

Baker Street Elementary

Presents
"The Life and Times in Victorian London"



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& AboutBritain.com

The Life and Times in Victorian London
AB018 - Men's Victorian Dress Code -- February, 2022



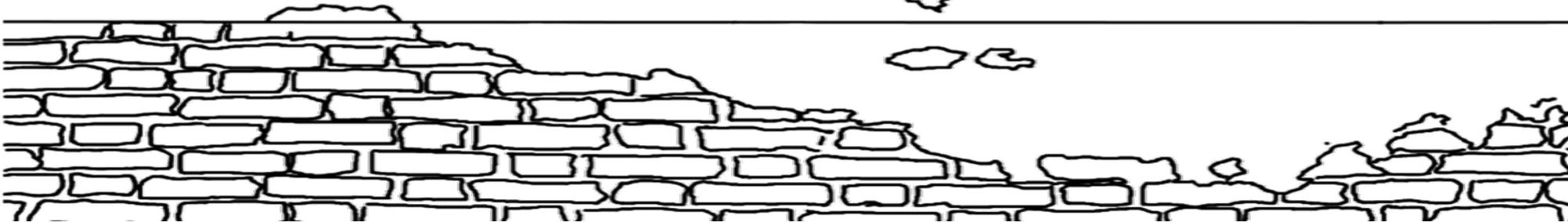
Welcome to topic # AB018... Today, we will discuss what gentlemen wore during the Victorian period. Thanks so much to AboutBritain.com for use of their summary text for this lesson.



Victorian gentlemen had to have a very full wardrobe to cover every social eventuality.

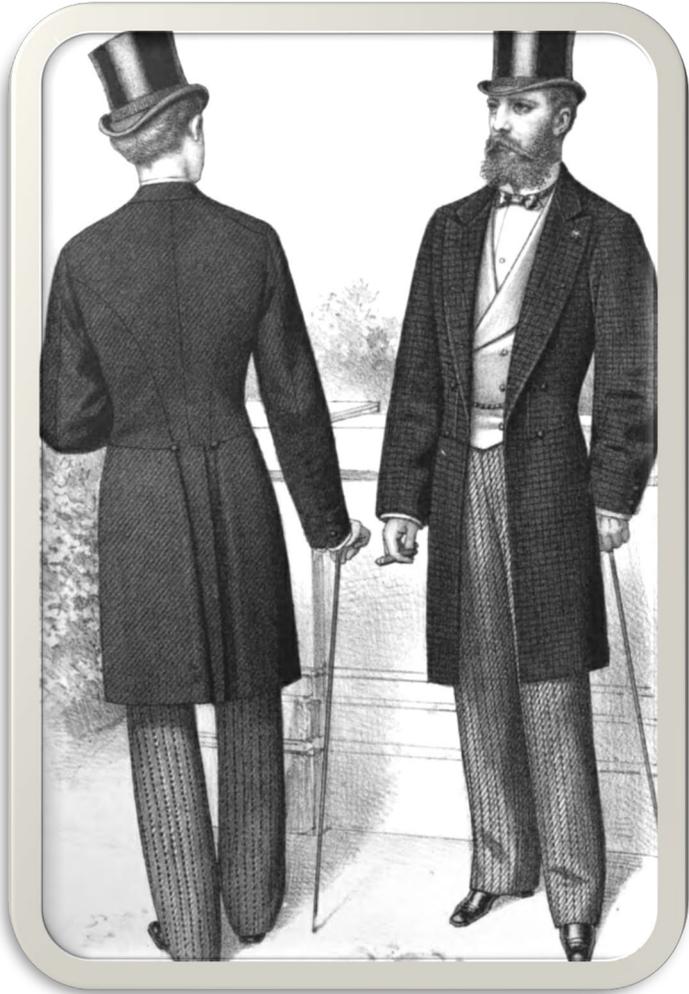


Men's fashion was always reported in full detail by Harper's Bazaar and fashionable young men followed the correct Victorian dress code most carefully.



Full dress in Victorian times required men to wear a black dress coat with a full collar and broad lapels which would be turned down low.

