A Nictorian Etiquette Primer

A Netbook by Pythagoras (http://www.hardpoints.de)

Moral Values

- Always keep your word.
- >> Lying is seen as very vulgar.
- Always protect those weaker than yourself.
- Knowledge is valuable for its own sake.

Addressing Others

Never approach a person to whom you have not been formally introduced.

Never address your social betters first, unless you are on intimate terms

Address all your acquaintances by their title and last name

Calling Cards

Hand out your cards during the first event of the season.

When arriving uninvited or at a large event, leave your card with the butler.

If the person you call upon is not present, fold the top right corner to say: "You need not return this call - I'm just dropping by."

Ladies

A lady never smokes or gambles for money.

A lady never calls alone upon a gentleman except upon a matter of business or on a professional call.

If riding with a lover, place her on your left, so that people know she's not your wife. Letters from a mistress should always be sent to a gentleman's club, and delivered face down on a salver, so that the name or handwriting cannot be recognized.

Unmarried girls don't wear dark colours or much jewellery.

A man should not sit down as long as a lady is still standing.

While travelling a lady will not even let her husband enter rooms that are restricted to women.

Faux-Pas

By divorce, you become a social pariah.

Avoid topics such as religion or politics during social events.

The waltz is considered quite scandalous in England.

Shopping

It is not polite to look at things that you do not intend to buy.

Before examining an item for flaws, the vendor should be asked politely.

Do not haggle.

A gentleman will not carry his purchases home himself but will have them sent.