

The Androgyny Deception

Part 3

“The American Costume”



This part of the presentation is primarily designed for committed Seventh-day Adventist women who love the Lord with all their hearts, and who firmly believe in the inspiration of the Spirit of Prophecy.

This is advanced “meat” for those who are already walking in all the light they have, and are open to learn more about God’s principles that bring reformation into the lifestyle.

Is it important for us, as God's people, to understand the development of worldly fashion, and see how the adversary has, subtly and slowly, crept his customs and practices into the church?



EGW: “As we see the love of fashion and display among those who profess to believe present truth, we sadly ask, Will the people of God learn nothing from the history of the past? There are few who understand their own hearts.” {MYP 354.3}

EGW “No Christian can conform to the demoralizing fashions of the world without imperiling his soul's salvation.” {RH, March 31, 1891 par. 7}



Let us pray that God will speak to our hearts, and show us where we have been following the demoralizing fashions of the world.



It is very important to consider the history of women's dress, and how fashions have developed. We will go back to a time when Ellen White was still alive, and consider the prevailing fashions of her day.

The 1850's female dresses included hoops, and skirts dragging in the filth. Heavy underskirts and corsets were extremely unhealthy.





Corsets compressed the waist, causing major health problems.

Hoop skirts of the 1850's & 1860's.





God faithfully warned His people not to follow this worldly fashion, even calling it an abomination!

EGW: “From what has been shown me, hoops are an abomination.

They are indecent, and God's people err if they follow, in the least degree, or give countenance to, this fashion.”

{4bSG 66.1}

THE SATURDAY EVENING POST

Four

ly
Franklin

APR. 25, 1925

5 cents



Alice Duer Miller—Garet Garrett—John F. Marquand—Richard Le Gallienne
William Hazlett Upson—Albert W. Atwood—Austin Parker—James H. Crank

The hoops (caged crinolines) were extolled as freeing women from the many layers of heavy petticoats that dragged down on the female waistline. Women who didn't wear hoops wore as many as six underskirts!



EGW: “While traveling in the cars and stages... I have seen large companies crowding into the cars, and in order to make any headway, the hoops had to be raised and placed into a shape which was indecent.”
{4bSG 68.1}



EGW: “And the exposure of the form was ten-fold more with those who wore hoops, than with those who did not...but modesty and decency must be sacrificed to the god of fashion. May the Lord deliver his people from this grievous sin. God will not pity those who will be slaves to fashion.” {4bSG 68.1}

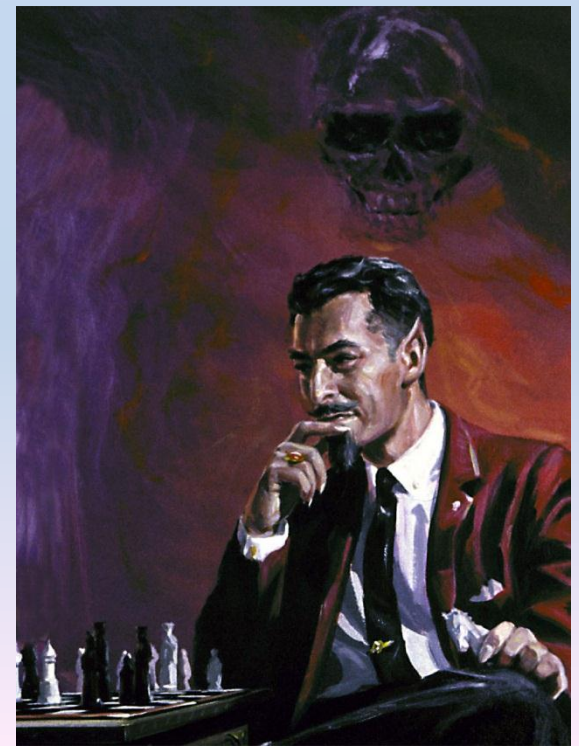


Who is behind the god of fashion?

EGW: “In forming the fashions of the day, he (Satan) has a fixed purpose.” {3SM 244.3}

Satan has an agenda! Let us not be ignorant of his devices.

EGW: “ It is our privilege, our duty, to receive light from heaven, that we may perceive the wiles of Satan, and obtain strength to resist his power.”
{RH, October 23, 1888 par. 10}



Satan specializes in mixing truth with error, good with bad, even in worldly fashions.

He creates a wrong fashion, and then leads ungodly people to “correct” the wrong with something that is also wrong.





How Important it is, then, that we learn God's principles, and submit to His will, so that we may not be deceived by the devil!

God ordained that the husband be the head of the home.

“The head of the woman is the man.” 1 Corinthians 11:3

EGW “The husband and father is the head of the household.” {AH 211.4}

EGW “The father represents the divine Lawgiver in his family.” {AH 212.2}



The truth about God's creation order—the headship of man—has been **HATED** by many rebellious women for a long time!



The devil launched a massive attack against God's order of creation in the 1850's, when he inspired a group of "modern, restless Eves" to rebel against God's principles. These women defied the Bible. They were spiritualists.

They decided that wearing men's clothing would give them power and authority. They coveted the role God had given men.



In the 1850's, Elizabeth Smith Miller put on a "short" skirt over pantaloons.

Her cousin, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, and her friend Amelia Bloomer, also wore similar attire.

Part of their motivation was noble—to wear more healthful attire.