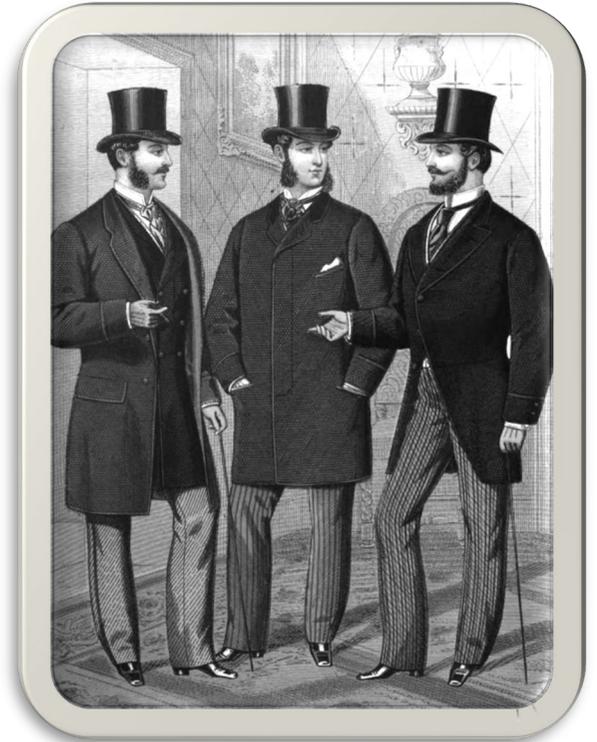




Beneath the knee-length coat was a white vest, showing at the neck, and black pantaloon-style trousers which were generally made of doeskin.



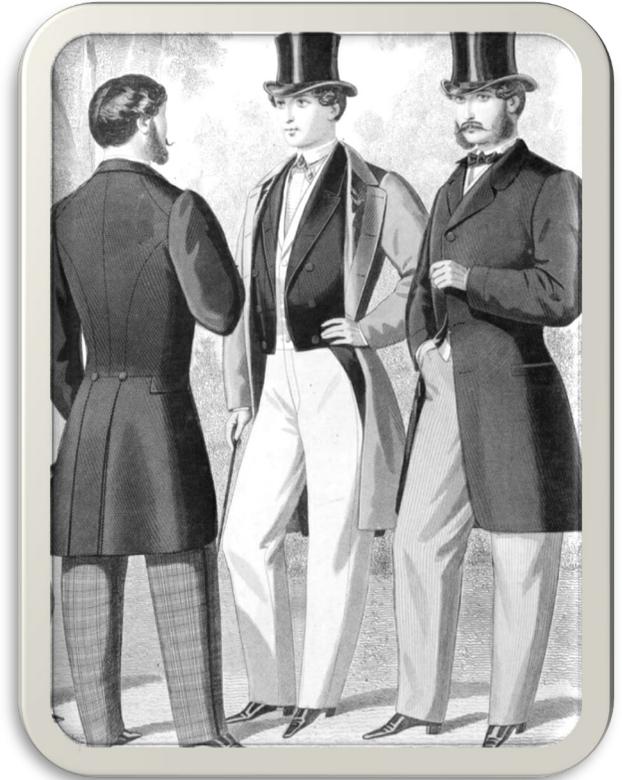
Younger men wishing to wear something brighter than sombre black would lead the Victorian dress fashion...



