

past nine are the favorite hours named in notes of invitation to balls in New York. These notes are sent out from ten to twenty days in advance of the festivity, always by post, unless the lady writing is sure of her messenger. The party note or card is issued about a week or ten days prior to the appointed evening.

The ball demands the fullest of toilets which the season admits of for both ladies and gentlemen. Supper is usually served about half-past twelve o'clock. Light refreshments, such as tea, coffee, chocolate, lemonade and *bouillon*, and also punches and wines, should be accessible during the entire evening.

The hostess sends out her invitations to either ball or party after calling by card or in person upon all her proposed guests to whom she is socially indebted. They are handsomely engraved in script, and issued in her own name for a ball, but in both her own and her husband's name for a party.

The following is the fashionable formula for the ball:

MRS. ALBERT MORGAN

*Requests the pleasure of your presence on
Thursday evening, December fifth,
at half-past nine o'clock.*

Dancing.

No. — Vernon Place.

The party invitation not only indicates an earlier hour for arriving, but instead of the simple word "Dancing" in the left corner it may be engraved "Dancing at eleven."

Of course this invitation must be accepted or declined within two or three days after its reception. The form of acceptance or regret is written in the name or names of the party invited:

MR. AND MRS. FREDERICK SMITHFIELD

Accept with pleasure [or decline with sincere regret]

MRS. FARQUHAR ALEXANDER'S

Kind invitation for January third.

No. — Taylor Street.