

EUROPE LOSING ITS CHARM

Mr. Brown Didn't Enjoy His Thirtieth Visit—Tips and High Prices Failed.

Almost every summer since 1877 Alexander P. Brown of Philadelphia has been spending in Europe, it being his custom to go abroad in the late spring and then to find his way back in October.

"Yet I found this summer I did not enjoy Europe as I once did," said Mr. Brown at the Waldorf. "Everything has changed so much, and that mainly in the last few years. When I came away the hotel proprietors were spending lots of money in the belief that there were still Americans somewhere in Europe or headed that way, but they are mistaken.

"Switzerland had the call on all travel last summer, as always. But Switzerland and the Swiss have changed much. In the first place, prices have gone up. It is no longer easy to find the modest hotel where, for a small sum, you can live on the best in the land, and there are many new modern hotels with modern prices. In fact, the prices in Switzerland seem to be on a par with those of the higher priced hotels in London, Paris and New York.

"Paris has been woefully dirty all the season. They don't begin to keep the streets in as good condition as is done in New York. Why, I believe that without any exaggeration the Place Vendome must have in it 1,000 holes, which would break the leg of any horse that would step into one, and practically only the thoroughfares that go to make up the Grand boulevard are in good condition."

PUPILS UNDERGO ODD TUITION

Peculiar Schools in Europe for the Teaching of What Might Be Called "Trades."

In St. Petersburg there is an institution where young men training for service as police make a special study of the tools used by professional thieves. There is a class devoted solely to the study of forgery, with particular reference to the falsifying of signatures on passports.

At Monte Carlo a school for croupiers is conducted. During the summer months aspirants for the office of croupier learn the operations of the gaming tables. Each pupil must, from time to time, while others are impersonating players and making wagers, conduct the game and learn how instantly to pay out the winning stakes. Six months' tuition is generally necessary.

In Brussels there is a school for the instruction of grave diggers. All candidates for appointment as sextons throughout Belgium must pass an examination at this school before they can obtain employment as grave diggers.

Hawk Swooped on Hunter. A large hawk attacked J. S. Spicer of Fredericksburg, Va., while he was hunting wild turkeys in Spotsylvania county. While hidden in a brush pile and undergrowth, Spicer commenced calling turkeys. Soon a huge hawk alighted on the limb of a tree nearby. While Spicer was waiting for the bird to turn, so as to become a favorable target, the bird suddenly dived toward him. Before the hunter could fire the hawk was upon him. Spicer threw up his left hand to guard his face, and the hawk's talons pierced his hands. Spicer soon bore the hawk to the ground, and getting his knife from his pocket with his free hand, cut the leaders in the hawk's legs. In this condition he succeeded in bringing it to Fredericksburg alive. It is supposed the hawk saw only Spicer's eyes through the brush, and thought him a rabbit or other prey.

Inhospitable to Royalty. In the course of army maneuvers in a country district Prince Arthur of Connaught and some brother officers lunched on top of a haystack. Presently the farmer appeared and forcibly expressed his opinions on the subject of his haystack being used as a messroom. An orderly hurried up and explained who the officers were, and he added that one of them was Prince Arthur, King George's cousin. The indignant farmer flatly refused to believe him. "Anyway, prince or no prince, they've got to come off my stack," he declared, and, turning to the amused officers, he added: "Dash it all, from the looks of you, the next thing you'd do with the stack would be to eat it!"

Camels in Queensland. Over 1,000 camels are used in Queensland as a means of transport across the arid districts, and the number is rapidly increasing.

FELT THEY HAD BEEN ROBBED

"Crooked" Conduct of Boss Came as a Shock to Even His Hardened Heelers.

These tales of bagmen that District Attorney Whitman of New York is bringing out recalled to a veteran politician the experience of the boss of a western city, who was something in the way of a political collector himself.

One day near the close of a hot campaign he managed to round up some five thousand dollars. With a couple of his pals he had a bibulous celebration. About 2 in the morning he was clinging to a lamppost and trying to call a cab when two of his heelers rove in sight. He knew they would rob him if they suspected he had money. Bracing himself he greeted them with:

"Hello, fellows; lucky you happened along. I'm dead broke and want a cab. Get one and take me to my hotel and I'll make good."

When they reached the hotel the drunken boss sleepily asked the clerk to give each of his companions a five dollar bill. At the same time he drew from his trousers pocket a huge roll of bills and throwing it at the clerk told him to "keep that wad of stuff in a safe place until morning."

Disgustedly the heelers watched the safe door close on the young fortune that had escaped them, while the boss sank into a chair.

"Oh, you thief!" angrily shouted one of the heelers, as he shook his fist under the nose of the boss. "That's the meanest double cross you ever gave a friend in your whole crooked career. You said you was broke and you had thousands in the wad. Confound you, there's no one a fellow can trust these days. That money belongs to us by rights and you've robbed us of it."

FELT CALLED ON TO REBUKE

Deacon Had Suffered From Appearance of Evil and Realized Sense of Duty.

One day a western deacon went to make a fraternal call on an esteemed brother, and while engaged in conversation there came a knock at the door and the host was summoned to attend to a matter of business.

"Brother," impressively remarked the deacon when the host returned, "I feel that it is my duty to tell you that you should avoid even the appearance of evil."

"Why, deacon," responded the host in a surprised voice, "to what are you referring?"

