

# "Wedding Etiquette."

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A concise Hand Book of rules and customs: also showing the correct Engraved and Printed forms for ... Invitations, Announcements, ... At Home Cards, Visiting Cards, etc.



ISSUED BY

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Entered according to Act of the Parliament of Canada, in the year 1902, by WILLIAM HOLBROOK EATON, at the Department of Agriculture.

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## Wedding Etiquette.

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**Introductory.** Our purpose in publishing this little booklet is to give our customers the prevailing customs pertaining to weddings, and to show them the correct styles of wedding invitations, cards, etc. Styles and customs for these important events, as in everything else, are constantly changing, and it is our purpose here to outline what is proper now. These are the mandates of fashion, but they may with propriety be changed to meet the individual taste, or to conform to conditions not herein considered.

**The Engagement.** The engagement may be announced at once, no matter how far distant the wedding day. There is no reason for secrecy or evasion in this matter, as it is nothing that either should be ashamed to acknowledge. The bride always names the marriage day. The groom's family and her family each makes out a list of guests.

**The  
Invitation.**

Invitations are usually issued not more than one month and not less than two weeks in advance. No reply is necessary to a wedding invitation unless "R. S. V. P." is mentioned.

The invitation should be on plain white paper of fine quality, either smooth finish or rough finish. No colored or decorated papers or cards are permissible. The note size should always be used. This is folded once before being inserted in the envelopes. They should be either engraved or well printed; a badly engraved or printed invitation should never be used; therefore it is always better to have them made by a printer who makes a specialty of that class of work, and not order them through a watch-maker or dry goods store, from which they go to some printer to complete. The best only should be used. There are many ways of wording invitations. The correct invitation for a church wedding is as follows :

*Mr. and Mrs. Charles E. Evans  
request the pleasure of*

.....  
*company at the marriage of their daughter*

*Dorothy May,*

*to*

*Mr. Ernest A. Morrison,*

*On Wednesday evening, June thirteenth,*

*Nineteen hundred and three,*

*at eight o'clock,*

*First Baptist Church,*

*Montreal.*

In the preceding form blank space is left where the name of the invited person must be written. Here is another form which is very popular:

*Mr. and Mrs. Charles E. Evans*  
*request your presence*  
*at the marriage of their daughter*  
*Dorothy May,*  
*to*  
*Mr. Ernest A. Morrison,*  
*On Wednesday evening, June thirteenth,*  
*Nineteen hundred and three,*  
*at eight o'clock,*  
*First Baptist Church,*  
*Montreal.*

These two forms are also correct for a home wedding by omitting the name of the church and inserting the street address.

It is also correct to say :

*request the pleasure of your company*

instead of

*request your presence*

should you prefer it that way.

The following may be used to show the future address,  
and the date after which the bride will receive :

*Mr. and Mrs. Charles E. Evans*  
request your presence  
at the marriage of their daughter

*Dorothy May,*

to

*Mr. Ernest A. Morrison,*  
On Wednesday evening, June thirteenth,  
Nineteen hundred and three,  
at eight o'clock,  
First Baptist Church,  
Montreal.

*At Home,*  
after July first,  
2818 Sherbrooke Street.

The following is used if an answer is required. The address should be that of bride's parents :

*Mr and Mrs. Charles E. Evans  
request your presence  
at the marriage of their daughter  
Dorothy May,  
to  
Mr. Ernest A. Morrison,  
On Wednesday evening, June thirteenth,  
Nineteen hundred and three,  
at eight o'clock,  
First Baptist Church,  
Montreal.*

*R. S. V. P.  
to  
808 Sherbrooke Street.*

When the ceremony is followed by a reception at the home of the bride, the invitation may read:—

*Mr. and Mrs. Charles E. Evans*  
request your presence  
at the marriage of their daughter  
*Dorothy May,*  
to  
*Mr. Ernest A. Morrison,*  
On Wednesday evening, June thirteenth,  
Nineteen hundred and three,  
at eight o'clock,  
First Baptist Church,  
Montreal.

