

the floral altar, may be removed a little later, without observation. The latter, however, is usually pushed back against the wall, and adds to the decorative part of the festivity.

Calls or card-leaving, by all the guests, upon the family of the bride, is a rigorous formality within ten days after the wedding.

*Opera and Theatre Parties.* Strictly speaking there is nothing of this kind to advise about in San Francisco, and yet such entertainments are susceptible of giving the most thorough social enjoyment. In New York they have become very popular of late being confined almost altogether to the upper tendom. They are sometimes given by families, but most frequently they are projected by young bachelors who have no homes to which they can invite guests, and who are desirous in some such agreeable way to return the hospitalities and courteous treatment of householders.

If the party is given by a bachelor, he first secures a *chaperon* for the young ladies he is about to invite. If she be a relative, so much more peaceful and harmonious the proceedings.

He gives his invitations in person, first soliciting the consent of the mother to the arrangement that her daughter may be his guest for the evening, at the same time mentioning what married lady will accompany them, and furnishing the names of the gentlemen who are invited to be present.

The dinner is usually given in a private parlor of some fashionable hotel or restaurant, or in the house of some friend. The usual dinner formalities are followed, the matron of the party acting as hostess. The lady-guests, if not accompanied by father or brother, are usually attended by a waiting-woman, who returns home in the carriage to come back again for her mistress at the hour appointed, which is usually half-past twelve.