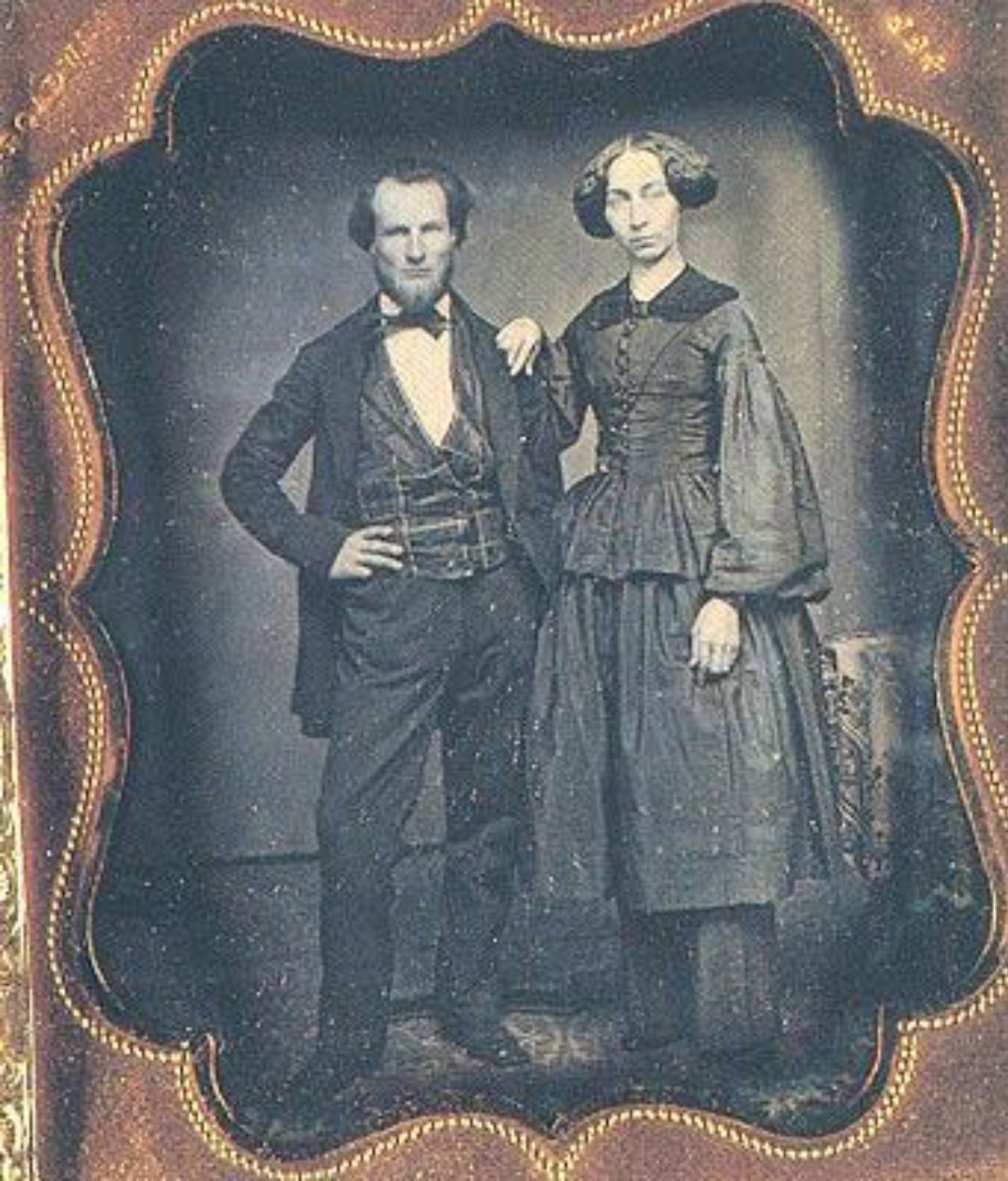


This particular style, designed by Amelia Bloomer, consisted of pants under a short dress.

There were various styles.

This knee-length dress over pants outfit was called the “American Costume.”



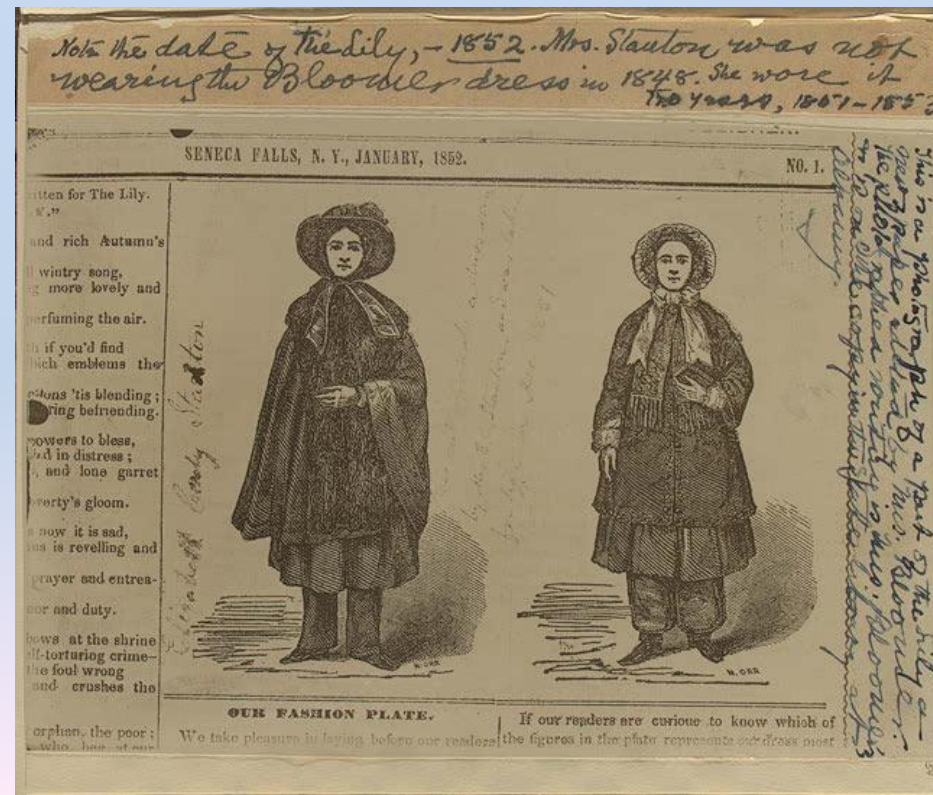


The
“American
Costume” was
worn by
women who
rebelled
against the
Bible principle
that “the head
of the woman
is the man.” 1
Corinthians
11:3

These rebellious woman were spiritualists.

“Spiritualists believed individuals could serve as vehicles of truth because each embodied the laws of nature in his or her being. Such individualism laid the foundation for Spiritualism's rejection of male headship over women.”

