

NINETY DAYS WITH A PASSPORT

(Continued From First Page.)

cars. Brigue is surrounded by high mountains, many of them covered with snow all the year round. In the station were two women, one a Protestant, the other a Catholic, representing the Swiss Travellers' Aid Society. They were there to assist girls and young women to find a safe and suitable lodging, if they intended to stop over in Brigue, or to get on to the right train if they were changing cars. Nowhere else in Europe had we seen this welfare work.

Soon after we left Brigue we began to pass thru the mountain-climbing section of Switzerland, the highest and most beautiful part of the Alps. A score or more of Alpine climbers boarded the train at every stop, many of them getting off at the next station. We seemed to pass along at the very base of grand snow-crowned peaks, nearly two miles high, and yet we had not ascended much of a grade since leaving Italy. Tiny villages, every one with its quaint church, nestled in corners of the mountain bases. We thot of Hawthorne's story of the Unknown Guest who stopped for the night in a home in just such a village in the White Mountains and who never finished telling his host the story of his life, because a huge boulder broke loose from the mountain and dashed the little home into hundreds of pieces.

We left the train at Montreaux on Lake Geneva. As we entered the city we saw the Castle of Chillon, made famous by the poem written about it, "The Prisoners of Chillon" by Byron. Montreaux is one of the most beautiful cities of Switzerland. Spotlessly clean is everything here, and in fact all over Switzerland. Here indeed is a unique nation, a sort of buffer state, between several great but extremely jealous countries, France, Germany, and Italy being the most important. In Switzerland there are three and one-half million people, of whom two million speak German, one million French, and about 500,000 Italian. The paper money is marked in all three of these languages, and most of the people speak at least two of them. With no seaport, Switzerland has no naval problem, but she is interested in world peace and universal disarmament. Her army is of the first order, and is needed only because of her powerful neighbors who have not yet laid down their arms. Her people are prosperous and almost none of them are illiterate. It is true that there is a peasant class in Switzerland, which furnishes plenty of farm and domestic labor, and the women work in the fields, like in France and Italy. But the Swiss peasant seems to be more prosperous than the others. Switzerland has not suffered from the war like the belligerents. Her banks are full of gold; in fact we were told that this is the cause of the large amount of unemployment in the land at present. The exchange is so high that exports are low.

There are no beggars in Switzerland. No one is allowed to ask for money without rendering some service in exchange. Street orchestras, (violin, flute and harp) are common; but the music is worth paying for. Tourists find everything very expensive in Switzerland, especially railroad fares, which are much higher than in the United States.

From Montreaux we took a steamer and rode around Lake Geneva to the city of Geneva, the center of watch and clock-making. Geneva is known as "The Protestant Rome," because it was here that the Protestant Reformation received its true foundations thru the famous Genevan John Calvin. The wonderful Reformation Monument will inspire any true lover of liberty in government and religion. Roger Williams was chosen to represent America among the states, and the drawing up of the Pilgrims' form of government, the famous Covenant, is among the bas-reliefs.

The Swiss are true internationalists. And here we must say a word about the League of Nations. We visited the Palace of Nations on the waterfront in Geneva. This building was formerly a hotel. It is here that the headquarters of the League of Nations remains (the General Council meets in a rented hall in Geneva, and will convene again early in the autumn.) The Executive Council meets in the Palace of Nations. Everywhere there are committee rooms, a number of them occupied at the time of our visit. There is a large reference library filled with books and documents. An Englishman who has charge of

publications explained the makeup of the League to us. At present the League is weak because an unenlightened minority in every European country is opposing it. We do not wish to deal in politics or personalities, but we are convinced of one fact. Those who still believe that the problems of this world can be settled only by force, together with those in every land who harbor revenge from the late war, are not in favor of the League of Nations. Men of four different nations have told us that outside of the League there is no great association in Europe that is sincerely working for peace. America has been lied to about the League of Nations. It is backed by the Swiss, who have not had a war in centuries, and it is a harmless clearing-house for international disputes. We cannot say more here, except to add that unless the American people come to the rescue of the League of Nations, it will surely die; and if it does, the hatreds which now burn in the breasts of former world-war enemies may again be fanned into a flame that will touch millions of American firesides with grief before it is over.