Reception,  
808 Sherbrooke Street,  
At eight-thirty o'clock.

If it be a church wedding, enclosed with the invitation should be a card of admission reading

*Please present this Card  
at  
The First Baptist Church,  
June thirteenth.*

OR

*First Baptist Church,  
Ceremony at eight o'clock.*

or, if the front part of church be ribboned off for the invited guests, the card should read:—

*Within the Ribbon,  
First Baptist Church.*

If desired, in place of putting the reception at foot of invitation, it is correct form to send a separate card, enclosed with the others, reading thus :

*Mr. and Mrs. Charles E. Evans  
request the pleasure of your presence  
On Wednesday Evening, June thirteenth,  
at half past eight o'clock,  
808 Sherbrooke Street.*

When the wedding is quiet at home, followed by a reception in the evening, the invitation is worded thus :

*Mr. and Mrs. Charles E. Evans  
request your presence  
at the wedding reception of their daughter,  
Dorothy May,  
and  
Mr. Ernest A. Morrison,  
On Wednesday evening, June thirteenth,  
Nineteen hundred and three,  
at eight o'clock,  
808 Sherbrooke Street,  
Montreal.*

Those of the guests who are invited to the ceremony receive also a card, thus :

*Ceremony at half past seven.*

When the bride is an orphan or is not staying with her parents, and the ceremony takes place at the home of a friend, the following form is used :

*The pleasure of your company is requested  
at the marriage of  
Miss Norma Ellen Miller  
to  
Mr. John L. Kennedy,  
Thursday evening, June first,  
Nineteen hundred and three, at eight o'clock,  
At the residence of  
Mr. and Mrs. Harold Allen,  
608 Drummond Street,  
Montreal.*

**The  
Announcement.**

When, for any reason, there has been a quiet ceremony, or when it is desired to remember others besides those invited to the ceremony, an announcement card is sent, within a week, to friends who were not at the wedding. The style of paper used is similar to the invitation, and the following are correct forms :

*Mr. and Mrs. Charles E. Evans*  
*announce the marriage of their daughter*  
*Dorothy May,*  
*to*  
*Mr. Ernest A. Morrison,*  
*On Wednesday evening, June thirteenth,*  
*Nineteen hundred and three,*  
*Montreal.*

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or

*Ernest A. Morrison*  
*Dorothy May Evans,*  
*Married*  
*Wednesday, June thirteenth,*  
*Nineteen hundred and three,*  
*Montreal.*

*At Home,*  
*after July first,*  
*2818 Sherbrooke Street.*

The 'at home' can be put in the corner of either of the preceding, or a separate 'at home' card may be sent.

*At Home,  
after July first,  
2818 Sherbrooke Street.*

OR

*At Home,  
Wednesdays, after July first,  
2818 Sherbrooke Street.*

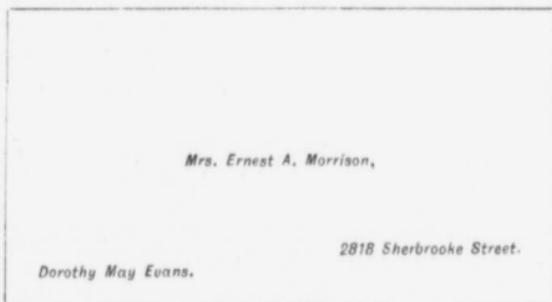
If wedding cake is being sent, it should be enclosed in small white boxes made for the purpose, and the following cards sent with it:—

*Mr. Ernest A. Morrison.*

*Mrs. Ernest A. Morrison.*

*2818 Sherbrooke Street.*

These may be tied together with narrow white ribbon or sent separately. If there has been no invitations or announcements sent, the ladies card may read:



otherwise the friends receiving it might not know who Mrs. Ernest A. Morrison was.