—From “Radical Spirits: Spiritualism And Women's Rights In Nineteenth-Century America” written by Ann Brauden





**Their spiritualistic beliefs led them to
defy the Word of God.**

The Bible says:

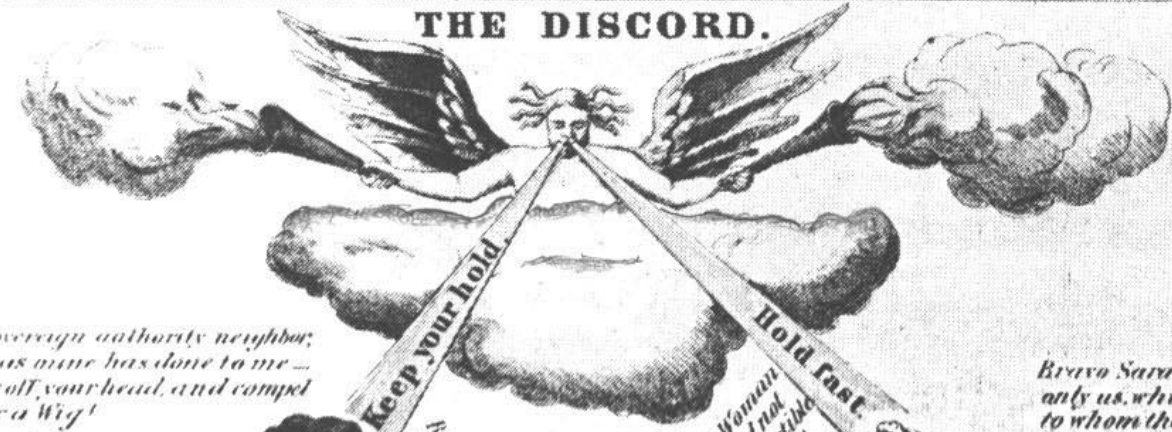
**Deuteronomy 22:5: "The woman shall not
wear that which pertaineth unto a man,
neither shall a man put on a woman's
garment: for all that do so are abomination
unto the Lord thy God."**





Amelia Bloomer, in an angry response to a sermon referring to Deuteronomy 22:5, stated: “It matters not to us what Moses had to say to the men and women of his time about what they should wear . . .”

THE DISCORD.



*Fight courageous for sovereign authority neighbor;
at your wife 'll do to you, as mine has done to me —
She 'll pull your hair off your head, and compel
you to wear a Wig!*

*Bravo Sarah! Stick to them, it is
only us, which ought to rule and
to whom the pants fit the best.*

Keep your hold.

Hold fast.

*Rather die than let
my wife wear my pants.
I must ought always to
be the ruler!*

*Sam, help me! Woman
is born to rule and a real
creature, called men!*

*Oh Paul!
let go be you
harm, or you 'll
tear em!*

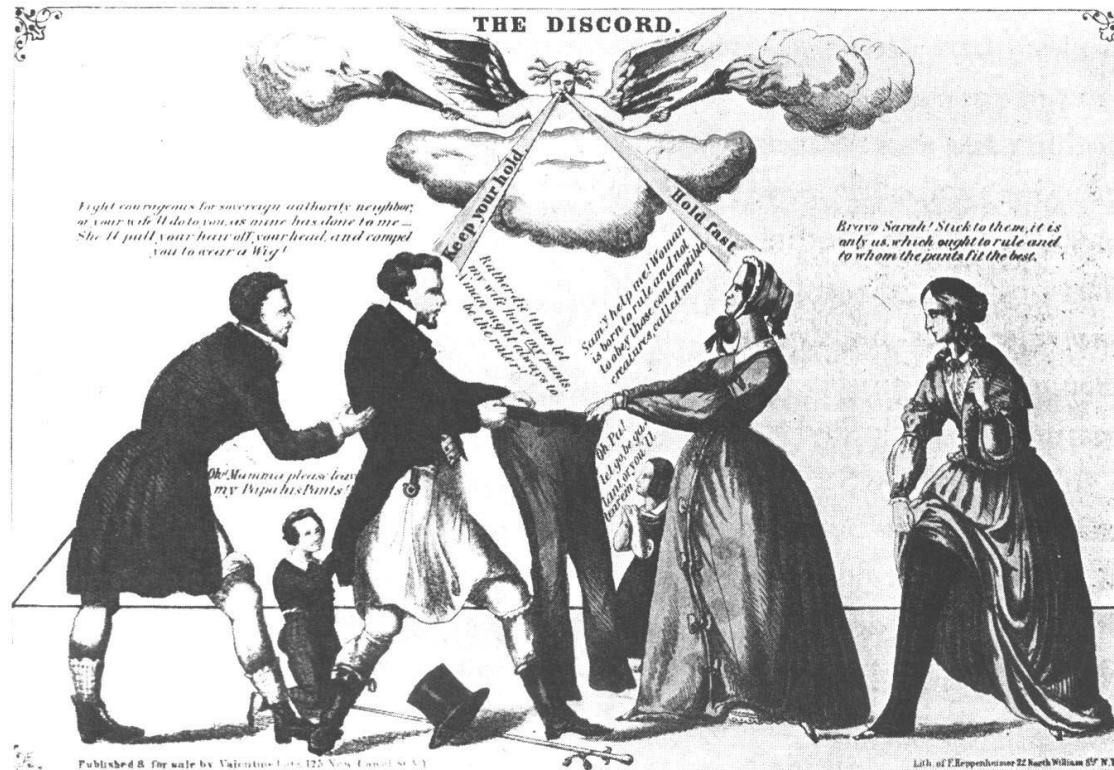
*Oh Mamma please leave
my Papa his pants!*



Published & for sale by Valentine, 125 New Canal St. N.Y.

Lith. of F. Reppendorf No. 22 North William St. N.Y.

This 1855 cartoon depicts the power struggle over pants.



What are these women saying?

“Woman is born to rule, and not to obey those contemptible creatures called men.”

“It is only us which ought to rule, and to whom the pants fit the best!”

“Mrs. Bloomer turned the trousers into a UNIFORM OF REBELLION... CHALLENGING the long TRADITION of who in the family wore the PANTS.” -- taken from "Panati's Extraordinary Origins of Everyday Things" by Charles Panati





In May 1851 Amelia Bloomer introduced Susan B. Anthony, a spiritualist, to Elizabeth Cady Stanton, all women's rights advocates.

Bloomer and Stanton are wearing the “American Costume” as depicted in these life-sized bronze figures.



Elizabeth Cady Stanton was a women's rights leader, spiritualist and advocate of the American Costume. She spoke and wrote strongly against the biblical headship of men.



Mrs. Stanton wrote, "When women understand that governments and religions are human inventions; that bibles, prayer-books, catechisms, and encyclical letters are all emanations from the brains of man, they will no longer be oppressed by the injunctions that come to them with the divine authority of 'Thus sayeth the Lord.' "

Elizabeth Cady
STANTON

Elizabeth Cady Stanton



“The Bible and the Church have been the greatest stumbling blocks in the way of women’s emancipation.”
--Elizabeth Cady-Stanton

The promoters of the “American Costume” considered the Bible and the Church as standing in the way of their goals.



Amelia Bloomer, a spiritualist, stated: “We shall no longer be answerable to the laws of God or man, no longer be subject to punishment for breaking them.”

