

OFF FOR AN OUTING

Cheaper to Go Abroad Than to the Seashore

SOME HINTS TO TRAVELERS

How to Spend a Thousand Dollars to Best Advantage—A Great Deal May Be Enjoyed for That Sum.



It was a good deal amused the other day by the remarks of a dear honest fellow, a friend of mine, just returned from one of those hop-skip-and-jump excursions to "the other side," now so commonly substituted for the old summer vacation at some watering place, where one simply regales in a very inconspicuous and unassuming style the laborious pleasures of the winter in a great city.

And just by way of parenthesis, let me commend the new fashion to all my compatriots who have not yet tried it and who have the means to do so.

I suppose no individual can spend a season at Long Branch, Newport, Saratoga and the White mountains for less than a thousand dollars, and of course there are opportunities for spending considerably more if one is so inclined and has it to spend. I do not intend the larger class who, as I am informed, manage to incur charges of a thousand dollars or over and get away without paying them. If there are any such persons among my readers, I cannot advise them to "go across" instead of patronizing the usual almighty landlards, for the simple reason that they could not do it. A Commodore ticket is a cash article, and the wandering American abroad must pay as he goes, and if he does not disguise his nationality must pay about double the price a Frenchman or German would be charged.

In fact, the American abroad or, as one might say from the European land-lord standpoint, the American innocents abroad have almost supplanted the Englishman, who used to be the type of wealthy folly and ignorance of the value of money. To be sure, a great many Europeans of the land-lord class confuse the two nationalities and call all English-speaking people "Milk and Angles," without heeding the exact meridian whence they spring. The golden goose is as valuable if it come across the high seas or only across the narrow sea, and is as sure to scatter its golden eggs with careless profusion in the one case as the other. But like the goose, my own proper goose quill is wandering from its subject, and that subject is the recommending you, my dear reader, to spend your next spare thousand dollars in getting at least a cursory view of the older countries, which of course, we all agree, are not half so good as ours, but still have merits of their own worth a few weeks' study at least.

If you intend to travel on price, ride in first class carriages, stay at first class, or rather at fashionable, hotels, buy everything you see, move about from place to place like the restless and energetic American you are, the thousand dollars won't last many weeks, and you will do well to get aside a hundred dollars with your return ticket so that when your last bill at Maurice's is rendered, and your hair stiffness in horror upon your head, and your careful French completely fails to convey your sense of indignation and astonishment, you may still have the means of getting home, a matter but a much wiser man than when you left.

If, however, you have the wisdom to accept the experience of those who have done you "deme the grand tour," as it is used to be called, and have themselves done charmingly brown by the money gainers of foreign lands, if you will read, mark and inwardly digest the warnings and the advice so plentifully printed in books, and now once more proffered for your consideration, you may make your thousand dollars spread over many months, and perhaps a year, including of course the passages across the Atlantic.

In fact, I know a gentleman who, wishing to pursue certain studies in the cathedral cities of England, went there, about a year, and returned, all upon gold, but it is not everybody who could or who would care to do as much as this, but I mention it to show what may be done by a man devoted to his art and curious of his bodily comfort. But upon the basis of \$1,000 a great deal may be seen and done and enjoyed.

In the first place, the second saloon on a large ocean steamer is perfectly comfortable and respectable, and I have known many persons of larger brains than persons who have taken their tickets "intermediate" and survived to tell the tale with great satisfaction, notably a close friend of my acquaintance whom I have been pleased to honor with my own had arrived in England, and who is always recommending his friends to go and do likewise. Then, having reached England, France or Germany, according to which line you select—and how I will mention that the French is the cheapest, the English the most amusing and the English the most luxurious—your first business is to find lodgings and get yourself out of the hotel whether you at first naturally make your way, unless, indeed, you have been provident enough to ask some friend of acquaintance to recommend you to a good lodging, and to make a bargain for your time there. Then find out what is to be seen and discover how much of it is within walking distance. Don't employ valets de place or chambermen if you want to save both your money and your temper, but employ your English tongue (if you are in England) and your American wit, which are at least as keen as those of any other nationality.

