

TRAVELING TIPS FOR LADIES

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At the Ladies' and Gentlemen's of the 1860s, in March, 2004, Maggie Burke did a presentation on traveling in the mid-nineteenth century and that was the inspiration for this topic.

Travel in the mid-nineteenth century was difficult in the best of situations but conditions only worsened with adverse circumstances; even this did not stop travel. Travel was especially difficult for women because of the discomfort, dusty and dirty conditions, lack of privacy. Other problems were encountered if the woman was traveling alone. According to Ms. Burke, any woman who traveled without a gentleman escort was considered as traveling alone, even if she were accompanied by another woman, a servant, or children. Since it was not considered proper for a woman to speak to a gentleman if they had not been introduced, the matter of conducting business was more difficult if a woman had no gentleman to intercede for her.

A number of etiquette books addressed the problems of travel for ladies and included suggestions for managing when traveling. The information ranged from what and how to pack, how to safely carry money, proper deportment while traveling, in hotels and eating areas, and on trains and steamboats. Ladies' magazines also included advice and numerous suggestions for travel garments, bonnets, hoods, and accessories, as well as patterns for traveling bags and reticules.

While it would be too cumbersome to include all the travel information found in researching this article, the following excerpts are indicative of the information available to women of the mid-nineteenth century who were traveling, whether on a day trip or on an extended journey.

Needless to say, travel during war-time would most likely have been more difficult, especially in the South. When one reads diaries and journals it is evident that women traveled throughout the war and endured hardships but that subject is a topic for another article.

[NOTE: Each excerpt will be followed by the citation and the complete bibliographic reference is noted in the bibliography.]

GENERAL TRAVEL SUGGESTIONS

“On rule to be always observed in traveling is punctuality. Rise early enough to have ample time for arranging everything needful for the day’s journey. If you sleep upon the boat, or at a hotel, always give directions to the servant to waken you at an hour sufficiently early to allow ample time for preparation. It is better to be all ready twenty minutes too soon, than five minutes late, or even late enough to be annoyed and heated by hurrying at the last moment.” (Hartley)

DEPORTMENT DURING TRAVEL

“When in the car (train car) if you find the exertion of talking painful, say so frankly; your escort cannot be offended. Do not continually pester either your companion or the conductor with questions, such as ‘Where are we now?’ ‘When shall we arrive?’ If you are wearied, this impatience will only make the journey still more tedious. Try to occupy yourself with looking at the country through which you are passing, or with a book.” (Hartley)

“..... In every case, selfishness is the root of all ill-breeding, and it is never more conspicuously displayed than in traveling. A courteous manner, and graceful offer of service are valued highly when offered, and the giver loses nothing by her civility.” (Hartley)

“Should you perceive that the dress of another lady is, by some accident, out of order--for instance, that a hook or a button has become unfastened; or that a string is visibly hanging out; a collar unpinned, and falling off; the corner of a shawl dragging along the floor; a skirt caught up; or a sleeve slipping down, immediately have the kindness to apprise her of it in a low voice, and assist her in repairing the mischance; and, if necessary, leave the room with her for that purpose.” (Leslie, *The Behaviour Book*)

ADVICE FOR WOMEN TRAVELING WITH AN ESCORT.

“There is not situation in which a lady is more exposed than when she travels, and there is not position where a dignified, lady-like deportment is more indispensable and more certain to command respect. If you travel under the escort of a gentleman, give him as little trouble as possible; at the same time, do not interfere with the arrangements he may make for your comfort. It is best, when starting upon your journey, to hand your escort a sufficient sum of money to cover all your expenses, retaining your pocket book in case you should wish to use it.” (Hartley)

“Previous to departing, put into the hand of your escort rather more than a sufficient sum for the expenses of your journey, so as to provide for all possible contingencies. He will return you the balance when all is paid. Having done this, should any person belonging to the line come to you for your fare, refer them to the gentleman, (mentioning his name,) and take care to pay nothing more yourself.” (Leslie, *The Behaviour Book*)

ADVICE FOR WOMEN TRAVELING ALONE

“There are many little civilities which a true gentleman will offer to a lady traveling alone, which she may accept, even from an entire stranger, with perfect propriety; but, while careful to thank him courteously, whether you accept or decline his attentions, avoid any advance towards acquaintanceship. If he sits near you and seems disposed to be impertinent, or obtrusive in his attentions or conversation, lower your veil and turn from him, either looking from the window or reading. A dignified, modest reserve is the surest way to repel impertinence. If you find yourself, during your journey, in any awkward or embarrassing situation, you may, without impropriety, request the assistance of a gentleman, even a stranger, and he will, probably perform the service requested, receive your thanks, and then relieve you of his presence....

