

Baker's
Specialties

Tom Thumb
Wedding

TO -
Margaret

I promised
Dolores

PLEASE READ CAREFULLY

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WALTER H. BAKER COMPANY

Boston, Mass.

THE TOM THUMB WEDDING

*As originally performed at the Union Tabernacle Church,
Philadelphia, Pa.*

I. CHARACTERS AND COSTUMES.

The usual wedding characters should participate in this entertainment. There should be a minister, bride and groom, maid of honor, groomsman, father and mother, bridesmaids, ushers, guests, and flower-girls.

The costumes should be similar to real wedding costumes. They should be as elaborate as possible. They add largely to the successful effect, and are all easily and inexpensively made. The effect of the costumes is startling; and the outbursts of enthusiasm that invariably greet the little ones in the attire of their elders is scarcely imaginable.

The minister should wear a gown. This can be made of white cheese-cloth. It should be a long, flowing robe reaching to the floor. It can be made with a small yoke at the neck, with the fulness gathered on. The sleeves should be large and flowing. There should be a broad black band around the neck, extending to the feet in front. The bride should be dressed in white, a long train, white veil, etc.

The maid of honor and bridesmaids should be dressed in full evening dress, — short sleeves, low necks, no trains, dress just touching the floor.

The lady guests should be in full evening dress, some wearing trains and some not.

The hair of all should be put up as grown people. They should wear gloves if desired, slippers to match the costumes.

These dresses can easily be made of cheap materials, such as cheese-cloth or cotton crape. They should be of delicate tints that look well by artificial light. More expensive materials may be used if desirable.

The bridegroom and all male participants should be dressed in full evening dress suits, swallow-tail coats, low vests, linen shirt fronts, collars, cuffs, and white bows. These suits can be made from pattern, out of black satine, or as expensive material as may be desired. The effect of these full dress suits is wonderful, and must be seen to be appreciated.

The ushers should wear white gloves and button-hole bouquets. The bridesmaids should wear white gloves and carry flowers.

The flower-girls should be little tots, three or four years old. They should be dressed as sweetly as possible in little short dresses. There should be two, four, or six. Each should carry flowers tied with ribbon of the color determined upon for the wedding.

II. THE WEDDING PROCESSION.

When all are carefully arranged in position in the vestibule of church or hall, the wedding-march should begin. Slowly and deliberately all should be conducted to their respective positions. First the guests should be escorted in by the ushers. They should be arranged in couples. The lady should then take the arm of the usher, her companion following him, and thus be escorted to their places on the platform. The ushers should make profound bows when they seat their guests. The last of the guests should be the father and mother of the bride, or the mother only if the bride is to come in on the arm of her father. Next the minister takes his position, facing the audience. The ushers in a line should follow the guests, and arrange themselves in a row facing the centre, with their backs to one side of the guests, on left of minister. The bridesmaids, in number the same as the ushers, should enter one after another, and take their positions on the right hand of minister, facing the ushers.

The flower-girls should come next, followed by the bride and maid of honor; and, as they come to the platform, the groom and groomsmen should come from the opposite direction, joining them in front of the minister, and thus all should be arranged while the ceremony is being performed. When the question is asked, Who giveth the bride away? the father may rise and say, "I do," or, going to them, may unite their hands as he says "I do."

DIAGRAM OF ARRANGEMENT OF PLATFORM DURING CEREMONY.



III. THE CEREMONY.

When all are thus arranged, the minister begins as follows:—

“*Dearlly Beloved*, we are gathered together in the presence of this august assembly of fair women and brave men, to join together in the iron bonds of padlock this stalwart specimen of the lords of creation, and the gentle spirit of the once weaker sex, but now better known as the ‘new woman.’

“Into this jolly estate these two lovey-doves come now to be joined.

“If, therefore, any member of this august assembly can show any cause, just or otherwise, why they may not be forthwith solidly welded in these inseparable bonds, let him now speak out, or else hereafter ‘mum’s’ the word.”

To the man,—

“Tom Thumb, wilt thou have this ‘new woman’ to be thy partner in the business of life, to live together in the afore-said iron bonds of padlock?”

"Wilt thou feed her, clothe her, boss her, and keep her properly in her own place so long as she gracefully submits to thy lordly authority?" Answer: "I will."

To the woman, —

"Jennie June, wilt thou have this 'lord of creation' to be thy silent partner in the business of life, to live together in the aforesaid iron bonds of padlock? Wilt thou always close thine eyes to his faults, and open thy lips every day in praise of his virtues?"

"Wilt thou strictly obey his commands, humor him in his whims, bite your lip very hard and never sauce back, no matter how cross he may talk, so long as he keeps you in a house with a brown stone front and furnishes you with six house servants, besides suitable horses and carriages with coachman and footman to match?" Answer: "I will."

Minister to the father, —

"Who giveth this 'new woman' a proper send-off, and delivereth her into the care of the 'lord of creation'?"

The father: "I do."

Join hands, and repeat after the minister: "I, Tom Thumb, take thee, Jennie June, to be my lawful partner from this day forward, for better, but not worse, for richer, but not poorer, so long as your cooking does not give me the dyspepsia, and my mother-in-law does not visit oftener than once in a quarter, and then not to remain all night; so long as all bills for millinery shall be paid out of spending money furnished by your beloved father, out of gratitude for not having you left upon his hands in the deplorable station of a helpless spinster. And thereto I give thee my word and honor. Sure enough."

"I, Jennie June, take thee, Tom Thumb, to be my lawful partner from this day forward, for better, but not worse, for richer, but not poorer; provided that you do not smoke or drink; provided that you will never mention how your mother used to cook, or sew on buttons, or make your shirt-bosoms shine; provided that you carry up coal three times a day, put out the ashes once a week, bring up the tub, and put up and take down the clothes-line on wash-day, and perform faithfully all other duties demanded by a 'new woman' of the nineteenth century.

"And thereto I give my word and honor. Sure enough."

"With this iron padlock I thee secure, and with my worldly goods, all of which may be found in my dress-suit case, I thee endow, and may you take good of them when you get them."

"Forasmuch as Tom Thumb and Jennie have consented to be bound with an iron padlock, and thereto have pledged their word and honor, sure enough, and have made assurance doubly sure by shaking hands and calling quits, I do pronounce you a jolly pair. May your shadows never grow less, and may you each have many happy returns of the most delightful occasion. Sure enough."

IV. POST CEREMONIAL PROCESSION.

At the close of the ceremony the bride and groom should turn to the audience and bow. Going from the platform the wedding-procession should be as follows: flower-girls, bride and groom, maid of honor and groomsman, ushers and bridesmaids in couples, guests in couples, all couples arm in arm.

THE BROWNIES' FLIRTATION.

By LUCY JENKINS.

CHARACTERS.

Eight wax Dolls and eight Brownies.

COSTUMES.

Wax Dolls in white tartan dresses, white stockings, and slippers. When they first enter, each one carries four strands of pale-blue paper muslin about a yard long and an inch wide. The Brownies have their faces blacked with burnt cork. They may be dressed according to fancy, — care being taken to avoid infringing upon the comprehensive claims of Mr. Palmer Cox by reproducing his well-known types, — to represent the following personages, graded in respect to size in the following order: Policeman, Indian, Chinaman, Soldier, Sailor, Scotchman, Dude, and Uncle Sam.

THE ENTERTAINMENT.

THE Dolls occupy the stage at first, and enter according to size, driving one another, two strands serving for one rein. They enter as in Fig. 1, make two circuits of the stage, and