding took the form of an afternoon reception, which seemed a very sensible arrangement. There were music and dancing, a handsome collation, and many presents. Among the latter were a poem written in honor of the occasion, in golden ink; a basket of gold-colored flowers; a set of dessert knives, silver, plated with gold; and some pretty trifles in gold or gilt to represent the precious metal.

The youngest daughter insisted upon dancing with her brother, in order that she might say that she had danced at her mother's wedding. These old people had lived a long and happy life together, much of it having been spent quietly in the country. They were sincerely attached to each other, and the sight of their happiness on that gala-day was the best possible answer to the question so often foolishly asked, "Is marriage a success?"

FLORENCE HOWE HALL.