"Those decanters on the sideboard," solemnly answered the deacon, "each of them is filled with what appears to be ardent spirits."

"That's a conceit of my wife's, deacon," laughed the host, greatly relieved. "The bottles were so pretty that she filled them with floor stain and furniture polish just for a show."

"That's why I'm cautioning you, brother," sadly rejoined the deacon. "Feeling a trifle weak and faint, I helped myself from the larger bottle."

His Sympathy for the Old Maids.

It is being told that the mayor of an Iowa city is an old bachelor and witty, and among his constituents are a family of spinsters who are precise and c.anky. One night a charivari occurred near the home of the spins, and disturbed their slumbers and peace of mind. And the following morning they called on the mayor to remonstrate. "It is a shame that small boys are permitted to make such hideous noises in this city," said one of the spins, who assumed great dignity. "Ladies, I assure you that I am shocked at the conduct of those boys, and had I known that a charivari was going on I certainly would have sent the entire police department to the scene of the grewsome activity," said the mayor. "I agree with you that nothing like that should have occurred in this city of civilized people. And if everybody were like you and me there would be no mean little brats to make such a hideous racket."—Kansas City Star.

Bird Man Has Arrived.

On the day after Christmas a Russian aviator at St. Petersburg flew a new machine of his own making for hours, carrying ten passengers in addition to a heavy load of ballast. This establishes the aeroplane as a sure adjunct of modern transportation, including passengers and freight. A few days before this even we heard of the successful use of the flying machine by the French army operating in Morocco, which puts this new mode of warfare among the arms of military operations of our day, and hereafter when we use the expression "all arms" we shall have to include the flying machine.

Will Hold the Mayoralty.

A summons, by which it was sought to disqualify Alderman Henry O'Shea, the lord mayor of Cork, from sitting as a member of the city county, on the ground that he is an alien, has been dismissed by the Cork magistrates. Maurice Healy, M. P., who presented, said Mr. O'Shea himself had admitted that he was an American citizen. The defense put in a certificate by the British consul at New York to the effect that no such name as "Henry O'Shea" appeared as registered as an American citizen.

Cut Out Middlemen.

Russian peasants formerly sold their wine in advance to middlemen, realizing only about one-half of the value of the product. Last year, however, there were only a few transactions and the peasants expect to do without the middlemen in future.

MADE HIM GIVE UP THE GAME

Caddie's Unfeeling Remarks Too Much for Tender Feelings of Dear Old Gentleman.

A dear old gentleman, who had only taken up the dear game very late in life, spent some months endeavoring, under the tuition of a professional and the care of a special caddie, to hit the ball. When he succeeded in doing so at all it was never more than a few yards, and every bunker on the course was his dally doom. Still his caddie, having an eye to the main chance, always encouraged him to think that he would soon be more a player, and the old man, with the hope that springs eternal even more in the hearts of golfers than in other people, firmly believed him. One day it happened that his special caddie was absent, and a ruffianly looking person appeared on the first tee with the old gentleman's clubs. He took his normal 14 shots to the first hole, to the unaccounted but unnoticed disgust of the caddie; but on the second tee the miracle happened, and the old boy for once hit a beauty.

"That was a good one, wasn't it?" he asked, turning to the bearer of clubs.

"Good one?" retorted the ruffian, in tones of the bitterest contempt. "Why, I could play better than that with me left fut!"

This unexpected verdict so upset the poor old man that he walked straight back home, and has never touched a club since.

Kindergarten in Hotel.

The Vanderbilt hotel in New York has an idea for the benefit of its guests who have children which might well be copied by other hotels. A kindergarten has been established under a trained teacher, using Montessori and other methods. There are toys of every description to keep the youngsters amused, and in the meantime they may be learning something worth while.

Are You Alive?

There is no way by which you can "probe" to another that you "are alive." It is a matter of consciousness, of your own consciousness, and he who doubts your existence must keep on doubting so far as any argument that you may be able to offer him is concerned. If he will not take your word on the matter, the whole controversy is forever settled.

Hood's Sarsaparilla.

You Need a Tonic

HOOD'S SARSAPARILLA, AS A SPRING MEDICINE, IS THE BEST.

Spring sickness comes in some degree to every man, woman and child in our climate. It is that run-down condition of the system that results from impure, impoverished, devitalized blood. It is marked by loss of appetite and that tired feeling, and in many cases by some form of eruption.

The best way to treat spring sickness is to take Hood's Sarsaparilla. Ask your druggist for this reliable family medicine. It purifies, enriches and revitalizes the blood. It is an all-year-round alternative and tonic, and is absolutely the best Spring medicine.

Get your blood in good condition at once—now. Delay may be dangerous. Be sure to get Hood's Sarsaparilla, nothing else can take its place. 59-21

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The only place in the county where that extraordinarily fine grade of spring wheat Patent Flour

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All kinds of Grain bought at the office. Flour exchanged for wheat.

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White Almedia Grapes, Florida and Naval Oranges, Lemons, Bananas, all in good order and free of frost.

Large Spanish and home-grown Onions, sound and in good order.

Fine Popping Corn, on the ear or shelled; this goods will pop.

We have revised the prices downward on our Beans; come in and see the fine stock and present prices.

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The Finest Meadow Gold Brand Creamery Butter at 40c per pound.

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Fine weather yet for using Mince Meat. Nothing else will compare with what we make at 15c a pound.

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