*...by wearing a blue coat,
white vest and lavender
pants with matching gloves.*

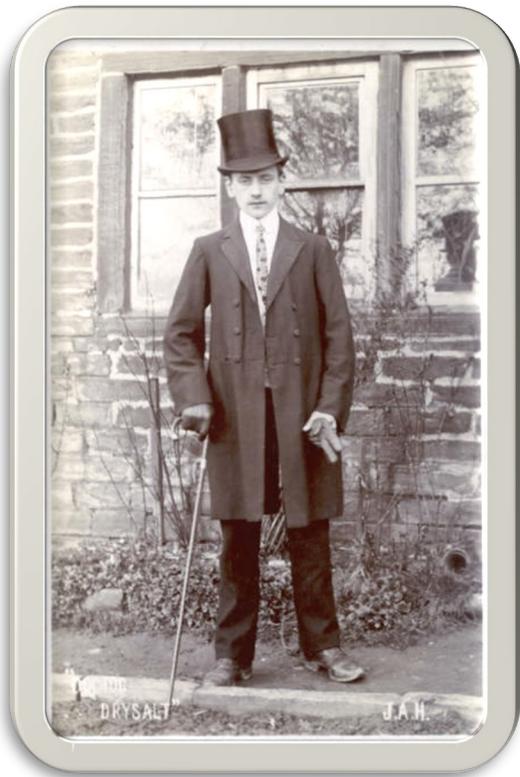


For walking out, the walking dress was a shorter frock coat which was double-breasted. Generally they were made of diagonally ribbed heavy coat fabric or a plain cloth in a suitably dark color.

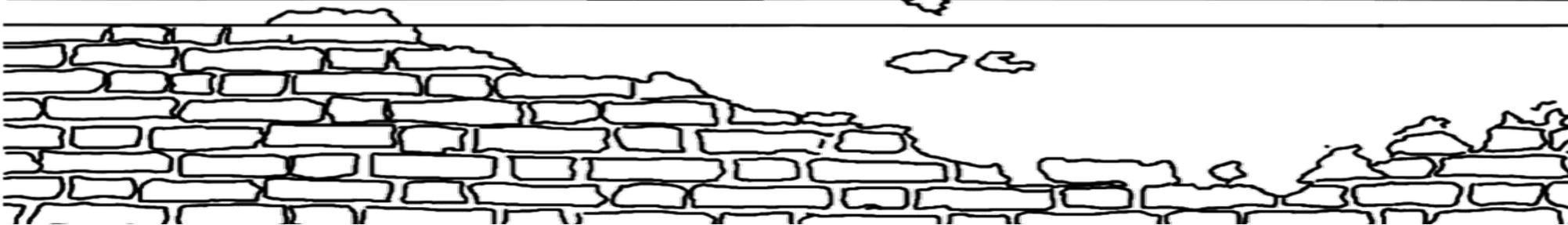


A matching undervest would be worn with a broad collar rolled down to show above the front of the coat.





Trousers would have been in a dark color with a side stripe in a toning shade, similar to dress trousers today.





Alternatively, diagonally striped trousers in grey would have been worn.





These were close fitting on the leg with a wider boot cut at the ankle.



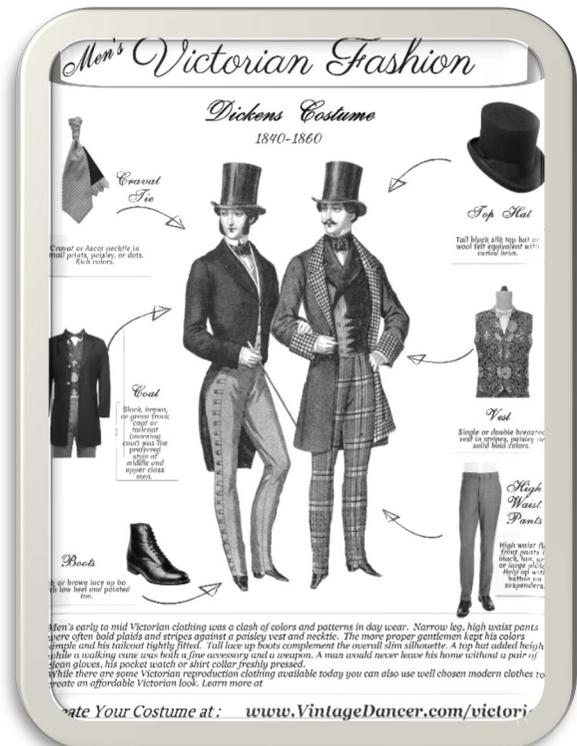
Black cloth walking dress was considered appropriate for visiting. In the autumn, an overcoat would have been an important part of Victorian dress for men.



