

Why does she work? Are Americans like this?

Henry James became a naturalized British subject out of impatience with America's reluctance to enter World War I. He had involved himself in war-relief work starting in 1915. In 1916, he was awarded the British Order of Merit. Despite their considerable difficulty, most of James's novels and tales have remained in print. The rich depth of his work—especially his incisive psychological renderings of why people do the things they do—has continued to attract literary scholars and critics, as well as millions of readers around the world.

1st person - why work?

Daisy Miller: A Study

1878/1879

I

At the little town of Vevey, in Switzerland, there is a particularly comfortable hotel. There are, indeed, many hotels; for the entertainment of tourists is the business of the place, which, as many travelers will remember, is seated upon the edge of a remarkably blue lake²—a lake that it behoves every tourist to visit. The shore of the lake presents an unbroken array of establishments of this order, of every category, from the "grand hotel" of the newest fashion, with a chalk-white front, a hundred balconies, and a dozen flags flying from its roof, to the little Swiss *pension* of an elder day, with its name inscribed in German-looking lettering upon a pink or yellow wall, and an awkward summer-house in the angle of the garden. One of the hotels at Vevey, however, is famous, even classical, being distinguished from many of its upstart neighbors by an air both of luxury and of maturity. In this region, in the month of June, American travelers are extremely numerous; it may be said, indeed, that Vevey assumes at this period some of the characteristics of an American watering-place. There are sights and sounds which evoke a vision, an echo, of Newport and Saratoga. There is a flitting hither and thither of "stylish" young girls, a rustling of muslin flounces, a rattle of dance-music in the morning hours, a sound of high-pitched voices at all times. You receive an impression of these things at the excellent inn of the "Trois Couronnes,"³ and are transported in fancy to the Ocean House or to Congress Hall. But at the "Trois Couronnes," it must be added, there are other features that are much at variance with these suggestions: neat German waiters, who look like secretaries of legation; Russian princesses sitting in the garden; little Polish boys walking about, held by the hand, with their governors; a view of the snowy crest of the Dent du Midi and the picturesque towers of the Castle of Chillon.⁵

is there a captain? as a teacher

ladies emphasis on the feminine

all over hired helps work aristocratic

Hardly know whether it was the analogies or the differences that were uppermost in the mind of a young American, who, two or three years ago, sat in the garden of the "Trois Couronnes," looking about him, rather idly, at some of the graceful objects I have mentioned. It was a beautiful summer morning, and in whatever fashion the young American looked at things, they must have seemed to him charming. He had come from Geneva the day

1875

Why Byron? Is there a woman or woman? I remember? why?

1. First published in the *Cornhill Magazine* 37 (June-July 1878). The text reprinted here follows the first British book edition, published by Macmillan in 1879. Punctuation and spelling have been Americanized. The editor was Sir Leslie Stephen, Virginia Woolf's father and an editor willing to take on this then-sandalous story, vilified in America as slandering American womanhood. Of

2. Lac Léman, or Lake of Geneva.
3. Newport, Rhode Island, and Saratoga, New York, resort areas for the rich, where the Ocean House and Congress Hall (below) are located.
4. Three Crowns (French).
5. The romantic setting for Byron's poem "The Prisoner of Chillon" (1816). "Dent du Midi": the highest peak in the Dents du Midi, a mountain