

THE BONEHEAD'S BAEDEKER

IN THREE PARTS—PART II

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BERLIN

Cafés and Casinos

UPON entering one of the festive after-theater cafés or casinos, the traveler will be apprised by the *oberkellner* that the only tables still disengaged are the elevated ones along the walls.

"They will do as well as any," responds the traveler.

Once seated, a *kellner* places on his table before him, before he has had an opportunity to say a word, a quart bottle of champagne.

"But," protests the traveler, "I do not wish champagne."

Whereupon the traveler will be assured that only champagne is served at the elevated tables along the wall; the cheaper drinks being served alone at the other tables.

In many of the gay supper places confetti are sold to the patrons for the purpose of adding to the spirit of revelry. The traveler will presently notice that a pretty *fräulein* near his table is aiming a quantity of the fragments of colored paper at him, and a moment later he will observe that some of the confetti have lodged in the glass of champagne in front of him. (If he is with a party, the confetti has probably landed in all the glasses.) No sooner have he noticed this than the *kellner* seems also to have noticed it. Apparently deeply vexed that this should have happened, the *kellner* rapidly clears the glasses of champagne away and inquires if a fresh bottle is desired.

If, perchance, the traveler returns to the café the following night, he will notice that the same pretty *fräulein* is now engaged in merrily casting confetti into some other traveler's champagne.

When the *kellner*, at the conclusion of the festivities, brings the traveler his change, the traveler will discover that the change has been laid on a carefully folded napkin. The traveler will count the change, and will discover that it is four marks short. He will call the *kellner's* attention to the discrepancy; whereupon the *kellner* will reply that the traveler must be in error, that the proper change is most assuredly there.

And, to prove this to the traveler, the *kellner* will brush the coins off the napkin to the table and will then pull the folded napkin up, permitting the missing marks (which have been secreted in one of the folds) to roll carelessly on the table and off the table

to the floor. The *kellner* will then bend down and search for the coins, finally managing to discover only two out of the four. He is very sorry, he says, but he cannot find the other two.

The traveler, impressed by the *kellner's* sincerity and honesty, inasmuch as he has seemed to make a most thorough, laborious, and perspiring search for the missing coins, and has missed himself all up in so doing, tips him well, and remarks in departing that he need not bother about the lost coins. The *kellner* subsequently pockets, in addition to his liberal tip, the two marks, which, during his maneuver on the floor, he has flipped close to one of the legs of the table so that the traveler, should he look for them himself, may not see them.

Hotels

THE traveler, anticipating departure in twelve hours, desires to know from his *stubenmädchen*, or chambermaid, if it will be possible for him to send his laundry out and have it returned in time. "Ja, gewiss," the chambermaid assures him; whereupon he consigns his wash into her charge.

Subsequently, as the traveler makes to pack his laundry an hour or so before traintime, he discovers that a considerable part of it is still missing. He summons the maid, and is informed that when she returned the laundry to his room she discovered that some of it had not been properly done and had taken it back.

"But," she says, "I will get it for you immediately."



her; and, with profuse apologies for the delay, the maid presents him with his laundry, which, so she explains, she has been compelled to iron herself so that the traveler might have it in good shape and in good time.

Whereupon the traveler doubles the maid's tip because of her extra work and kindness; not knowing, of course, that the rest of the laundry had been hidden in a closet in the hallway by the maid and had thus been made to serve its purpose in working the traveler up dramatically to a tip climax.

When the arrival's trunks are brought up to his room by the porter, the arrival will be somewhat perplexed to observe that a surprisingly large amount of dirt has mysteriously conveyed itself to the trunks during the trip from the station to the hotel and up to his room in the hotel. Without hesitating a fraction of a second for a tip (as the arrival has certainly expected him to do), the porter, however, once he has set the trunks down, will quickly bow himself out of the room.

What will now flash through the arrival's mind will be something like this: Dirt—will litter up floor—will soil things in the unpacking—and porter gone. But no! The traveler will hurry to the door, and will observe that the porter is only halfway down the hall. Will the porter return and remove the dirt from the trunks? Certainly; but the porter must first procure some papers and a brush and a rag. It will take but a few moments. Presently the porter will return, will make elaborate preparations by spreading the papers on the floor, "so that none of the dirt may get on the carpet and soil the gentleman's clothes," and will then proceed painstakingly to clean the baggage. Can the traveler resist a fee proportionate to the porter's extra trouble with his baggage? No, he cannot.