**Use of  
Prefixes.**

Parents, in issuing invitations and announcements, give their full names, but omit the "Miss" before the name of their daughter. The prefix is used if the invitations are issued by a guardian or friend. If the daughter is a widow, her full name with the prefix "Mrs." should be used, thus: "Mrs. Florence May Brown." The prefixes "Mr." "Dr." "Col." "Capt." etc., are always used in connection with the bridegroom's full name, except in the announcement form shown on the thirteenth page, in which it is equally proper to use or omit the prefix to each of the names—in this case either use both or omit both.

**Addressing  
Envelopes.**

The invitations and cards are enclosed in two envelopes, of a quality suitable to the paper on which the invitation is printed. On the inside envelope write the name or names of the persons for whom the invitation is intended. This is then enclosed unsealed in the outside envelope on which is written the name and address of the head of the

household to which it is sent. The conventional "and family" is interpreted to mean the younger members of the household. If there is a daughter who has recently entered society, her name should be written with that of her parents on the inside envelope. If one or more daughters have been in society for two or three seasons, a separate card should be addressed "The Misses ——" or "Miss ——" as the case may be. This is then included in the same outer envelope with the other card.

**The Presents.**

Presents may be sent at any time after the invitation is received. They are always sent to the bride, addressed with her maiden name in care of her parents or guardian. The bride acknowledges them at once in a short, graceful note of thanks, written on heavy, unlined white or cream paper, with her monogram or initial at the top.

There can be no form of note for acknowledging a wedding gift, for the reason that all notes differ according to degrees of friendship, intimacy or mere acquaintanceship, but personal notes must be written by the bride herself to all who are so kind as to send gifts. There must be no duplicate notes. The notes must be brief but must be cordial. It is well to refer particularly to the gift in some pleasant way. Brides who receive a very large number of presents frequently keep a list and check off the names as soon as the notes of thanks are written. This prevents mistakes or omissions.

Presents may be sent direct from the store wrapped in white paper and tied with narrow ribbon. The card of the sender is attached by white baby ribbon. The bridegroom's present to the bride is generally a Jewel. Her family usually presents her with something in silver, as does his family.

**Costumes.** It would be impossible in our limited space to treat of dresses and costumes. These are too varied in style and are very properly referred to the modiste. However, the beauty and simplicity of white makes it the chosen color. The brides bouquet may be of any white flower she chooses, but her veil is generally caught with a spray of orange blossoms. Her gloves are of white suede and she always wears the bridegroom's gift. If she wants to woo good luck she should wear:—

“Something borrowed, something blue,  
Something old, and something new.”

The time of day set for the ceremony will to some extent affect the style of dress. The bride is privileged to wear evening dress even though the wedding be solemnized in the forenoon; but the groom, best man and ushers, and all guests at a day wedding must wear morning dress. This costume consists of black frock coat and waist coat, light trousers and patent leather shoes, a white Ascot or four-in-hand tie, and gloves of pearl grey or white kid. This would be appropriate for a bridegroom at an evening wedding when the bride is married in her traveling dress.

When the bride wears evening dress at an evening wedding, the bridegroom, best man and ushers should wear full dress suits.

When a bride marries in a traveling gown, either at church or at house, she neither has bridesmaids nor carries a bouquet, a prayer book may take the place of a bouquet. She may have a maid of honor, attired in a walking gown, and little flower girls.

A widow, at her second marriage, wears neither a white gown nor a veil, these being reserved for maiden brides. She must not, however, wear anything that contains an admixture of black.

**Preliminaries.** It is the bride's privilege to choose her wedding day, select the clergyman and her bridesmaids, and to plan all of the details of her wedding; she chooses her bridesmaids from among her intimate friends, and the maid of honor is usually her favorite sister or closest friend.

It is a pretty custom for the expectant bride to entertain her attendants at a merry dinner or luncheon about a week before the wedding. On this occasion the young ladies often revive all the old fortune telling superstitions to read their future. The chance discovery of a ring in the cake marks the next bride.

At about the same time the bridegroom usually gives a little feast for his best man and ushers, whom he has previously selected from among his closest friends. On this occasion it is customary for him to present small souvenirs.