In traveling alone, choose, if possible, a seat next to another lady, or near an elderly gentleman. If your neighbor seems disposed to shorten the time by conversing, do not be too hasty in checking him. Such acquaintances end with the journey, and a lady can always so deport herself that she may beguile the time pleasantly, without, in the least, compromising her dignity.

Any slight attention, or an apology made for crushing or incommoding you, is best acknowledged by a courteous bow in silence.” (Hartley)

“On arriving at a hotel, ask immediately to see the proprietor; give him your name and address, tell how long you purpose staying, and request him to see that you are provided with a good room. Request him also to conduct you to the dining-room at dinner-time and allot you a seat near his own. For this purpose, he will wait for you near the door, (do not keep him waiting,) or meet you in the ladies' drawing-room. While at table, if the proprietor or any other gentleman asks you to take wine with him, politely refuse....

Refrain from making acquaintance with any strangers, unless you are certain of their respectability. If a gentleman of whom you know nothing, endeavours to get into conversation with you, turn away, and make no reply. Avoid saying any thing to women in showy attire, with painted faces, and white kid gloves. Such persons have frequently the assurance to try to be very sociable with respectable ladies who are travelling alone. Keep aloof from them always....

Travelling in America, ladies frequently meet with little civilities from gentlemen, so delicately offered, that to refuse them would be rude. These incidental acts of politeness should always be acknowledged with thanks; but they should not be construed into a desire of commencing an acquaintance. If a lady obliged to travel alone, wishes to be treated with respect, her own deportment must in all things be quiet, modest and retiring.

If you have a servant with you, see that she gets her meals, and has a comfortable sleeping-place, or in all probability she will be neglected and overlooked. In a steamboat or a hotel, speak yourself to the head-waiter, and desire him to take her to the servants' table and attend to her; and tell the chambermaid to see her provided with a bed. If their lady forgets to look out for them, coloured women in particular have often no courage to look out for themselves....

If you do not wish to be encumbered by carrying the key in your pocket, let it be left during your absence, with the clerk in the office, or with the barkeeper; and send to him for it on your return. Desire the servant who attends the door to show no person up to your room during your absence. If visitors wish to wait for your return, it is best they should do so in the parlour....

There is no impropriety in a lady commencing conversation with a stranger of genteel appearance. You can easily take occasion to mention your own name, and then, in return, she will

communicate hers. But, unless you are previously certain of her respectability, have little to say to a woman who is travelling without a companion, and whose face is painted, who wears a profusion of long curls about her neck, who has a meretricious expression of eye, and who is over-dressed. It is safest to avoid her. Also, you will derive no pleasure or advantage from making acquaintance with females who are evidently coarse and vulgar, even if you know that they are rich, live in a large house, and are of respectable character. Young girls who are loud, noisy, bold, and forward, (however fashionable they may be,) it is best also to avoid. They will not want your society, as they are generally all the time surrounded by "beaux," or else rattling over the keys of the piano." (Leslie, *The Behaviour Book*)

"If now and then chances that ladies are obliged to travel alone, or without a gentleman escort, and we know that to many it has been a frightful undertaking. But it seems to us perfectly proper, so that a lady conducts herself with all due reserve and decorum; and, especially in our own country, there are very few "lions in the way." (*Godey's*, January, 1853)

PROTECTING MONEY AND VALUABLES

"Have a strong pocket made in your upper petticoat, and in that carry your money, only reserving in your dress pocket a small sum for incidental expenses." (Hartley)

"Carry but little money in your pocket--not more than will suffice for the expenses of the day. But for travelling, have another pocket, concealed beneath your upper petticoat, and in that keep the main portion of your cash. Be cautious of taking bank-notes in change — they may be such as you cannot pass. If they are offered to you, refuse them, and insist upon gold or silver." (Leslie, *The Behaviour Book*)

SUGGESTED TRAVEL DRESS

"Dress very plainly when travelling. Few ladies that are ladies wear finery in rail-cars, and steamboats--still less in stages--stage-roads being usually very dusty. Showy silks, and what are called dress-bonnets are preposterous--so are jewellery [sic] ornaments, which, if real, you run a great risk of losing, and if false, are very ungenteel. Above all, do not travel in white kid gloves. Respectable women never do.