*A loose-fitting coat would
have been worn in a tan or
nondescript color.*



It would have had a dark lining which turned out in a roll to show as a contrast at the front of the coat.

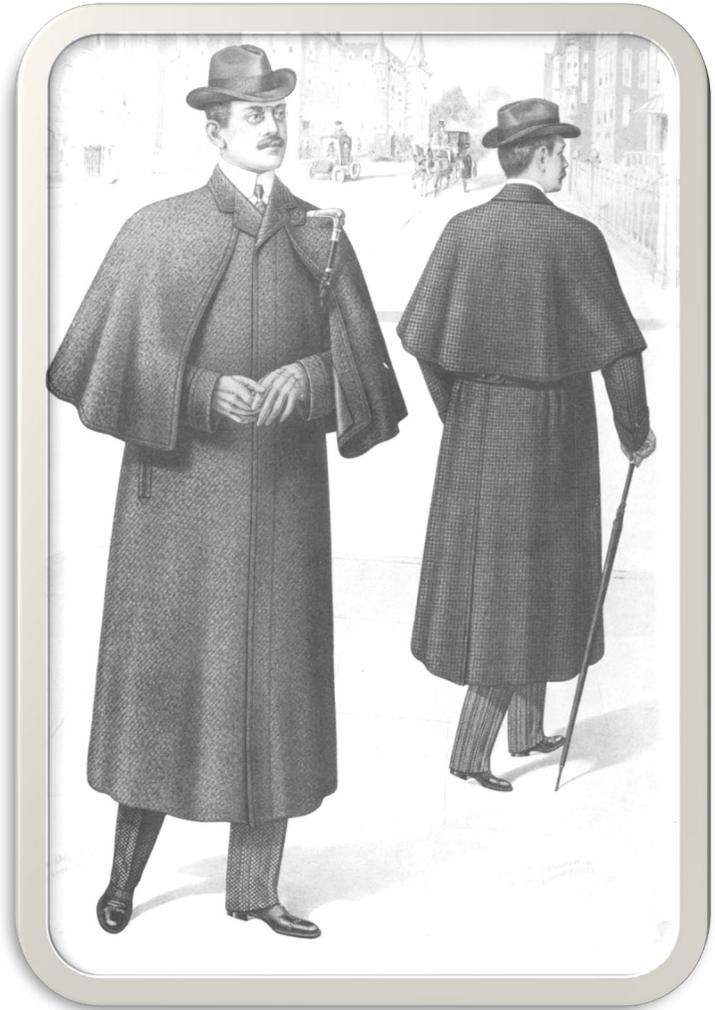


For winter attire, a surtout would have been worn. It was longer than an overcoat and made of Elysian beaver.



GENTLEMEN'S WALKING COSTUME [February 22, 1860]

This warm cloth had a rough surface but was soft inside and would have been dyed brown, blue or deep claret.