The Swiss are the greatest European internationalists and were not involved in the World War. They have the chance to observe the ideals of all European nations. Two great international organizations have long had their headquarters in Switzerland, the Red Cross (recently removed to Paris) and the Y. M. C. A. The Swiss are intelligent leaders in the movement for world peace. "One of them said this to us when we asked him if the Swiss people believe in the League of Nations: "Certainly we do. We believe in it, not for what it has done or is doing now, but because of what it is capable of doing if it is given proper support."

After a very profitable day in Geneva, we again took the boat, this time for Lausanne, a beautiful city of 60,000 inhabitants. It was here that we saw the place where Gibbon wrote his great world history. His home was next to the Protestant cathedral. Lausanne is built on the side of a mountain, and extends from the base (the lake shore) to the summit, where a matchless view of Lake Geneva and the mountains may be obtained. Mont Blanc can be seen best from Geneva.

The next morning we started for Zurich. We took the northern route thru Neuchatel, intending to spend the night in Zurich; but, having reservations for the Passion-Play for Sunday, (it was then Friday) we continued to Lake Constance. This is the largest border lake in the world. We passed thru the Swiss customs by merely displaying our passport and boarded a German lake steamer for Lindau, across the lake in the province of Bavaria. Our passports were taken away from us as we boarded the boat.

The Census in 2300 B. C. While priding ourselves upon our census system it may be well to remember that census taking is no new thing. The first count of British heads took place in 1501, after long opposition based on superstition. The Romans looked upon it as a regular institution. But it is now found that Babylonians took a census before 2300 B. C., which was perfected, and returns made by districts, in 2300 B. C. Fragments of the returns in the second dynasty of Ur are on tablets in the British museum.—From the Scientific American.

Les Miserables. The work of a choli director is hard, but it is not wholly without humor. Recently a man was telling of his experiences with the boy choir of an English cathedral. "I was teaching them," he said, "to chant the Litany and I flattered myself that we were getting along unusually well when I noticed the words they were chanting for the response. Every last one of them was saying, 'Lord, have mercy upon us, miserable sinners!' Surely it was true enough of most of them."—Youth's Companion.

Sneezing Once Presaged Death. In the ancient world sneezing was the subject of much superstition, and was almost always endowed with sinister import. Jewish folklore has it that in the first ages of the world sneezing was always a presage of death until the coming of Jacob. That astute patriarch, anxious lest he himself should perish from such an insignificant cause, besought the Almighty to endow sneezing with more beneficent attributes, and since then it has been lucky to sneeze between noon and midnight.

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Photographic Hint. The ordinary photographic plate, which is not color sensitive, is really blind to certain colors. These colors are reds, yellows and greens. The result is that all are rendered black in the print. Suppose one wanted to photograph a shawl with a design in black, red, yellow, and green. The ordinary plate would render these colors almost all the same. In the picture it would be difficult to say where the red ended and the yellow began. But by using a color-sensitive plate and a color filter on the lens, the differences would be shown and the design would be clear.

Overpolite Orientals. When we come to truly groveling politeness there are the orientals. So anxious is the native of Japan to exalt his friend or acquaintance that he sets him on a pedestal, so to speak, and lowers himself to the very dust. He will not admit that anything he himself owns is even tolerable, no matter how valuable it may be, and to speak with the slightest degree of tolerance of anything he owns is, in his opinion, to arrive at the very zenith of impoliteness.

Chemical Knowledge Spreads. More and more it is coming to be taken for granted that the chemical elements are made up of identically the same stuff, and that they differ only in their structural arrangements. More and more the passage from one element to another which has so dumfounded science when it was first observed (taking place spontaneously) is coming to be a matter of course and something which we may ultimately hope to control.

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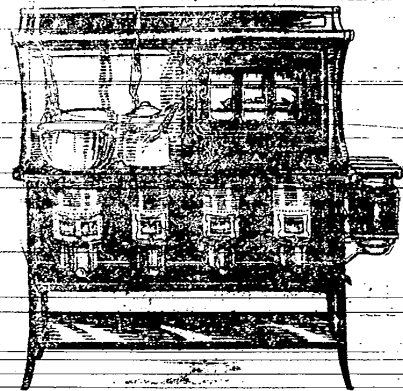
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