If you use carriages find out the proper legal charges and have it clearly understood before you start. Don't be signally in giving "tips" here and there, for the custom abroad is so unusual that you only lay yourself open to insult and neglect by ignoring it, but it is not necessary to be lavish in this matter. A shilling—that is to say a quarter of a dollar in our money—satisfies a large proportion of the horse leeches who cry "Olive! give!" at every turn.

Them in the matter of clothes; plain, unobtrusive, neat garments are really more useful and in better taste for a traveler than anything costly or showy. You will find dressmakers, not to say princesses, at certain times and places, luxuriating in homespun and soft wool fabrics, with all their velvets and laces left in charge of the maid, who for her part would scorn appearing in anything less than silk.

Remember always in traveling that, although the world is small in one way, in another it is pretty big, and that although in your own town or your own circle you are a very big fish, and much regarded and commented upon by the smaller fry around you, that when you move out of your native puddle into the next one you find other fish quite as big as yourself and other fry quite too abundant to watch their own magnitudes with much time for contemplating you. There is no such efficient lesson as humility as to travel economically in countries foreign to your own. Even though you write your name in to any place every hotel register and in every gallery, museum and hospice where you are allowed to do so, you will seldom find that anybody will turn to look after you as you move away.

The czar, the emperor, the queens dowager and regnant, the sultan and Tom Thumb are sure to have a following of gaping admirers, and must, poor things, find it a great bore never to be able to gaze or sneeze without seeing it in print next day, but the rest of us, especially we untitled Americans, need not trouble too much about preserving our incognito, for as a general thing it preserves itself, and we may make our little economies and pursue our own little way, quite sure that we shall, "the world forgetting," be "by the world forgotten."

Another point in the wise expenditure of this thousand dollars is to see a few places thoroughly, and not try to visit every point of interest in Europe. It is traveling and hotel charges that eat up one's funds on such excursions. If you make straight for London, put yourself at once into lodgings at the West End, and make good use of your own feet, of buses and cabs at fixed rates, and you can see in a month or so with profit and pleasure, and at a comparatively small outlay.

You can't go to the races, nor to Greenwich for whitebait dinners, nor have boxes at the opera, nor flowers from Covent Garden, nor can you enjoy the varied and profuse table Americans think necessary; in fact, you must economize all the time, and if you will do so you will find that there are a great many things to be had in London that you cannot have at home, and it is better to save money at the one point that you may spend it at another.

On this head of domestic economy abroad, let me remind you that where abroad, especially in England, you may have fruit, vegetables and flowers as profusely and cheaply as in America. I remember a friend who, intending to make a little money go a long way, lived in lodgings in London, ordering her food day by day from the landlady, who buys and prepares it, bringing in a weekly account of her expenditures. Thinking to be very economical, my friend ordered lightly of meats and made it up on vegetables and fruit. At the end of the month she was presented with a bill whose amount would have kept her at a first class New York hotel for the same length of time, and on examination found that for twenty days she had paid twenty dollars in the item of green peas alone.

In Paris the cheap way to live is to find two or three friends with whom you may take a little furnished apartment and a bonne, who will make your purchases of food, fuel, etc., charging a moderate percentage, and not, as a general thing, cheating you more than is customary and tolerable. This is a very pleasant and a very economical way to live if only you can find the two or three friends, and do not expect to be very comfortable in the way of warmth, for fuel is a great luxury in Paris.

You may live after this fashion still more economically in the German cities, notably Munich, which is sometimes spoken of as the most economical city in Europe, and there are certainly many things in Munich worth considering. For myself I don't like Germany nor German cities, being essentially Latin in my tastes, antecedents and associates, but you, on the other hand, may be a Saxon, and find in the Vater-Land everything your heart can desire.

Speaking of Germany reminds me that I began by speaking of the ingenious youth who was giving me an account of his travels, and the thing that amused me most was his description of the table d'hôte dinner, at which he for some days "assisted" in a German town whose name I have forgotten, and where he was very much impressed with the fact that everybody, even very ordinary guests indeed, bowed politely to the company upon seating themselves, made conversation with their neighbors as occasion suggested, offered little table courtesies to each other as if they were at home, and finally, on rising, uttered the gracious German valedictory of "Mahazzeit" that is to say, "Good luck with your digestion, friends!"