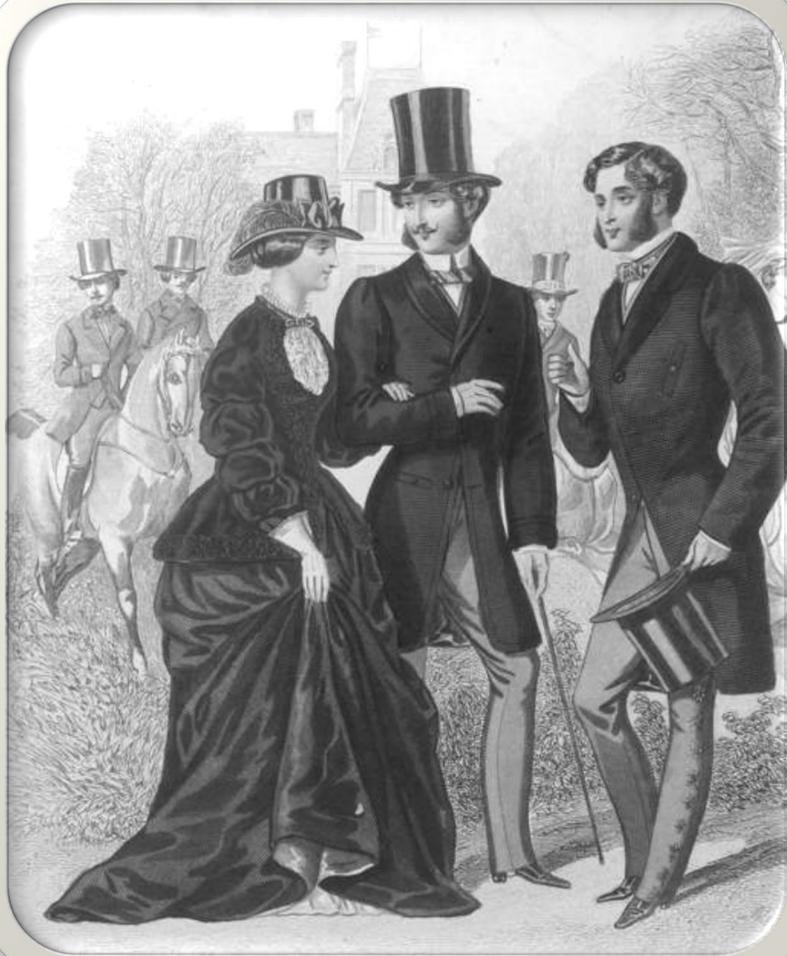
*Victorian gentlemen were
as keen on wearing hats
as women.*





The silk top hat had a slightly bell-shaped crown and a two-inch brim all around which was curved upwards at either side.





Cashmere was used to line the brim. For full dress, glossy silk beavers were worn.



For travelling or theatre visits, Victorian dress required gentlemen to wear pocket hats, made of felt, ribbed silk or Scottish woven cloth to match the suit.

JORDAN, MARSH AND COMPANY.

MEN'S HATS AND CAPS.

Silk Hats.

Cuts Nos. 1 and 2 are styles of our special quality \$5 Silk Hats. Best silk plush and trimmings used in the manufacture of these hats.

No. 1. Men's Latest. Price, \$5.

No. 2. Boston Style. Prices, \$2 to 3.50.

No. 7. Ladies' Riding Hat. Price, \$5.

No. 8. Young Men's in latest shades. Prices, \$2 to 3.50.

Men's Stiff Hats.

In the latest styles and correct shades. Prices, \$1.50, 2, 2.50, 3, 3.50.

No. 3. Imported Golf Caps, new combinations of colors. Prices, 50, 75c, \$1.

No. 9. Alpine, all colors. Prices, \$1.50 to 4.50.

No. 4. Men's Yachts, all colors. Prices, 50, 75c, \$1, 1.50, 2.

No. 10. The "Varsity," pearl, brown, and black. Prices, \$2, 2.50, 3.

Men's Soft Hats.

In all the popular styles and nobby colors. Prices, \$1, 1.50, 2, 2.50, 3, 3.50.

No. 5. Latest shape in black and new colors. \$2 to 3.50.

No. 11. Harvard, in black, pearl, and light and dark browns. \$2, 2.50, 3.

Men's Cloth Hats and Caps.

No. 6. Men's Flat Brim Sailor Straw. 50c to \$3.

No. 12. Men's Soft Brim Straw Hat, 50c to \$3.

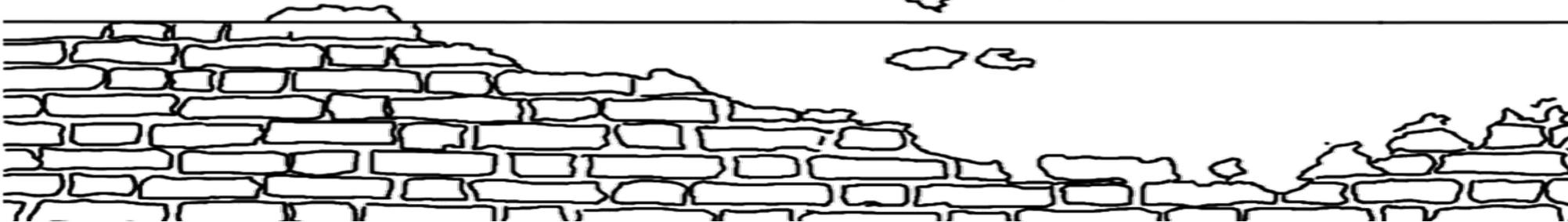
This cut represents the manner in which we ship hats to all parts of the United States and Canada.