The best travelling-dresses are of merino, or alpaca; plain mousseline de lame; grey or brown linen; or strong India silk, senshaw for instance. In warm weather, gingham is better than printed lawn, which rumples and tumbles and "gets into a string" directly. The sleeves wide, for if tight to the arm, they will stain with perspiration. Your travelling-dress for summer should have a large cape or pelerine of the same. Beside which, carry on your arm a large shawl for chilly mornings and evenings. No lady should travel in cold weather, without a warm cloak, mantilla, or pelisse, — furs, &c. of course — and travelling-boots lined with fur or flannel; having also inner soles of lambs-wool, varnished on the leather side to make them water-proof. Take with you one of those very useful umbrellas, that are large enough to shelter one person from the rain, and can also be used as a parasol. Do not pack it away in a trunk, for you may want it in the transit from rail-car to

steamboat. Keep it near you all the time, with your satchel and extra shawl. By all means wear a white collar.“ (Leslie, *The Behaviour Book*)

“A lady will always dress plainly when traveling. A gay dress, or finery of any sort, when in a boat, stage, or cars, lays a woman open to the most severe misconstruction. Wear always neutral tints, and have the material made up plainly and substantially, but avoid carefully any article of dress that is glaring or conspicuous. Above all never wear jewelry (unless it is your watch,) or flowers; they are both in excessively bad taste. A quiet, unpretending dress, and dignified demeanor, will insure for a lady respect, though she travel alone from Maine to Florida.” (Hartley)

“It is ungenteel to go to the breakfast-table [in a hotel or boarding house] in any costume approaching to full dress. There must be no flowers or ribbons in the hair. A morning-cap should be as simple as possible. The most genteel morning-dress is a close gown of some plain material, with long sleeves, which in summer may be white muslin. A merino or cashmere wrapper, (grey, brown, purple, or olive,) faced or trimmed with other merino of an entirely different colour, such as crimson, scarlet, green, or blue, is a becoming morning dress for winter. In summer, a white cambric-muslin morning-robe is the handsomest breakfast attire, but one of gingham or printed muslin the most convenient. The coloured dress may be made open in front, with short loose sleeves and a pointed body. Beneath it a white under-dress, having a chemisette front down to the belt, and long white sleeves down to the wrist. This forms a very graceful morning costume, the white skirt appearing where the coloured skirt opens....

A lady’s travelling dress should be made to fasten at the side or front, pelisse-fashion; that, during her journey, she may be able to dress herself without assistance.” (Leslie, *The House-Book*)

In the July, 1865 issue of the *Ladies’ Friend* included the following advice in “Hints for Travelling Dresses.” A dress and paletôt to match, of fine silky alpaca (called Arabian cloth), a sort of drab color so as to hide the dust, and braided, is very nice-looking as well as useful; so are figured alpaca and chalis [sic]; the latter in a small shepherd’s plaid; it is neat, strong and cool. If not lined, it does not take the dust, and if it gets a spot of mud or dirt, it can easily be removed with a nail brush and soap and water; it also washes well if three cents worth of sugar of lead in four gallons of water is used.

A dress of grenadine, or some other light material, and two or three Garibaldi jackets, are useful, and a good rain-cloak is quite indispensable.

The less luggage you take the better; it is always what the Italians call it, an ‘impediments.’

Have the sleeves of your dresses made to button at the wrists, to avoid the inconvenience of undersleeves, and be provided with a good supply of the small linen collars and cuffs.

If the skirt of the chalis [sic] dress gets damp or creased, fold it up very carefully, and place it between the two mattresses of your bed at night, and in the morning you will find it quite smooth and fresh-looking.