**The Bridesmaids.** Eight bridesmaids and the same number of ushers are considered  
**The Ushers.** enough; while there may be fewer, there should not be more than eight.

Then there is a maid of honor or a matron of honor and two little flower girls or wee pages.

The bride decides what her attendants shall wear. The maid of honor should appear in a different costume from that worn by the bridesmaids. A night or two before the wedding there usually is a rehearsal, at which all of the attendants should try to be present, and sink all personal wishes in furthering those of the bride.

**The Church Wedding.** The ushers, who arrive at the church first, find their boutonniers left with the sexton by the florist. The ushers stand two at the head of each aisle. They have lists of guests for whom seats have been reserved, unless those guests have been sent cards worded thus:—

*Within the Ribbon.*

The presentation of this card entitles them to one of the seats which have been reserved. The family and friends of the bride sit on the left of the church; the family and friends of the bridegroom on the right; the pews for members of the family are shut off by broad white satin ribbon. An usher offers his arm to a lady guest and conducts her to a seat, the gentleman following. If wraps are not left in the carriage, they are removed in the vestibule and brought in on the arm. Until the bridal party arrives the organist plays lively music.

The bridegroom and best man drive to the church alone and retire to the vestry room. The bridesmaids and maid of honor arrive next and await the arrival of the bride in the church vestibule. The last carriage to arrive at the church door is that containing the bride and her father. The bride's mother and other members of the family enter the church just before the procession.

The bridegroom and best man emerge from the vestry room and take their places at the clergyman's left, facing the audience, the best man standing behind the groom, the ushers walk up the aisle in pairs at the head of the bridal party, the bridesmaids in pairs follow, the maid of honor comes alone, behind her are the pages of flower girls, scattering flowers out of dainty baskets along the way. At a choral wedding, the choir boys meet the wedding party and precede them. At the chancel the procession divides, half going to the right and half to the left. The maid of honor takes her stand at the left of the bride in front of the bridesmaids.

The bride comes in last, on the arm of her father, or whoever is to give her away, the bridegroom meets her at the chancel steps. She drops her father's arm, and takes the bridegroom's left arm and they take their places before the clergyman, her father steps back. At the words, "who giveth this woman to be married to this man?" the father steps out and gives her right hand to the clergyman, who in turn places it in that of the bridegroom. Her father now takes his seat with the family.

When the ring is given, the bride hands her glove and bouquet to her maid of honor, who steps forward. The best man takes the ring from his vest pocket and gives it to the bridegroom, who places it on the third finger of the bride's left hand.

The ring should be a plain gold ring, not large enough to interfere with other rings which may be worn on the same finger.

At the conclusion of the ceremony the clergyman offers his congratulations, the bride takes the right arm of her husband, the maid of honor parts the bride's veil and fixes her train, and the bridal party goes out in the reverse order from that in which they entered; the ushers bring up the rear.

Guests do not attempt to leave until after the families of the bride and groom. The best man hurries out, signals the carriages, gives the bridegroom his hat and coat and drives to the bride's home alone, bride and bridegroom driving away together.

### **The Home Wedding.**

A home wedding is always an important affair. The arrangements are similar to those of church weddings, but there are no iron-bound rules. The simplest home wedding, by the exercise of a little taste and care, may be made as attractive as the stateliest church ceremonial.

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.

At the conclusion of the ceremony, the clergyman congratulates the newly-made husband and wife, who then turn to receive the felicitations of their families and friends.

The bridesmaids range themselves on each side of the young couple. The best man and ushers busy themselves presenting to the bride the guests who are unknown to her. She presents to her husband those whom he may not know.

The parents of the bride are the real hosts, and all the guests should speak to them, and if possible be presented to the parents of the bridegroom. After a few minutes spent in receiving congratulations the bridal pair lead the way to the dining room.

**The Reception.** If there is a reception the newly married couple stand together to receive congratulations. The parents of the bride and bridegroom and the bridesmaids remain near.

The bride and bridegroom lead the way to the dining room, the bride's father takes the bridegroom's mother, and the bride's mother goes in with the clergyman; the bridegroom's father takes in some member of the bride's family.

