

Cards are always first left in the hall when entering a reception. This custom makes the debtor and creditor list of the entertainer easier to arrange, because announcing names is rarely done in American cities; and, even if it were, in large circles the memory must be excellent that can retain all the faces of those who accept these courtesies. Provided an invitation to a party or a reception is necessarily declined after having been accepted, cards are sent by messenger upon the same evening, and an explanatory note is forwarded the next day, when more leisure will make its excuses and its regrets comprehensible.

An invitation-card and a reply to it may go by post, but a card of sympathy or of congratulation cannot. This must be left in person, if possible, otherwise by special messenger.

The forms and qualities of cards, and their style of engraving, are a matter in which a delicate taste is not thrown away.

The husband's card should accompany that of his wife upon all formal occasions, but it is no longer stylish for both names to be engraved upon the same card, except directly after marriage the mother's and the eldest daughter's names are always engraved on the same card during the first season of the young lady's appearance in society, and afterward, if agreeable, in the following form:

*Mrs. Henry Brigham.*

*Miss Brigham.*

No. — Van Ness Avenue.

If there is more than one daughter in society, "Misses Brigham" is a proper form to use. When a son has entered society, his mother leaves his card with her husband's and her own, to signify that it is expected he will be included in the next season's invitations. After he receives one invitation from a lady, he is presumed to be capable of managing his own social matters by making his party call, and leaving his own card and address.