SUGGESTED ITEMS NEEDED FOR TRAVEL

“In your traveling satchel carry an oil skin bag, containing your sponge, tooth and nail brushes, and some soap; have also a calico bag, with hair brush and comb, some pins, hair pins, a small mirror

and some towels. In this satchel carry also some crackers, or sandwiches, if you will be long enough upon the road to need a luncheon.

In your carpet bag, carry a large shawl, and if you will travel by night, or stop where it will be inconvenient to open your trunks, carry your night clothes, and what clean linen you may require, in the carpet bag. It is best to have your name and address engraved upon the plate of your carpet bag, and to sew a white card, with your name and the address to which you are traveling, in clear, plain letters upon it. If you carry a novel or any other reading, it is best to carry the book in your satchel, and not open the carpet bag until you are ready for the night. If you are to pass the night in the cars, carry a warm woolen or silk hood, that you may take off your bonnet at night. No one can sleep comfortably in a bonnet. Carry also, in this case, a large shawl to wrap round your feet.” (Hartley)

“No lady should set out on a journey unprovided with an oiled-silk bag for the reception of tooth-brushes, soap, a hair-brush, and a towel. Let the bag be about half a quarter of a yard longer at the back than at the front; so as to leave a flap to turn over, and tie down, when all the articles are in. It should be square, (exclusive of the flap,) and about a quarter and half-quarter in length, and the same in breadth; stitched in compartments, something like an old-fashioned thread-case, only that the compartments differ much in size. The two smallest are for two tooth-brushes. Another should be broad enough to contain a hair-brush. For travelling, have a hair-brush with a mirror at the back, and if you can get one that has also a dressing-comb attached to it, so much the better. The largest compartment (which should occupy the centre) is for a towel, and a cake of soap. If you are obliged to start in haste, all these things can be put in while wet from recent use, the towel being rolled or folded into as small a compass as possible. The oiled silk will prevent the wet from oozing through. When all are in, turn over the flap at the top, (which should be furnished with two long strings of broad, white tape,) and tie it securely down. Carry this bag in the square satchel which all ladies now keep in their hands when travelling, and which contain such things as they may want during the day, precluding the necessity of opening their large carpetbag, till they stop for the night.” (Leslie, *The Behaviour Book*)

PACKING INSTRUCTIONS and LUGGAGE SUGGESTIONS

“In a carpet-bag pack nothing but white articles, or such as can be washed, and will not be spoiled by the bag chancing to get wet. Have your name engraved on the lock of your carpet-bag, and also on the brass plate of your trunks. Besides this, write your full direction on several cards, make a small hole in each, and running a string through the hole, tie a card to the handle of each trunk, and sew one on the side of your carpet-bag--the direction designating the place to which you are going. Your name in full should be painted in white letters on every trunk. This costs but a trifle, and secures the recognition of your baggage when missing. It is also an excellent plan to tie round the handle of each trunk or bag, a bit of ribbon — blue, red, or yellow — all the bits being off the same piece.” (Leslie, *The Behaviour Book*)

“TO FOLD A DRESS FOR PACKING — Spread the dress, right side out, on a bed; and, taking it by the hem, make the bottom exactly even all round. Next, double the skirt lengthways in half, and then fold it lengthways in four, and turn the fourth side over towards the back. After this, turn up

crossways about one-third of the folded lower part of the skirt; then give the remainder of the skirt a fold backwards, terminating at the gathers of the waist. Next, turn the body backwards with the front uppermost, and the back resting on the folded skirt beneath. Lastly, spread out the sleeves; give each one of them a fold forward at the shoulders, and a fold backward at the elbows, and lay them across each other evenly on the fore-body.

Fold the pelerine right-side out. First double it in half, beginning down the middle of the back. Next, give the doubled pelerine a fold backwards, then a fold forwards, and then another fold so as to leave the corners uppermost.

A belt-ribbon, for packing, should be rolled on a block, and fastened with two little pins.

It may be well to have a camphor-bag sewed to each of her night-gowns, that she may be less liable to attacks from insects when sleeping in such beds as are frequently met with in travelling.

