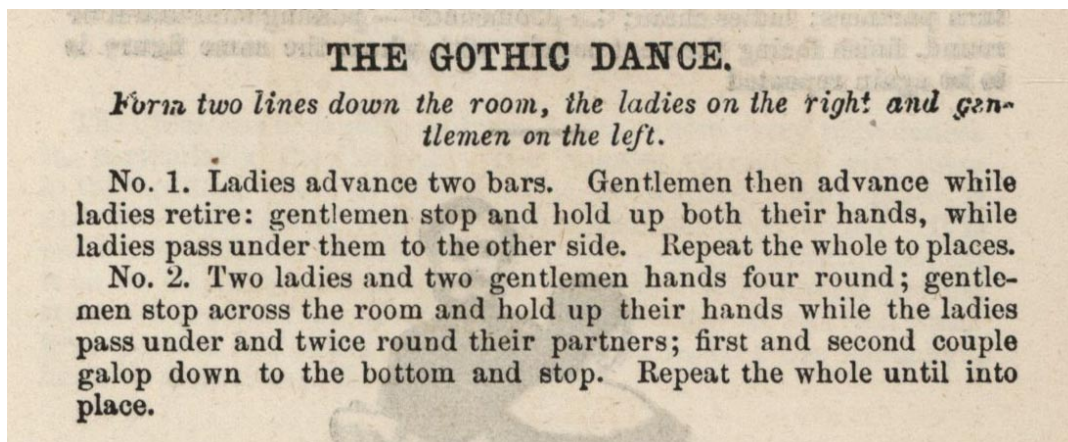


## THE GOTHIC DANCE, 1862

AMERICAN DANCING MASTER, AND BALL-ROOM PROMPTER, Elias Howe, Boston, 1862

Reconstruction by Richard Powers



Formation: Longways set, with gents and ladies each on their own side.

Honor partners; honor vis-a-vis.

### Bars **Part No. 1**

- 2 All ladies take hands along the line and advance to the gent's line.
- 2 Ladies retire as gents advance at the same time.
- 4 Gents stay and raise their arms in arches, as ladies pass under, passing to the left of their partners (under his R arm), crossing over to end in the gent's former line, and all about-face turning halfway to the right.
- 8 Repeat, to places.

### **Part No. 2**

- 2 Top two couples take hands-four and circle halfway around to the left, crossing over to the other side. \*
- 6 The gents keep held hands, raised in an arch, as ladies drop partners' hands and pass under, twice around their partners, ending in front of them.
- 8 Top two couples galop down the center, to the bottom, and stay there, with gents and ladies falling back to their own sides.

\* Some current reconstructions have this hands-four circle turn 3/4 around, for 4 bars, ending with gent #2 on the opposite side and gent #1 on the men's side, with the arch aligned across the set. This results in four problems: 1) since the circling took 4 bars, the

ladies don't have enough time to go under the arch twice in the remaining 4 bars, 2) galop position is awkwardly turned halfway around for one couple, 3) the couples galop side-by-side down the center, taking twice the width than is available (especially with crinolines), and 4) the side-by-side couples have to then choose who is in which position when they reach the bottom.

All four problems can be fixed with continual adjustments, but if the description is noted "gentlemen stop *across the room*," meaning on the other side of the set, then all four problems are resolved at once. 1) Half-circling takes only 2 bars, leaving 6 bars of music for the ladies to travel under the arch twice, 2) galop position is correct for everyone, 3) the couples galop one-after-another down the center, therefore fitting the available space, and 4) they remain in order with the #1 couple above the #2 couple when they reach the bottom.