

The "at home" is seldom engraved on a reception-card for a simple entertainment, unless it be after a wedding. If a series of receptions are to be given, the lower line on the left of the card may be simply: "Tuesdays in December, from three to seven o'clock."

These cards are sent in two envelopes. Less formal receptions or "at homes" may be signified by writing the day or days and hours for receiving upon the left corners of visiting cards, and possibly adding "kettle-drum." These are sent by post in a single wrapper. If two or more ladies are to receive with the hostess, their cards may or may not be inclosed with that of the lady of the house, according to inclination.

At a "kettle-drum," after the formal salutations are made, if there be not a crowd of guests, a tray with tea, cream and sugar is presented almost immediately by a domestic, and another servant offers simple refreshments to accompany it. If the rooms be filled, the guest is asked to seek tea at the table where it is served. Some hostesses invite a bevy of young society girls of their acquaintance to serve her guests with tea and refreshments, and to entertain them while they are eating; and they often wear coquettish caps, pretty aprons, and short dresses, to show their slippers and gay stockings. Formal leave-taking at kettle-drums is not expected; as they are a condensation of calls, after-calls can be omitted.

*Parties, Balls, and Germans.* Although all evening parties are expected to include dancing, it is desirable that the word *dancing* should be engraved on the corner of the card of invitation, and the hour of commencing. The ball is of course only for dancing, and ends always with a substantial supper.

The hours mentioned in notes of invitation to balls is usually from half-past nine to half-past eleven, but from nine to half-