

The days of banked mantlepieces and flowers tortured into wedding bells and other "set" forms are passing away. In these twentieth century days we have learned that to arrange flowers so as to preserve the effect of the growing blossoms, is to conform to artistic principles; a few flowers in bowls and vases, growing plants at the windows, and massed where the bridal pair are to stand, give a more pleasing effect, because more natural than elaborate attempts at decoration.

There are new ideas about weddings coming up all the time, and new ways of doing things, but the usual conventional order of the ceremony is as follows:—

As soon as the clergyman takes his place at the end of the room prepared for the ceremony, the ushers, walking two by two, appear at the door farthest away from it, followed by the bridesmaids in the same order; as they near the place reserved for the bridal couple, the bridesmaids and ushers divide, half their number going to each side, the bridesmaids standing between the ushers, the maid of honor comes next, alone; then the little girls strewing flowers, and lastly the bride, taking her father's right arm; all step in time to the stately march music, usually furnished by a piano alone or with a violin accompanying it.

Just before the bride appears, the bridegroom, attended by his best man, enters the door near where the clergyman waits, and takes his place at his left hand, partly turning so as to face his bride, who is advancing to meet him, escorted by her train of attendants.

As the bride comes near he advances a step to meet her, she leaves her father's arm to place her hand in his, and then the couple standing before the clergyman, the service begins, the father steps back a little way, and joins the rest of his family after he has given the bride away, the maid of honor stands next to the bride, the best man at the bridegroom's side.