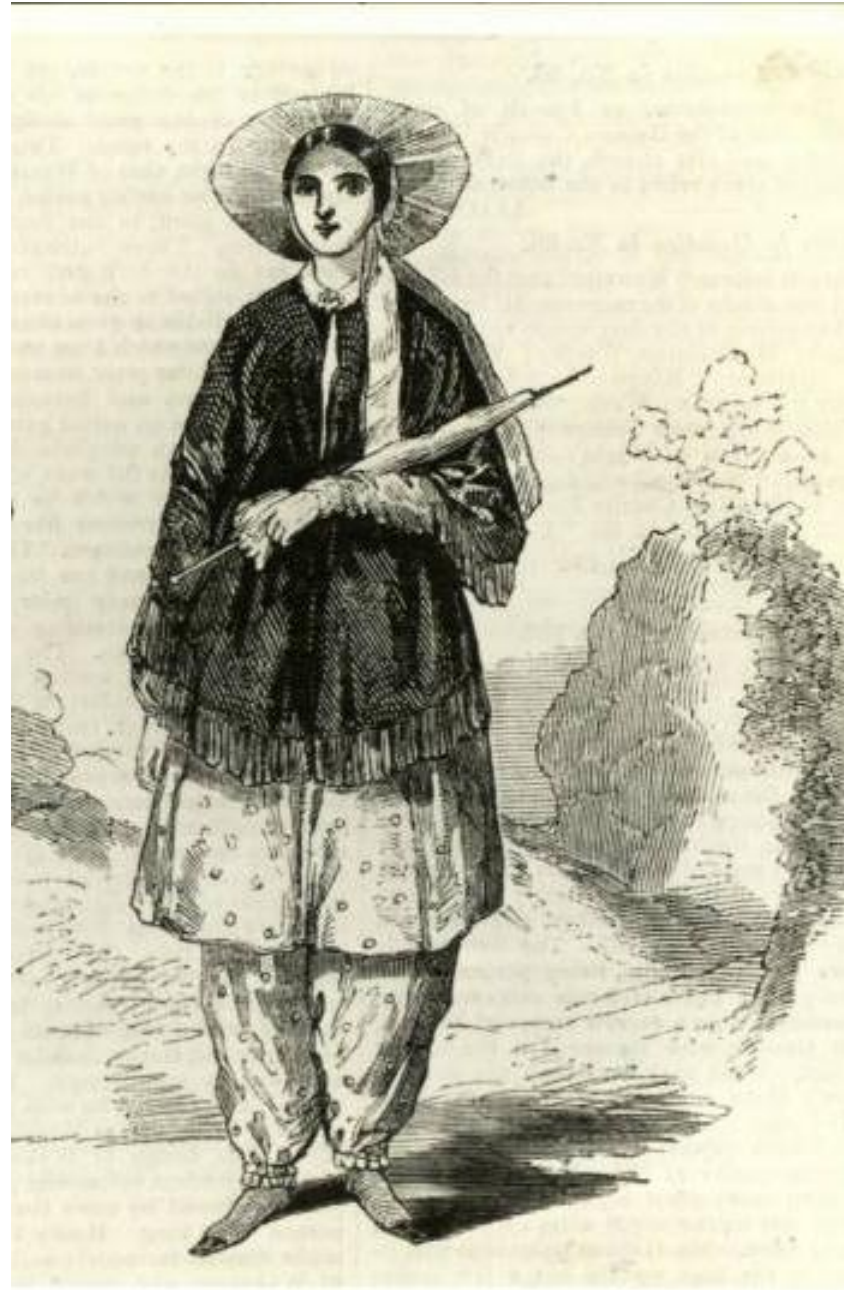


THE BLOOMER COSTUME.

Ellen White spoke out against the "American Costume" as well as the rebellious spirit of the women's rights advocates. Their attitude was totally incompatible with Seventh-day Adventist beliefs.



EGW: "Those who feel called out to join the movement in favor of woman's rights and the so-called dress reform [American costume] might as well sever all connection with the third angel's message." {1T 457.3}



This is the only quotation by Ellen G. White where she makes a judgment regarding the women's rights movement. Clearly, she speaks **most strongly against it**. And she adds the element of the gender blurring outfit.

These are the 2 practices referred to in the first Presentation on The Androgyny Deception.

- **Joining the Women's Rights Movement**
- **Accepting clothing that blurred the male/female distinction.**

Both of these activities are **contrary** to the principles of Seventh-day Adventism.

The message was clear that this style of dress (the American Costume or the Bloomer Costume) was not approved by the Lord. Ellen White also called it “the so-called reform dress.”



EGW: "The spirit which attends the one [women's rights movement] cannot be in harmony with the other [Seventh-day Adventism]. "
{1T 457.3}



EGW: "God would not have His people adopt the so-called reform dress [American Costume]. It is immodest apparel, wholly unfitted for the modest, humble followers of Christ."
{1T 457.1}



EGW: "The Scriptures are plain upon the relations and rights of men and women. Spiritualists have, to quite an extent, adopted this singular mode of dress [American Costume]." {1T 457.3}

Let's find out what was so wrong about the American Costume.





Ellen White spoke out against the prevailing fashions as well as against the American Costume, but it was not because she was against dress reform. She clearly declared, "My sisters, there is need of a dress reform among us. There are many errors in the present style of female dress." {2SM 473.1}

When the devil wants to pull society downward, he mixes in some good to sweeten the poison.

While there were some obvious health and practical advantages to the American Costume, there were also some negative features.



At its worst, the American Costume was too masculine. This prompted Ellen White to write:

"There is an increasing tendency to have women in their dress and appearance as near like the other sex as possible and to fashion their dress very much like that of men, but God pronounces it abomination." {CG 427.2}



She stated that this style disregarded God's special directions to have a **"plain distinction between the dress of men and women."**

The distinction between men and women was plainly that men wore pants and women wore dresses. When more than a few inches of pants were showing, the pants became a focal point of the outfit, which blurred the distinction between men's and women's clothing.



Thus, the American Costume was masculine, not only in the style of the dress, but because of the amount of the pant leg that was revealed. This shall be presented more clearly later.

The short dress [American Costume] that came about to the knee and above the knee was declared to be immodest.



When the first rebellious ladies put on the "short" dress over their bloomers, the dresses came approximately to the knee. Within a short while, the dresses got shorter, until finally some were about half way from the hips to the knee. Most of the pictures we have show the knee length dress.



This is Dr. Lydia Sayer Hasbrouck, lecturer, and editor of The Sibyl: the official newsletter of the National Dress Reform Association (NDRA)

She dedicated her life to women's rights: "I registered a vow that I would stand or fall in the battle for women's physical, political and educational freedom and equality."



