

1876:

Out wardrobes were made at home from the skin up and every Spring and every Fall the house was given over for two weeks to dressmaking. All self-respecting people had a favorite dressmaker ~~whom she was engaged for two particular weeks in the Fall~~ ~~whom she was engaged for two particular weeks in the Fall~~ In the Spring before she left she was engaged for two particular weeks in the Fall. That was a schedule which was unvarying unless it happened that some of those whom she also favored had trouble in the household - illness - unexpected company. Then the schedule was re-adjusted and with much satisfaction in doing a kind deed.

The sewing bout was prepared for with great care - really weeks ahead. The chief business to be covered for the women in the family was the new best dress, sometimes called the Sunday dress.