"The idea of wishing a lot of strangers anything at all!" exclaimed this most amusing young fellow. "And above all to concern themselves lest that villainous cabbage soup and greasy sausage should disagree with me, as of course they were safe to do, and did. Still it was very friendly of those fellows to say it, and of course I didn't want they should think we Americans didn't know manners and couldn't be as pretty behaved as a German, so after the first dinner I took to bowing and Mahazzeiting as well as the next man. Don't you think it was the right thing to do?"

Certainly I thought it the right thing to do and told him so, and also took occasion to air a favorite theory of my own that Americans ought always and everywhere and with everybody to be as well mannered as anybody else under the sun. We as a nation are made up from every people and every race, and there is no reason that we should not stimulate and practice not only those sturdy and ponderous virtues of the English, upon which we are so apt to plume ourselves, but the more gracious and graceful qualities of the Latin races.

Whether the Frenchman, or the Spaniard, or the Italian means sincerely every word he says or not, it is certainly pleasant to hear him say it; and why should not his American cousin be just as courteous as he, and at the same time just as sincere and reliable as their mutual cousin, John Bull? I don't see why we need always be "take after" one side of our ancestry and ignore the other. Let us, if not aloud, certainly in our manner, say to all our fellow travelers, as I now say cordially to you, Mahazzeit! MRS. FRANK LESLIE.

Paris Fashions. The new spring gowns are characterized by lightness and delicate effects which have not been seen in Paris for many seasons. The crepons, the spring weight wools and the silks and grenadines all have a light and floating effect, given partly by lace and ribbons, and partly by the waving accordion plaises which one sees everywhere. And the windows and magazines are full of painted or printed muslins and of light silks with cascades of ruffles of chiffon and silk mull so fine that a breath sets it waving.

There are beautiful light parasols covered with floating ruffles of chiffon, fans covered with puffs and ruffles of the same, and veils and scarfs for hats of the same delicate material. What a pity it remains so dear when it is so pretty. For immediate wear there are light colored Bedford, cashmeres and woolsens, with quaint but beautiful figures woven or printed thereon, and no matter what the pattern of the silk, a chameleon effect more or less pronounced is observed. The highest novelty is Bronza silk, which is crapelle, but lighter than crape, and it is embroidered in gold, blue and red oriental threads, and looks like a walking edition of the Koran, but it is a very beautiful and durable.

There are also plaited cashmeres and tucks materials in almost every kind of goods for the making of spring suits. Iron frame grenadine, with satin borders woven to represent ribbon sewed on, is very rich and elegant. Most of these are black, others have the borders colored.

The Russian blouse will be the rage, and is seen in everything from chiffon to the heaviest traveling gown. Those in the thinner goods will be adapted to circumstances, but the heavier ones will be Russian pure and simple. Printed muslins are made up over satin or colored tulle. The robe in the illustration is of pale green stamped delaine, with sleeves and ruffle made of embroidered painted muslin. The hat is of openwork green straw, with marguerites. The parasol is of green surah with ruffles of the same painted muslin. Ribbons, moss green.

A Chicago Beauty. Mrs. Hamilton McCormack, of Chicago, is of English birth, being the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Edward Plummer, of Canterbury. She received a liberal education and is a fine linguist and Greek scholar. Rather above medium height and of noticeably fine physique, Mrs. McCormack has brought to her American home a fair English face. Mrs. McCormack is an experienced equestrienne and a good whip. Her appearance on the avenue attracts all eyes. During her brief residence in Chicago she has drawn about her a legion of loyal friends.

Women Designers. From an article in the New York Recorder I find that the first woman carpet designer in the country was Mrs. Florence Elizabeth Cory, of New York. She thought women could make prettier designs for household decorations than men could, so prepared herself by a course of patient study and practice in drawing for the work. Cooper union has given to the world numbers of accomplished women designers in floor coverings, tableware, dress goods, furniture draperies, etc. American women now even design patterns for printing Japanese silks.

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