James & Ellen White first visited "Our Home" in 1863, which was a secular health sanitarium.

EGW: "This is the style and influence of the "American Costume," taught and worn by many at "Our Home," Dansville N. Y." {RH, October 8, 1867 par. 7}

We will show various styles of the American Costume.



EGW: "They have all styles of dress here. (Our Home-Danville) Some are very becoming, if not so short. We shall get patterns from this place and I think we can get out a style of dress more healthful than we now wear and yet not be bloomer or the American costume." {1T 457.2}

One of the problems with the American Costume was that it was too short. This made it look masculine.



EGW: "There is an increasing tendency to have women in their dress and appearance as near like the other sex as possible, and to fashion their dress very much like that of men, but God pronounces it abomination. . . . The foregoing was given me as a reproof to those who are inclined to adopt a style of dress resembling that worn by men;" {1T 457.2}



EGW: “There is still another style of dress which is adopted by a class of so-called dress reformers [American Costume]. They imitate the opposite sex as nearly as possible. They wear the cap, pants, vest, coat, and boots, the last of which is the most sensible part of the costume.” {1T 459.7}



- The reason we are so carefully reviewing this history of the American Costume and Ellen G. White's comments regarding it, is because it provides us with a very clear interpretation of Deuteronomy 22:5.



- We don't have to wonder what God means in this verse. God's prophetess clearly tells us that women who wear clothing similar to men's clothing are an abomination to Him.
- That is extremely helpful to all who are seeking God's will in their dress.

EGW: "I saw that God's order has been reversed, and His special directions disregarded, by those who adopt the American costume. I was referred to Deuteronomy 22:5: "The woman shall not wear that which pertaineth unto a man, neither shall a man put on a woman's garment: for all that do so are abomination unto the Lord thy God.'" {1T 457.1}





Dr. Harriet N. Austin was a physician at “Our Home” in Danville. Here she is wearing her own design of the American Costume with straight trouser legs.



The pants were revealed from the knee down. Ellen White declared that this outfit was too close to men's wear.

EGW: "We shall never imitate Miss Dr. Austin or Mrs. Dr. York. They dress very much like men." {5MR 380.4}



Dr. Mary Walker started out wearing the regular American Costume, but became increasingly masculine in her attire.



Dr. Mary Walker

Ellen White made a prophetic statement regarding the confusion that would result in blurring the distinction between the sexes.

EGW: “Those who adopt and advocate this style of dress carry the so-called dress reform to very objectionable lengths. Confusion will be the result.” {1T 459.7}





Dr. Mary Walker

Dr. Mary Walker was proud that she was arrested several times for 'impersonating a man' – she had taken to fully wearing men's clothing, from the top hat, wing collar and bow tie to the pants and shoes.



- **Mary Tillotson was a spiritualist, and charter member of the National Dress Reform Association; c. 1866-1870. She first adopted a short dress [American Costume] in 1842, then shortened it 12 inches when she heard about Amelia Bloomer.**



EGW: “God's prohibitions are lightly regarded by all who advocate doing away with the distinction of dress between males and females.” {1T 459.8}

**What were God's prohibitions?
Deuteronomy 22:5**





**More versions of the
American Costume**



ELLIMAN'S UNIVERSAL EMBROCATION

1/1 1/2



WE
WILL
RIDE
OR
IT
WILL
RIDE
OVER
US

Prepared only by
ELLIMAN Sons & Co.
Slough ENGLAND

STIFFNESS. ACHES. SPRAINS. BRUISES.

The American Costume was popular in the 1850's and early 1860's but lost popularity by the 1870's. In the 1890's the bicycle craze again brought back pants-like outfits into the wardrobes of some American women.

EGW: “Satan is leading them on to be a proverb in the mouth of unbelievers because of their boldness, their lack of reserve and womanly modesty.”
{AH 52.2}



EGW: "With the so-called dress reform there goes a spirit of levity and boldness just in keeping with the dress. Modesty and reserve seem to depart from many as they adopt that style of dress." {1T 457.4}



**In the 1870's,
after the hoops
went out of style,
the bustles came
in. The dresses
were still
dragging, and
corsets were still
required.**

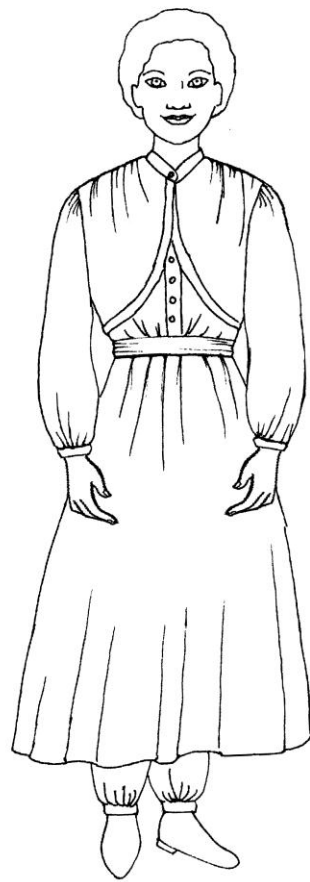


EGW: "We are urged by the Spirit of the Lord to bear a pointed testimony against the idolatry of dress in this age. If we are right with God, we will discard everything of a deforming character, such as paniers, (a type of bustle) bustles, unnecessary plaiting, and fashionable arrangement of the dress upon the body. " Testimonies on the Case of Elder E. P. Daniels (1890)

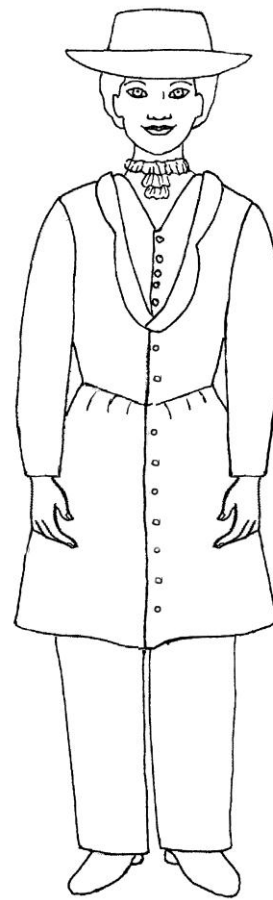


**The Seventh-day
Adventist Reform Dress
was promoted by Ellen
G. White from 1865
until 1881**

SDA Reform Dress

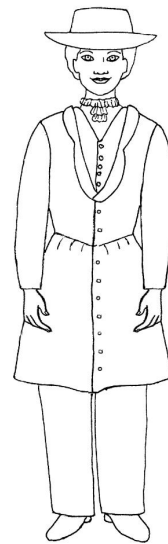


American Costume



As we look at the Seventh-day Adventist Reform Dress, advocated and worn by Ellen G. White, we will see clearly that this dress is designed to be feminine in style, with a longer length than the American Costume.