At the close of the wedding supper, the bride's cake is cut by the bride; then she retires to dress for the wedding journey, if one is contemplated.

**Serving Refreshments.** A noon wedding is followed by a breakfast, at which the guests are seated at tables and served in courses. Where few guests are invited it is a friendly little feast, which may be simple or elaborate as taste and purse dictate. Where many are asked they should be served at small tables, and the breakfast becomes an elaborate function requiring a separate decoration of flowers, fruit,

bon-bons or cake for each table, and there should be a waiter, male or female, for every eight or ten guests. A separate table is reserved for the bridal party, at which the bride and bridegroom sit side by side. Such a breakfast begins with fruit, followed by bouillon in cups, fish or crustaceans in fancy form, an entree, game and salad, concluding with ices, cakes, bon-bons and coffee.

A simple breakfast may consist of bouillon or creamed oysters, game or cold chicken, with salad, ices, cake, and lemonade.

An afternoon wedding is followed by a reception. The refreshments are served as at an ordinary "tea" from a large table, tastefully arranged with flowers, lights, bon-bons, cakes, etc., a single color usually predominating. The guests serve themselves and each other, although there may be servants in attendance.

The refreshments may be of the simplest if one so desires.

Offered at about the hour for afternoon tea, few care for anything more than a cup of tea and a sandwich, or an ice and a bit of cake. Some prefer chocolate, and young-folks are fond of bon-bons. These, with a bowl of lemonade on a table readily accessible, are all that need be provided.

At an evening wedding the refreshments should be more elaborate. Between ten and eleven p. m. is a hungry time, when a good supper is appreciated, though bouillon, one hot entree, ices and cakes, with lemonade and mineral waters, may amply suffice.

When light refreshments are served without ceremony, various kinds of sandwiches, daintily cut and rolled, are made to replace the meats and salads; but ices, cake, coffee, chocolate or punch, should be provided in any event.

**The Bride's  
Cake.**

This time-honored dainty is an indispensable feature of the properly-conducted wedding, now as ever; but it is not now, as formerly, cut and eaten in the course of the wedding feast, the modern fashion being to have the cake cut into small wedges and packed in dainty white boxes, tied up with white ribbon, previous to the ceremony. The boxes are then put in a convenient place, ready for distribution when the guests depart. The bride's cake is, of course, a specially prepared confection, and is not to be confounded with any one of the various kinds of cake served in the ordinary course of the festivities. It need not necessarily be of the costly variety usually supplied by the fashionable caterer, but it should be of the distinctive character ordained by ancient custom, or the special virtues attributed to it by sentimental and superstitious maidens will be lacking. The old custom of placing a gold ring and a silver thimble is still occasionally observed, but when this is done the cake is cut and distributed by the bride herself, the guest to whom the ring falls is supposed to be destined to speedy marriage, while she who secures the silver thimble is positively fore-ordained to spinsterhood.

**Paying  
the Bills.**

The bride's family pay for the invitations, carriages, the decorations at church and at home, refreshments, music, the organist the sexton and all incidental expenses.

All the bridegroom is allowed to furnish is the clergyman's fee, the gloves, ties and boutonnières, and souvenirs for the men, the bouquets of the bride and bridesmaids.

If the bride is alone, or of a family of limited means, it is much better to have a home wedding without display than to allow the groom to provide for the many necessities of a large wedding, even though he be willing and eager to do so.

**Wedding  
Anniversaries.**

Wedding anniversaries are usually very pleasant events. In what way the naming of the various celebrations was settled is unknown, but the following order has been recognized and followed for many years.

Five years,	—	Wooden wedding.
Ten years,	—	Tin wedding.
Fifteen years,	—	Crystal wedding.
Twenty years,	—	China wedding.
Twenty-five years,	—	Silver wedding.
Thirty years,	—	Pearl wedding.
Forty years,	—	Ruby wedding.
Fifty years,	—	Golden wedding.
Seventy-five years,	—	Diamond wedding.