TO PACK A LARGE TRUNK — Have all things laid out ready, the light things divided from the heavy ones; and keep at hand a quire of soft wrapping paper. Spread a clean thick towel over the bottom of the trunk, and place on it the hard flat things, such as portfolios, music-books, a writing-desk, boxes, books for reading, &c.; taking care to fit them well together, so as to be even at the top; and filling up the crevices with small articles that will not be injured by compressment, each of them, however, wrapped in paper, to prevent their scraping or defacing to other things. Never use newspaper for packing, as the printing ink will not fail to rub off and soil whatever it touches. You may stick a pair of shoes here and there, each pair laid together as flat as possible, and tied round with their own strings. Some persons have shoe bags made of flannel or cloth, and stitched into compartments, each division containing a pair of shoes. Over the layer of hard flat things in the bottom of the trunk, spread a towel; and on this lay your flannels, linen &c., filling up the interstices with stockings and gloves. Then cover them with another towel, and put in your dresses, the muslin ones uppermost; filling in the corners with pocket handkerchiefs. On the top of your dresses lay your pelerines, collars, and caps, (if you have not other way of carrying them,) &c., finishing with a thin towel over the whole.

No trunk should be packed so full as to strain the hinges. If you trunk has a false top, you can fill that with any articles that may be rolled up tightly. Shoes should on no account be packed without covers, as the colour (especially, if black) will rub off, and disfigure any white things that may be near them. Avoid putting any eatable items in a trunk or box that contains things which cannot be washed, as they may be much injured by grease or stains. On no consideration, carry ink, even though locked up in a writing box. You can always at the place to which you are going, buy yourself six cents worth of ink in a small square bottle, which will also serve for an inkstand. It is well, however to take with you a few sheets of good writing paper folded in the form of letters, each with a wafer stuck on one edge, to be ready, in case you have occasion to write before you reach your journey's end, or immediately after. It is well to have red tapes nailed across the inside of the lid of your trunk, for the purpose of slipping letters and papers between them.

There are traveling trunks with a sort of moveable tray fitting in near the top. This tray can be lifted in and out, and is for the purpose of containing pelerines, collars, scarfs, ribbons, laces, &c. Some very large trunks have a partition at one end, to hold a bonnet or other millinery.

It is best, however, to have a proper bonnet-box, either of painted wood or of leather. To keep the bonnet steady, sew to it in convenient places under the trimming, pieces of tape, the other ends of which should be secured with tack-nails to the floor and the sides of the box. In the corners, you may lay a few caps, &c., as lightly as possible.

Leather trunks generally have brass plates on which is engraved the name of the owner. It

is now very customary to have the name painted on both ends of the trunk, and also on the bonnet boxes. Besides which, if you are travelling with several pieces articles of baggage, it is well to have them all designated by a piece of red tape or something of the sort tied round the handles of each. A lady, before setting out on a journey, should be provided with a card or paper, on which she has written a list and description of her trunk, box, carpet-bag, &c. Previous to the hour for starting, she should give this list to the gentleman under whose escort she is to travel, and it will save him much trouble in finding out and taking care of her baggage.

The best paper for wrapping light articles that are to be packed in trunks, is the thin, soft sheets of light blue, buff, gray, and other colours, that are retailed at six cents per quire. It is well to keep a supply of it always in the house.

For heavier articles, (books, &c.,) the nankeen paper will be found preferable to any other, as it is both smooth and strong...

CARPET BAGS. — The best carpet-bags are those that are made with large gores at the sides, as they hold much more than when of two straight pieces only. It is well to have the owner's name engraved on the lock. Article of dress that cannot be compressed into a small compass, should not be put into a lady's carpet bag, which should hold the flannel, linen, stockings, night-clothes, shawl, shoes, &c., that she may be likely to want during her journey; those that she will require the first night to be placed at the top, where also she should have a bag containing her comb, hair-brush, &c. For want of a bag, these things may be pinned up tightly in a towel; and she may do the same thing with her shoes if she has no shoe-bag." (Leslie, *The House-Book*)

