

# Clara's 1838 Frock and Pantaloons

Clara's ball dress is a light India muslin frock with pantaloons. Clara is not old enough to wear a full-length gown, so the pantaloons would cover her legs to the ankle. The trim that crosses the bodice is called a "fichu drapery," which is basically a lightweight scarf worn over the shoulders. Clara has her hair in ringlets, tied up with ribbons. She also has a neck knot in place of a necklace. The sleeve knots, belt, neck knot, and hair ribbons would all match. This particular dress appeared on a fashion plate in *The World of Fashion*; January 1838. The slippers were very thin and fragile and would only be worn at a dance. The slippers are tied with bows, also matching the ribbons on the dress. Stockings were common in this time frame, and were usually made of a light cotton. The stockings were knit in a tube, with the sole cut and then sewn into place.

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