The celebration of these events usually takes the form of an evening party, the leading features being as appropriate and original as can be designed by the fertile brain and busy tact of those concerned. Gifts may be sent on occasions of this kind, but sometimes through distaste for display or perhaps by preference, the invitations bear the words, "No Gifts."

Invitations to anniversary celebrations should be printed or engraved on plain white note paper of same size and quality as used for wedding invitations. It is not proper to use imitation wood, tin, silver, gold, etc.

A correct form for the invitation follows:—

*Mr. and Mrs. Wm. E. Holbrook*  
*request the pleasure of your company*  
*Thursday evening, February third,*  
*at eight o'clock,*  
*to celebrate their*  
*Fifteenth Wedding Anniversary,*  
*Westmount.*

OF

1877.

1902.

*Mr. and Mrs. Wm. E. Holbrook*  
*At Home*  
*Thursday evening, February third,*  
*at eight o'clock,*  
*Silver Wedding,*  
*Westmount.*

**The  
Card Code.**

Fashion, at the present time, decrees that visiting cards should be engraved in Old English, Roman or Script.

The address when used should be in the lower right hand corner, and the receiving day in the lower left hand corner of the card.

Until recently the card "Mr. and Mrs." was used for social purposes only the first year after marriage, but the fashion of using it at all times is proper in England and is being introduced here and the United States.

The form is :—

*Mr. and Mrs. John P. Earle.*

A married lady should use her husband's full name when possible, thus :—

*Mrs. John P. Earle.*

A widow should always use her given name, thus :—

*Mrs. Lillian T. Earle.*

other and daughter frequently use a card containing both names, as

*Mrs. John P. Earle.  
Miss Earle.*

Or, if there be more than one daughter,

*Mrs. John P. Earle.  
The Misses Earle.*

The prefix "Miss" should always appear on an unmarried lady's card. If she is the eldest daughter her name reads

*Miss Earle.*

The younger daughters use their christian names, as

*Miss Dorothy Earle.*

Gentlemen's cards now follow the English custom of having the prefix "Mr." although it is equally correct to leave it off. The address, when used, appears in the lower right hand corner of the card, names of clubs always in the lower left hand corner. Professional or official titles are allowed, such as "Rev." "Dr." "Capt." "Col." "Gen'l." "Jr." "Sr." etc., but complimentary titles are never used. The titles, when possible, should be used in full, thus:—

*General John P. Earle.*

**Conclusion.** In concluding this little volume we wish to say a few words about the engraving and printing of society stationery.

Nothing is too good for one's wedding. On this important occasion everyone wants to make a good impression, and why not? The first impression of a wedding is created by the invitation, because in most cases this conveys the first information concerning the event. Therefore it is important that the invitation be correct in form and engraved or printed in the latest and most correct style.

The same can be said of calling or visiting cards. When your card is left, it is generally put with dozens of others, and people who do not know you often see your visiting cards. Sometimes a wrong opinion is formed of a person because they happened to use an incorrect visiting card.

We are experts in this particular line, and our knowledge of proper styles and correct workmanship is the result of long experience and observation. Our stationery department, where we make a specialty of the engraving and printing of wedding invitations, announcements, at home and visiting cards, is in the hands of practical and skillful men. You therefore have the assurance that all work in this line turned out by us, cannot be excelled by any establishment in the United States or Canada, or in fact in any other country.

We have a reputation throughout Canada and the United States of supplying correct and up-to-date styles only, and the imprint, W. H. Eaton & Son, Montreal, shows that your stationery is correct in style, form, and finish. That is the reason you see your friends examining the envelopes of invitations they receive for our imprint. Owing to the large number of invitations issued by us during the year, our prices are more reasonable than are charged by others for inferior work. Our engraved forms are the highest grade of excellence, and our printed forms are equal in appearance, if not superior to, the ordinary engraved work. It needs but a glance at our samples to confirm this.

We engrave or print in either English or French.

W. H. EATON & SON,  
ENGRAVERS AND PRINTERS,  
MONTREAL.