"In the first place, the care of baggage. This should be reduced to as small a compass as possible, nor should a lady encumber herself with more shawls, carpet-bags, or parcels, than is absolutely necessary. Even when a gentleman is in attendance, he does not like to be made a "dumb waiter of," after this fashion; and, when alone, a lady should have herself perfectly free, in making changes from boats to cars, etc. etc. We have known a lady leave home with three shawls, a veil, a bandbox, a carpet bag, a hand-basket, an umbrella, a flower-pot with a young geranium, and a novel in a brown paper cover, to manage and retain possession of in all the hurried transitions of her journey. The catalogue is "from life," crowded as it seems. There is an attention very common among friends, gratifying for the time, but peculiarly embarrassing afterwards, that of presenting bouquets at the very moment of departure. Unless on shipboard, where the flowers can be placed in water at once, the bouquet— to use a homely phrase— is apt to be "more plague than profit." The wet paper or sponge soils the gloves, drips on the travelling-dress, and cannot be laid down, or hung up, for fear of crushing. We commend this point to particular attention." (*Godey's*, January, 1853)

STEAMBOAT TRAVEL

"If you are obliged to pass the night upon a steamboat, secure, if possible, a stateroom. You will find the luxury of being alone, able to retire and rise without witness, fully compensates for the extra charge. Before you retire, find out the position and number of the stateroom occupied by your escort, in case you wish to find him during the night. In times of terror, from accident or danger, such care will be found invaluable."

"You may not be able to obtain a stateroom upon all occasions when traveling, and must then

sleep in the ladies' cabin. It is best, in this case, to take off the dress only, merely loosening the stays and skirts, and unless you are sick, you may sit up to read until quite a late hour. Never allow your escort to accompany you into the cabin. The saloon is always open to both ladies and gentlemen, and the cabin is for ladies *alone*. Many ladies are sufficiently ill-bred to ask a husband or brother into the cabin, and keep him there talking for an hour or two, totally overlooking the fact that by doing so she may be keeping others, suffering, perhaps from sickness, from removing their dresses to lie down. Such conduct is not only excessively ill-bred, but intensely selfish." (Hartley)

"If you pass the night in a steamboat, and can afford the additional expense of a whole state-room, by all means engage one as soon as you go on board. The chambermaid will give you the key and the number, and you can retire to it whenever you please, and enjoy the luxury of being alone, and of washing and dressing without witnesses. If you are constrained to take a berth in the ladies' sleeping-cabin, it is not the [east necessary to retire to it immediately after supper. By doing so you will have a very long, tiresome night, and be awake many hours before morning. And if you are awake, do not be continually calling upon the poor chambermaid, and disturbing her with inquiries, such as "Where are we now?" and "How soon shall we arrive?"

The saloon is the place in which ladies and gentlemen sit together. If a lady is so inconsiderate or selfish as to violate the rules of the boat, by inviting her husband or lover to take a seat in the ladies' cabin, there is no impropriety in sending the chambermaid to remind him that he must leave the room. This is often done, and always should be. We once saw a gentleman (or a pretended one) so pertinacious in remaining, (it is true his lady-love urged him "not to mind,") that the captain had to be brought to threaten him with forcible expulsion. This had the desired effect.

Such are the facilities of travelling, that a lady evidently respectable, plainly dressed, and behaving properly, may travel very well without a gentleman. Two ladies still better. On commencing the journey she should speak to the conductor, requesting him to attend to her and her baggage, and to introduce her to the captain of the boat, who will of course take charge of her during the voyage." (Leslie, *The Behaviour Book*)

"Even ladies, who run greater risks in forming steamboat acquaintances than the men, are allowed the greatest privileges in that respect. It might not be exactly correct for a lady to make a speaking acquaintance of a gentlemen; but she may address or question him for the time being without impropriety." (Martine and Willis. The exact wording appeared in both books.)

TRAIN TRAVEL

"If you are fortunately able to ride backward as well as forward, you will be less incommoded with flying sparks, by sitting with your back to the engine. A spark getting into the eye is very painful, and sometimes dangerous. It is possible to expel it by blowing your nose very hard, while with the other hand you wipe out the particle of cinder with a corner of your handkerchief, pulling down the lower eye-lid. We have seen this done successfully. Another way is to wrap the head of a pin in the corner of a fine, soft cambric handkerchief, and placing it beneath the lid, sweep all round the eye with it. If this does not succeed, get out at the first station-house where you can stop long enough, procure a bristle-hair from a sweeping-brush, tie it in a loop or bow with a bit of thread, and let some one insert it beneath your eye-lid, and move it slowly all round, so as to catch in it the offending

particle of coal, and bring it out. Or if there is time, send to the nearest apothecary for an eye-stone, (in reality, a lobster's eye,) and soak it five minutes in a saucer of vinegar and water to give it activity, then, wiping it dry, and carefully inserting it beneath the eye-lid, bind a handkerchief over it. The eye-stone will go circling round the eye, and most likely take up the mote in its course. When the pain ceases, remove the handkerchief, and wash the eye with cold water.