In the best of the hotels the traveler will observe that on each floor, near the elevator, is stationed a small boy in the uniform of a page. As the traveler is about to depart, the porter, in conveying the traveler's preliminary pieces of luggage out of his room, will apprise the small boy of the imminence of the departure. Presently the traveler will emerge from his room and will head for the elevator. As he approaches, the small boy, in an outburst of service, will dash to the elevator and press the signal button. The traveler thereupon will resignedly dig into his pocket and bring forth a mark for the small boy. *Danke schön.*

A pause. The elevator does not come. The small boy will press the signal button again. A pause. Still the elevator does not come. The signal apparatus must be out of order, will hazard the small boy. The gentleman will wait a moment, the small boy will beg, while he, the small boy, will hasten down the flights of stairs and cause the elevator to come up. A pause. The elevator appears. The small boy will bow the traveler in with a polite grin. And the traveler, gratified by the small boy's act in having gone to all the trouble of summoning the elevator, will present him with an extra fee.

The traveler will not know, quite naturally, that the moment the small boy received the news of his departure from the porter the small boy communicated the tidings to the elevator man, who agreed not to respond with the elevator when the small boy pressed the signal twice in quick succession. For his share in the plot the elevator man (in addition to his usual fee) receives one-half of the small boy's "extra."

Conveyances

THE traveler engages one of the cabs in front of his hotel for a brief tour of the shops, returning presently to his hotel in the same cab. He goes to his room, and five

minutes later is informed by a bellboy that he left something of value in the cab which the driver, having found, is keeping for him below. His curiosity aroused as to what it is he has lost, the traveler quickly descends to the street, where the carriage starter points out to him his erstwhile driver. Upon approaching the latter, the traveler is handed a cheap leather cigarette case, a pocket knife, or something of the sort.

"But," says the traveler, "this does not belong to me; it must be the property of the person who had the cab directly before me."

The driver is sorry to have disturbed the gentleman, and he politely touches his cap. And the traveler, impressed by the driver's honesty in returning the lost article, even though it did not happen to belong to him, rewards him with a mark. One of these "lost" articles, purchased by the driver of a cab at the beginning of the tourist season for fifty pfennigs, is good for at least fifty or sixty marks before the open season ends. The carriage starter's share of the income is one-half.

The traveler, after using a taxicab for some considerable time and arriving at his final destination, glances at the taximeter and, drawing forth his pocketbook, prepares to pay the fare thereon registered. The driver touches his cap, and informs the stranger that the taximeter is not exact. The stranger, immediately suspecting

that the driver is not telling the truth and is utilizing this old excuse to gain an extra tip, begins to protest. The driver, again touching his cap politely, assures the traveler that he is mistaken, that the taximeter has registered not *too little*, but *too much*; by some pfennigs, adds the driver. The precise overcharge, however, the driver is unable to state. "About thirty or forty pfennigs, though," he guesses; that is, something like ten cents.

Overwhelmed by the driver's honesty, the traveler deducts the trivial amount from the registered fare; but presents the driver with a fee considerably larger than in any circumstances he anticipated giving him. The driver, after deducting from this fee the few extra cents legitimately registered,—but the few cents that have vastly impressed the traveler with the driver's probity,—still has a tip probably half again as large as he would otherwise have obtained.

General Hints

THE traveler, upon finishing a letter in a hotel writing room, will observe that no sooner has he inserted the letter in an envelope and sealed the envelop, than an attendant is at his side already licking the stamp for the purpose of attaching it to the envelop. Even though the traveler may have the necessary stamp in his possession, the fact that the attendant has already wet a stamp will cause the traveler to refrain from suggesting that he does not want it. For his attention the attendant will receive a couple of pfennigs.

Departure

IT is customary for the porter at the railway station, after he has elaborately distributed the traveler's hand luggage in his compartment, to drop the coin with which the traveler has tipped him to the floor and to bend down immediately in order to search for it. In this search he is unsuccessful, and, rising to his feet, sadly starts to take his departure as the train signals that it is about to leave.

The traveler, duly sympathetic and knowing that he may find the missing coin after the train gets under way, takes out a similar coin, a mark, and presents it to the porter. After awhile the traveler looks about for the lost coin, and presently discovers it under his seat—only the coin that he finds there is not a mark, but a copper coin worth about two cents. The traveler may or may not then realize that the porter palmed the mark with which the traveler tipped him, dropped the copper coin (previously palmed) in its stead, and flicked the latter under the seat the moment he quickly bent down in his ostensible act of search.

The third part of this series will appear in an early issue.



"A pretty *fräulein* is aiming the paper at him."



"Whereupon he consigns his wash into her charge."



"The *kellner* will then pull the napkin up."