SDA Reform Dress



American Costume

EGW: "In wide contrast with this modest dress [the Seventh-day Adventist reform dress] is the so-called American costume, resembling very nearly the dress worn by men. It consists of a vest, pants, and a dress resembling a coat and reaching about halfway from the hip to the knee. This dress I have opposed, from what has been shown me as in harmony with the word of God; while the other I have recommended as modest, comfortable, convenient, and healthful." {1T 465.1}

- **Ellen G. White in God's version of the Reform Dress**



- **Very little of the pants-like undergarment was visible, so that the dress was the main feature, not the pants. It's advantage over the prevailing fashion of the very long dress is that it didn't drag in the dirt, it was looser at the waist, hanging from the shoulders, and it was plain.**



- Thus, it was in full harmony with the 4 basic principles of dress reform that **Ellen White** advocated:

- **Modesty**
- **Simplicity**
- **Gender distinction**
- **Healthfulness**



- **EGW-1865: "God would now have His people adopt the reform dress [SDA Reform Dress], not only to distinguish them from the world as His "peculiar people," but because a reform in dress is essential to physical and mental health." {1T 524.2}**

EGW: "The Lord has let light shine, and in His providence a style of dress modest, healthful, and convenient [SDA Reform Dress], has been proposed and adopted by those who were conscientious to follow the light." Testimony to the Church at Battle Creek - 1872, p. 61





EGW: "While none were compelled to adopt the [SDA] reform dress, our people could and should have appreciated its advantages and accepted it as a blessing." {4T 638.5}

The length of the "American Costume" dress compared with Ellen White's SDA Reform Dress

EGW: *"My views were calculated to correct the present fashion, the extreme long dress, trailing upon the ground, and also to correct the extreme short dress [American Costume], reaching about to the knees, [about 20-24 inches above the floor] which is worn by a certain class. I was shown that we should shun both extremes." {1T 464.1}*

The extremes we are to shun are:

- Dragging dresses that sweep the ground
 - Short, knee length dresses

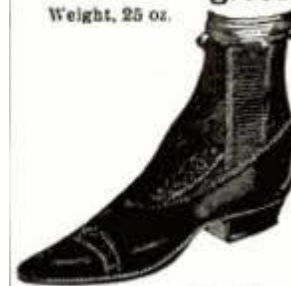
EGW: "By wearing the dress reaching about to the top of a woman's gaiter boot [about 9 inches from the floor] we shall escape the evils of the extreme long dress, and shall also shun the evils and notoriety of the extreme short dress [American Costume]. " {1T 464.1}

Gaiter Boot



Cloth Top Patent Leather Congress.

Weight, 25 oz.



52290 This shoe is really a full dress shoe, made in the very latest style, with cloth top, imitation button, with narrow toe and long perforated tip, making a very graceful and slightly shoe. The stock is Hyles' patent French calf skin, and made up by the most experienced shoe makers in this city; sole put on by the Good-year welt process;

medium, light and flexible, very desirable for party or dress wear. Sizes, 5 to 10. Widths, C, D, and E. Per pair. \$4.75



The Reform Dress Had an Approved Pattern

EGW: "Before putting on the [SDA] reform dress, our sisters should obtain patterns of the pants and sack worn with it." {1T 521}



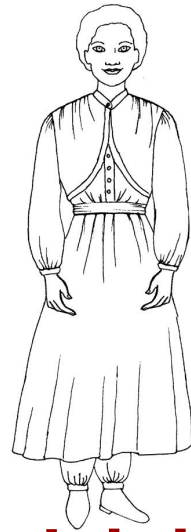
- **Ellen White wanted to make it clear that the SDA Reform Dress had a specific pattern. Just shortening any dress didn't qualify it as an SDA Reform Dress. It needed to be made by the approved pattern.**



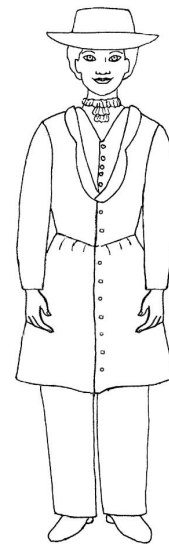
EGW: "Anything eight or nine inches from the floor is not the [SDA] reform dress. It should be cut by an approved pattern, and fitted and made by directions from one who has experience in this style of dress." {HR, September 1, 1868 par. 18}



SDA Reform Dress



American Costume



EGW: "We do not think it in accordance with our faith to dress in the American costume, to wear hoops, or to go to an extreme in wearing long dresses which sweep the sidewalks and streets. If women would wear their dresses so as to clear the filth of the streets an inch or two, their dresses would be modest, and they could be kept clean much more easily, and would wear longer. Such a dress would be in accordance with our faith." {1T 458.2}

In 1867, Ellen White wrote:

"I put on the [SDA] reformed dress September, 1865, when I visited Dansville with my sick husband. It was the same length I now wear, and I was distinctly given to understand that it was not the "American Costume." I have worn this style of dress ever since that time, excepting at meetings, in the crowded streets of villages and cities, and when visiting distant relatives. Since I commenced to write No. 11, in January, 1867, I have worn no other than the reformed dress." {RH, October 8, 1867 par. 13}





EGW: "I put on the dress [SDA Reform Dress], in length as near as I had seen and described as I could judge. My sisters in Northern Michigan also adopted it. {RH, October 8, 1867 par. 10}

- A vision given to Ellen White in 1867, confirmed God's approval of the SDA Reform Dress.

EGW: "But three companies of females passed before me, with their dresses as follows with respect to length:" {3SM 277.5}

Wrong



Long, dragging

Wrong



Above Knee length

Right



Few inches from floor

EGW: "The first were of fashionable length, burdening the limbs, impeding the step, sweeping the street and gathering its filth; the evil results of which I have fully stated. This class, who were slaves to fashion, appeared feeble and languid."
{3SM 278.1}



EGW: "The dress of the second class which passed before me was in many respects as it should be. The limbs were well clad. They were free from the burdens which the tyrant Fashion had imposed upon the first class; but had gone to that extreme in the short dress [American Costume] as to disgust and prejudice good people, and destroy in a great measure their own influence." {3SM 278.2}



EGW: “This is the style and influence of the 'American Costume,' taught and worn by many at Our Home, Dansville, New York. It does not reach to the knee. I need not say that this style of dress was shown me to be too short.” {3SM 278.2}



EGW: "A third class passed before me with cheerful countenances, and free, elastic step. Their dress was the length I have described as proper, modest and healthful. It cleared the filth of the street and sidewalk a few inches under all circumstances, such as ascending and descending steps, etc."

