

York: The bridesmaids and an equal number of ushers are chosen from among the friends of both families. The ushers wait inside the church door, give their arms to the ladies as they arrive, and escort them to their seats. The gentlemen who attend the ladies follow.

When the bridal party has arranged itself for entrance, the ushers, in pairs, march slowly up to the altar and turn to the right, keeping step to the organ music. After a very slight interval the bridesmaids follow in pairs and turn to the left.

Another very brief interval of waiting, and the bride, escorted by her father, and entirely veiled, with her eyes cast down, follows her companions. The groom comes forward from the vestry-room to meet her, takes her hand, and places her at the altar. Both kneel for a moment's silent devotion. The parents stand just behind her, and slightly at the left. The service by the clergyman now proceeds as usual. All churches, at present, use the ring, and vary the sentiment of its adoption to suit the customs and ideas of their own rites. A jeweled ring has been for many years the sign and symbol of betrothal; but, among people with German tastes, a plain gold circlet, with the date of the engagement inscribed within is preferred. This can be passed by the groom to the clergyman, and used as a wedding-ring, a jeweled ring being placed on the finger of the bride soon after the service. The jewel should be perfect, even if small.

The bridal veil is rarely raised in church, and kissing in the public place is obsolete.

The bridesmaids follow the bride and groom out, each on the arm of an usher. The ushers then hasten to the place of reception to welcome the bride at her own door, and to arrange themselves about the bride and groom, in the drawing-room, half the bridesmaids standing on the side of the bride, and half on the side