In ordering hats or caps, be sure to give size of hat worn or size of head in inches. Also state age of person the hat or cap is for. We make to order any style of cap to match suits. Use number when ordering hats or caps.

Read about our Mail-Order Prices on the inside of last cover.



Handkerchiefs to match the wearer's outfit and brown or maroon leather gloves completed the Victorian dress code.



Glove powder was used to ease the wearing of new doeskin gloves.



Footwear for Victorian gentlemen was just as correct. Street wear required high buttoned or laced shoes which had strong soles and low, wide heels.

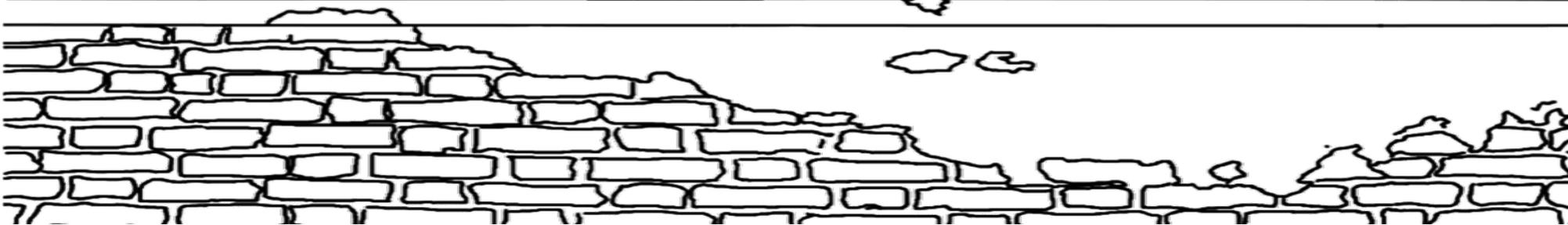


For evening, calf-skin gaiters were worn on the lower leg. They had elasticated sides. Boots with light soles completed the full dress.



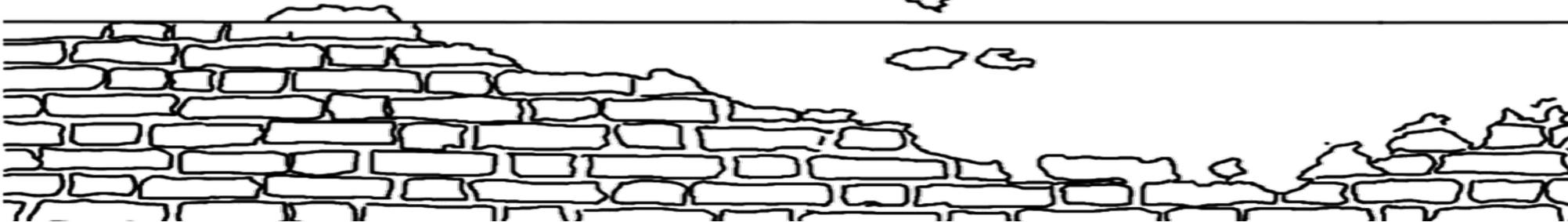


*Relaxed evenings at home
required billiard or smoking
jackets made of grey cloth.*





*They were trimmed to
match the bright
flannel lining.*



Dressing gowns were made of dark colored wool serge cloth and trimmed with diamond-stitched green or gold silk on the lapels. A tasseled silk cord was tied at the waist.



*Again, thanks to AboutBritain.com
for their help... So we have
completed topic # AB018 in our
series...*

*Yes, but we'll be back
with another topic
soon...*





Original Source Material for this topic:

1) <https://www.aboutbritain.com/articles/mens-victorian-dress-code.asp>