{3SM 278.3} -- Review and Herald, October 8, 1867.



God showed Ellen White that we should not wear dragging dresses that sweep the ground. That is too long.

We also should not wear around knee length dresses, even if they have pants under them. That is too short.

Wrong



Long, dragging

Wrong



Above Knee length

Right



Few inches from floor



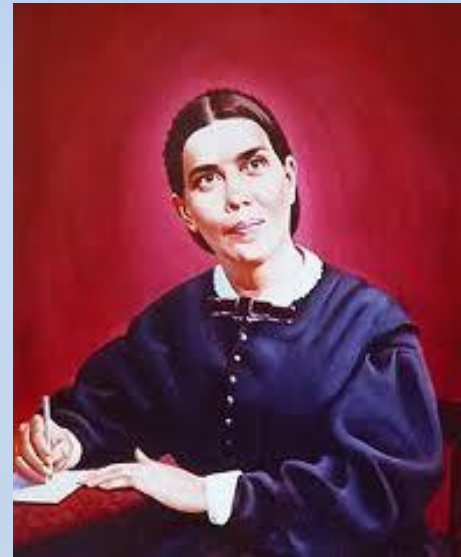
While we cannot know exactly what Ellen White saw in this vision as the acceptable dress to God, we do know that it cleared the ground by a few inches.

The SDA reform dress pattern that was developed averaged 9 inches from the floor.

See {RH, October 8, 1867 par. 10}

The SDA Reform Dress Was Laid Aside in 1881

While the approved SDA Reform Dress received some acceptance from the Seventh-day Adventist sisters, it was not widespread, and serious difficulties developed.

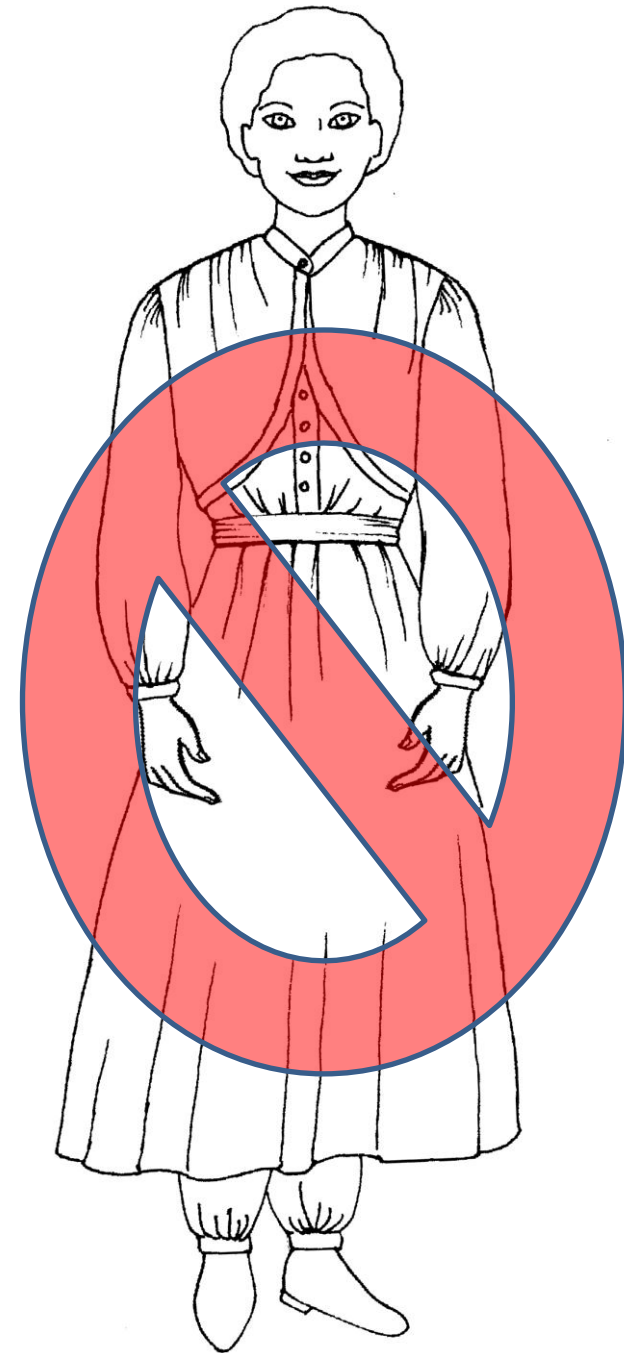


Around 1868 Ellen White said, "As I travel from place to place I find that the [SDA] reform dress is not rightly represented...."

For example, the length on this dress is close to the acceptable length, but the pattern is not according to the SDA reform dress.



- **Lack of uniformity, wrong attitudes--both by those who adopted it and those who resisted it--caused many problems.**
- **Therefore, in 1881, the SDA Reform Dress was no longer advocated.**



- **EGW: "The [SDA] reform dress, which was once advocated, proved a battle at every step." {SpM 91.1, 1885}**
- **The battle was caused by the rebellious hearts of the sisters.**
- **Therefore, our sisters were not encouraged to adopt this style of dress after 1881.**



• **EGW:** "The Lord has not moved upon any of our sisters [after 1881] to adopt the [SDA] reform dress. The difficulties that we once had to meet are not to be brought in again. There was so much resistance among our own people that it was removed from them. It would then have proved a blessing." {5MR 405.1} 1885



- **Because of the rebellion against God's dress reform, which, at 9 inches above the floor, was called "the short dress," EGW counseled: "...do not again introduce the short dress and pants [SDA Reform Dress] unless you have the Word of the Lord for it." {SpM 92.2} 1895**

**Sixteen years
later, she wrote:**

**EGW: "The Lord
has not indicated
that it is the duty
of our sisters to
go back to the
[SDA] reform
dress." {1MR 33.2}
1897**





- **A Less Objectionable Style of Dress was Advocated in 1881**

EGW: "As our sisters would not generally accept the [SDA] Reform Dress as it should be worn, another, less objectionable style is now presented. It is free from needless trimmings, free from the looped-up, tied back overskirts. It consists of a plain sack or loose-fitting basque, [bodice] and skirt, the latter short enough to avoid the mud and filth of the streets." {4T 640.1}



EGW: “The material should be free from large plaids and figures, and plain in color. The same attention should be given to the clothing of the limbs as with the short dress [SDA Reform Dress].” {4T 640.1}



(This health principle of covering the limbs should not be ignored!)

