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Isabella L. Bird

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Isabella L. Bird : English Woman in America before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised English Woman in America:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. British Traveler's Lucid Description of 1850's AmericaBy thomas doerflingerBritish traveler Isabella Bird wrote an informative first-hand account of the U.S. before the Civil War. Her North American ramble started in Canada; she provides a telling contrast between the rather laid-back manners of Canadians and the aggressive "go-ahead" capitalist culture of the U.S. in the 1850's. Good descriptions of Chicago, Cincinnati, Boston and New York City, as well as Niagara Falls, which was a "must visit" attraction at that time. Like other British travelers she was struck by the absence of poverty and class distinctions (among whites) in the U.S.-- something professional historians tend to ignore. "This mingling of all ranks is far from being disagreeable," she writes. "In many parts of England it would be difficult for a lady to travel unattended in a second-class, impossible in a third-class carriage."

Isabella Lucy Bird (October 15, 1831 - October 7, 1904) was a nineteenth-century English traveller and writer.