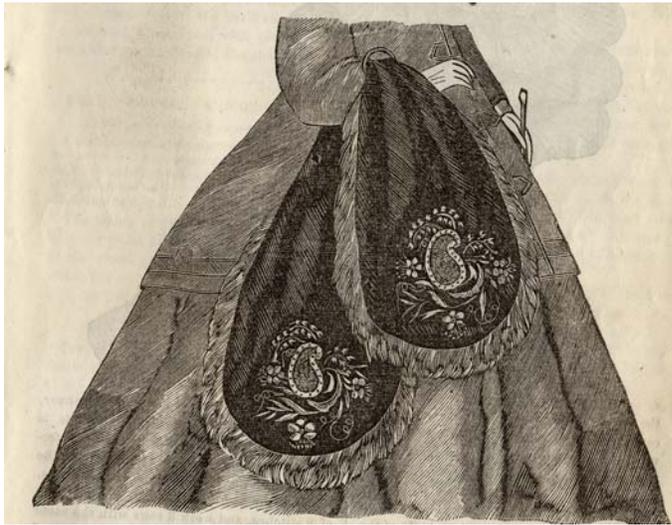
To read in a rail-car is very injurious to the eyes, from the quivering, tremulous motion it seems to communicate to the letters of the page. It is best to abstain from your book till you are transferred to the steamboat.

Many persons cannot talk in a rail-car without a painful exertion of the voice. And it is not an easy task, even to those whose lungs are strong. You can easily excuse yourself from conversing with your escort, by telling him that your voice is not loud enough to be heard above the racket of the cars, and that though you will gladly listen to him, he must allow you to listen without replying, except in as few words as possible. If he finds a gentleman with whom he is acquainted, desire him to talk to his friend, and leave you to hear their conversation as a silent auditor.” (Leslie, *The Behaviour Book*)

INSTRUCTIONS FOR MAKING TRAVEL BAGS or COVERS

“A TRAVELLING RETICULE. — A reticule for travelling, may be so made, as to contain many useful article. Get (for instance) three quarters of a yard of the thickest and best dark coloured India silk, such as is call senshaw. Divide it into two pieces, about a quarter and a half in each, but the outer piece a little deeper than the inner. Then lay them together so as to be double, and divide them into four compartments, by making three downward rows of stitching or runnings when you have sewed up the side edges of the bag, you will have *four* divisions. Leave sufficient at the top of the inner lining for a hem; and the outside must rise a little beyond the inside and be hemmed down so as form a case, to be drawn with ribbons, or broad silk braid. Gather the bottom of the bag, and draw it up as close as possible, so as to finish it with a tassel, or a bow of ribbon at the gathering place. This bag will be found very useful in travelling; as in the different divisions, you may carry a comb, hair-brush, tooth-brush, smelling-bottle, a cake of soap, purse, needle-book, keys, &c., so arranged, as not to interfere with each other inconveniently; leaving the space in the middle of the bag for your handkerchief, which you can then take out without any danger of its bringing other things along with it. These large reticules will be found less troublesome to carry, and better in every respect, than a travelling hand-basket.” (Leslie, *The House-Book*)

“LADY'S TRAVELLING-BAG. POCHE POMPADOUR.