The style of dress now advocated by God's prophetess is as follows:

- It was to be a simple, unadorned dress of modest length.
- But there was no specific pattern or style to follow.
- It was to be longer than the SDA Reform Dress, reaching closer to the ankle.
- The limbs were to be covered.



EGW: "The dress of our people should be made most simple. The skirt and sacque or sac [a modest bodice that covers the upper part of a woman's body, feminine jacket] I have mentioned, may be used,--not just that pattern and nothing else should be established; but a simple style, as was represented in that dress.
{1MR 33.1}



EGW: "Some have supposed that the very pattern given was the pattern that all were to adopt. This is not so. But something as simple as this would be the best we could adopt under the circumstances. No one precise style has been given me as the exact rule to guide all in their dress. . . .The Lord has not indicated that it is the duty of our sisters to go back to the [SDA] reform dress. Simple dresses should be worn. Try your talent, my sisters, in this essential reform." Letter 19, 1897, pp 2, 3. (To Brother J. H. Haughey, July 4, 1897.) {1MR 33.2} {HL 119.1} {3SM 254.3}

Lessons From the Past

God guided Ellen White to call for a dress reform, that corrected the errors of the prevailing fashion, but also guarded against the extreme fashion of the American Costume. The Seventh-day Adventist reform dress was laid aside because of the lack of acceptance and uniformity among the Seventh-day Adventist sisters. We can learn from this experience what is acceptable to God, and what is not acceptable to Him.

By the early 1890's, the prevailing fashion was coming more into line with God's principles on dress--modesty, femininity, and healthfulness. It was a "more sensible style of dress." It didn't drag on the ground, it didn't require corsets, and it wasn't so heavy, but hung from the shoulders. Extravagance was still an issue, but God's daughters were counseled to leave off the extra trimmings, and dress with simplicity.



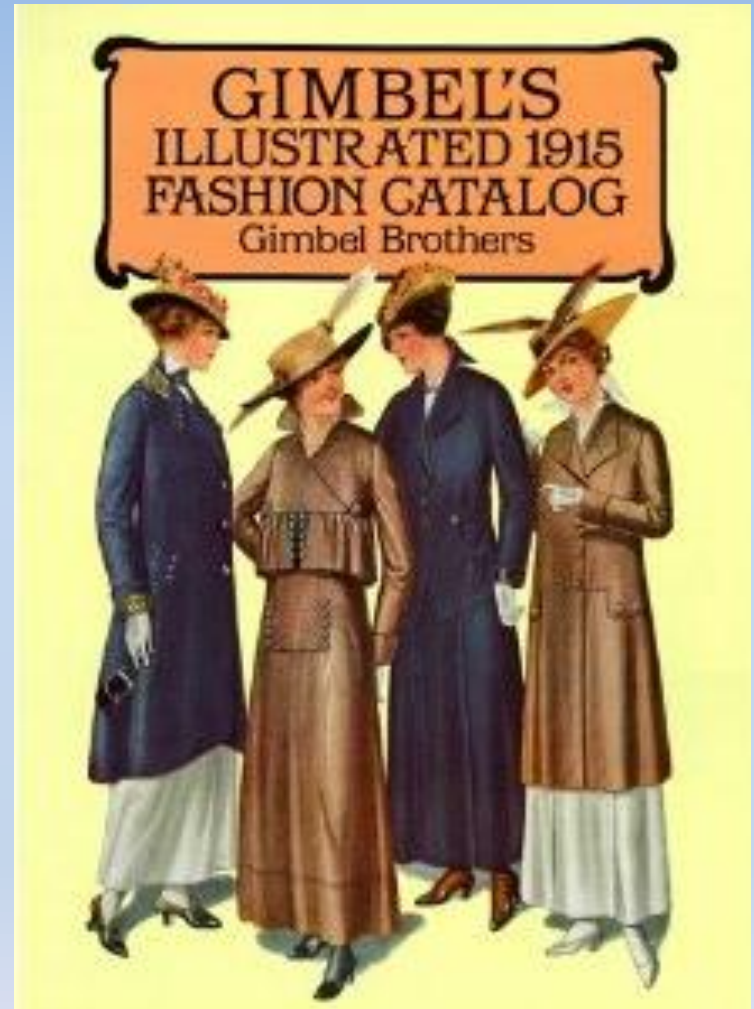
EGW: "But the more sensible style of dress now being adopted does not embrace the objectionable features. The fashionable part may be discarded, and should be by all who will read the Word of God." {SpM 91. 1}



- The following secular source, written in 1913, describes how the unhealthful issues that Ellen White spoke against were no longer fashionable:



- In the one-piece dresses now in vogue the weight is borne from the shoulders, and the hips are relieved by reducing the skirts in weight, length, and number. The skirt no longer trails upon the street. The women who, for conscientious reasons, refused to squeeze their waists, and in consequence suffered the scorn of their sex, now find themselves on the fashionable side.



- A thirty-two-inch waist is regarded as permissible, where formerly a twenty-inch waist was thought proper. A fashionably gowned woman of the present day can stoop to pick up a pin at her feet.--
New York Independent, Oct. 23, 1913



Street-Costumes, Simple and Elaborate



We can understand why Ellen White made the following statement when we consider how some of the prevailing fashions actually provided a style of dress that could be worn while still upholding God's standards.

EGW: "If the world introduce a modest, convenient, and healthful mode of dress, which is in accordance with the Bible, it will not change our relation to God or to the world to adopt such a style of dress." {CG 414.3}



- In other words, Ellen White was counseling Seventh-day Adventist women that they could now wear the modest, convenient and healthful style that was currently in fashion in the late 1800's and early 1900's, as long as they kept it free from extravagance.



- During the late 1800's, it was much easier to find clothing that was compatible with God's principles than previously. However, worldly fashion generally has certain aspects that cannot be conscientiously followed by God's people.





We can learn from the experiences of the past that, regardless of the prevailing fashions, God wants His daughters to dress modestly, femininely, simply and healthfully. We need to reject those areas that are not in compliance, making sure we uphold God's principles.

In our next presentation, we will be considering how the fashions have developed from the 1870's to our present time.



End of Part 3