

The dinner hour is usually six o'clock for this style of party. Retiring from the table, the party proceeds to the opera in carriages furnished by the host; and the gentleman assigned as dinner escort to a lady accompanies her to the opera, where boxes have necessarily been secured, because the party is in full toilette.

After the opera or theatre, the guests return to the banquetting-room for refreshments and then separate, a gentleman accompanying each young lady, provided only her serving-maid call for her with a carriage. If her father, brother or relative arrive in her carriage, the gentleman who has been her attendant during the evening escorts her to her conveyance. He should call within three days to inquire for her health, or leave a card, provided a visit be impossible.

The bachelor host is required by the laws of swell society to pay his respects, and return thanks to mother and daughter within a week for the honor and the pleasure conferred upon him by the attendance of his lady guests.

The young ladies pay an early visit of thanks to the *chaperon*.

Another form of the opera or theatre party, while it is an equally formal affair, is more sensible and less extravagant, as it only includes an after supper.

The host calls upon his anticipated guests, and after receiving an acceptance of his invitation—which must also include a gentleman of the family, or a near kinsman of the young lady—he leaves entrance-tickets for the proposed entertainment. The party meet in the box or boxes, where the matron selected awaits them with their host.

After the theatre, the supper, which has been ordered in advance, is served to them at some fashionable resort, and the hour for returning home is decided upon by the matron of the evening.