

WOMEN IN MASCULINE ATTIRE.

Shirts and Corsets Said by a Lady Traveler to Conduce to Timidity.

The Siamese may be away behind us in some respects, but they are sensible in one thing at least—the women wear no dangling petticoats. Considering that we are a civilized people, or nearly so, it must be admitted that our fashions are peculiar—neither graceful, healthful nor becoming. The style of the sterner sex is hideous in its simplicity, while lovely woman makes herself most unlovely by outraging all rules of proportion. If there were no other objection to woman's present mode of dressing there is one which should alone suffice to condemn it. It is this: A tight fitting bodice makes a corset necessary. Loose garments leave all the muscles free to fulfil their functions and become strong.

The Siamese Princess whose picture appeared in The Herald of July 31 presents an appearance of neatness and comfort suggestive of delightful freedom of hands and feet. There is no distressing choice between the bottom or having the hands wearied by continually lifting the garments. We do this lifting at least a hundred times a day, as a matter of course, almost unconsciously; but trifling as the action seems, it taxes strength and temper, especially when there are other objects requiring all our attention.

In ascending stairs a woman never has more than one hand at her service the other is a slave to her skirts. A volume could be written on this subject, but it would be difficult to effect a change because the majority of fathers and husbands would oppose it, loudly protesting that the skirt is the most modest attire. And yet, if the concealment of the form is so essential, the close fitting bodice should not be countenanced.

INFLUENCE OF MORAL FACULTIES. Judging by personal experience, the dress even influences the moral faculties. During our prolonged explorations among the ruined cities of Yucatan, it was absolutely necessary for me to adopt something less inconvenient than skirts. I wore very wide Afghan trousers and an ample blouse. High boots were a requisite precaution against snakes. The change of attire was a source of great comfort, enabling me to ride and walk in dense forests, to run when occasion demanded it and to climb without extra risk.

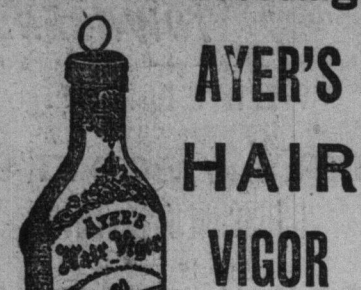
It did more than this. The freedom of movement made me fearless, conferring a consciousness of independence and ability to escape danger by rapid and agile movement. I became stronger and less nervous, although always obliged to carry a rifle, being on the territory of hostile Indians and in forests where wild beasts and numerous reptiles abound. The open air life had much to do with the physical improvement, but the dress did its share.

Returning to civilization and resuming the conventional feminine garb produced a depressing effect which lasted some time—a feeling such as a bird might experience on being caught and caged. The close fitting bodice and long skirts were for many days so trying and irritating to me that I found the comforts of civilization an inadequate compensation for the depressing, hampering effects of skirts and corsets, and came to the conclusion that our present mode of dressing is not only prejudicial to the strength, but irritating to the nerves and detrimental to certain moral qualities, tending particularly to make us timid in our actions, owing to the imperfect freedom of movement.—Alice L. Kingdon, in N. Y. Herald.

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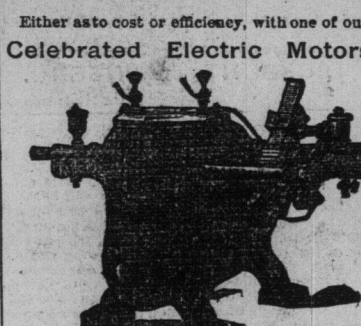
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TORONTO POSTAL GUIDE—DURING THE

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Table with columns: CLOSURE, CLOSURE, CLOSURE. Rows: G.T.R. East, G.T.R. West, O.C. & N.W., N.E. & N.W., N.W. & N.W., C.V.H., G.W.R., U.S.N.Y., U.S. Western States.

English mails close on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays at 10 p.m. and on Saturday at 7 p.m. Supplementary mails to Mondays and Thursdays close on Tuesday and Friday at 11 noon. The following are the dates of English mails for September: 1, 4, 6, 7, 8, 11, 14, 15, 18, 19, 21, 22, 23, 26, 28, 30.

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