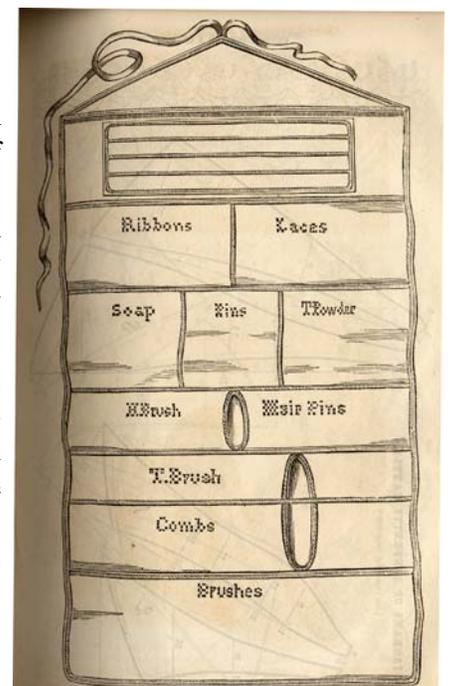


THIS elegant travelling-bag is especially suitable for a lady. It is made in the shape of a very large purse, and is of violet rep embroidered in white. These colors may, of course, be changed according to taste. Two and a half yards of rep or other woollen material, twenty-seven inches in breadth, are required, and the same quantity of white calico for lining; two and a quarter yards of silk fringe, and five skeins of white embroidery silk for the trimming; two ivory rings, and some pearl buttons. The pattern is not worked twice on the same side of the purse, but on one side at one end and on the opposite side at the other, so that both

patterns may show when the bag hangs over the arm. The bag is entirely lined, a pocket is formed on each side, and a slit is made in the centre of the bag exactly in the same way as in a purse; two rings are slipped over, and the slit is further fastened by pearl buttons and silk loops. Each pocket is edged with silk fringe up to the slit in the middle. These pockets are very convenient to hold the numberless small articles which a lady always wishes to have by her during a journey. The embroidery is worked in satin stitch, the inner part of the pine pattern being filled up with colored silk. The material should be stretched over a frame in order to be worked neatly. The bag is very easy to make up, being, in fact, nothing but a purse of very large dimensions, The embroidery can easily be dispensed with, and a useful bag made of plain materials. One of the advantages that this bag possesses over the ordinary kind is that it really has a graceful appearance when properly carried, which can scarcely be said of many travelling pouches.” (*Godey's*, December, 1864)

“LADY'S TOILET SACHET.

THIS article, which is decidedly novel in its plan, will be found extremely useful to ladies when travelling, as it is capable of containing every article required for the toilet in a convenient, compact, and portable form. The sachet contains upwards of a dozen compartments, or pockets, with the names of the articles for which they are destined marked upon them. The following enumeration of a few of these articles will afford an idea of the usefulness of the sachet: Soap, pins, tooth-powder and brush, nail-brush, hair-pins, combs, hair-brushes, ribbons, laces, etc. We have only to add that the sachet is made of brown holland, and trimmed with narrow red silk braid. Each division, or pocket, is edged with this braid, and the name of the article it is intended to contain is marked on it in letters of red silk. The whole, when rolled up, is tied round by a red ribbon.” (*Godey's*, May, 1859)



“A BONNET-COVER. — When travelling in dry weather on a road that is likely to be dusty, you may effectually protect your bonnet from injury, by taking with you a cover for it. To make this cover, get a yard of white glazed cambric muslin, and cut it into the form of a large straight hood; gathering it close at the back of the head upon a small circular piece about the size of a half-dollar. Slope it away at the sides of the neck, and put a case with a draw-string of fine tape along the edge of the front: the string to tie at the side.

If you commence your journey by water, you can roll up this bonnet-cover, and keep it in your reticule while in the steam-boat; putting it over your bonnet, and drawing it round your face, just before you get into the vehicle in which you are to ride. You will find when you take it off, that it has effectually screened your bonnet and its ribbons from the dust and sun. It must, of course, be made very large and loose, that it may not flatten or discompose the trimming.

We have seen bonnet-covers of green silk; but, if it chances to get wet, the green dye will run down and stain the bonnet. The same thing may happen, if the cover is of coloured muslin. White is undoubtedly the best for this purpose; and when soiled, it can be easily washed.

After being out in the damp, do not immediately put away your bonnet; but wipe the front and crown with a clean handkerchief, and put some wadding or tissue paper into the bows, to keep them from losing their shape: taking it out, however, as soon as the ribbon is perfectly dry. Also, never put away a shawl or cloak while it is in the least damp. (Leslie, *The House-Book*)

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