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E. M. BOYER, Agent.

What I Saw Across the Sea.

BY S. M. BOYER.
NO. 17.

In my last letter I had given an unfinished account of the vendome column. The commune in their rage to destroy the city overthrew the column by cutting around the base with sharp instruments. Four large cables were passed around the top of the column attached to an anchor and capstan and by this means it was pulled down. After peace had been restored it was rebuilt on the same spot as we saw it. We next find our way to the Rue de Rivote, one of the finest streets of Paris. On one side are the gardens of the Tuileries and the palace of the Louvre. Here we see a bronze statue of Joan of Arc bestride her horse. On this street are the finest stores in Paris. Farther on we come to the hotel De Ville or town hall, built on the site of the one burnt by the commune in 1871. It contains 368 rooms. All the great municipal festivals are held here. There is an immense banqueting hall sufficient to accommodate 500 guests. We drove around it one evening and music seemed to proceed from every part of it. From here we visit the place De La Concorde said to be the finest square in Europe. In the centre of this is an Egyptian obelisk presented to Louis Philippe by Mahomed Atti, Viceroy of Egypt. It is seventy-six feet in height and weighs 240 tons. This stands on a pedestal thirty-one feet high. On each of the four sides are inscribed hieroglyphics. This is the third one I have seen of these Egyptian relics; one in Central Park, New York, and its twin brother on the Thames embankment. These were formerly erected by the kings of Egypt in the 14th century before Christ. Two fine fountains adorn the square. Upon lofty pedestals placed around the square rise eight stone figures representing the chief cities of France. The one representing Alsace and Lorraine is hung with crape and mourning garlands for the two provinces lost in the Franco German war of 1870-71. Near this spot is where Louis XVI., Maria Antoinette, Robespierre, and some others perished by the guillotine. Our next visit is made to the tomb of Napoleon. This is situated beneath the dome of a large church. The sarcophagus is thirteen feet long, six feet wide, and fourteen feet high, made of one single block of Siberian porphyry, weighing upwards of sixty-nine tons, sixty-six flags captured in battle by Napoleon adorn the walls of the crypt. As I viewed the tomb of the dead monarch my thoughts were carried back to my school boy days as I read from history the battles won by the man from Corsica, who constantly changed the map of Europe. His remains were brought by Prince Joinville from St. Helena in 1840 to their present resting place. Over the crypt on a black marble slab are the following words quoted from the Emperor's will, (translation) "I desire that my ashes may repose on the banks of the Seine, in the midst of the French people whom I so love." A steamboat service is maintained on the river Seine, and passengers are carried rapidly up and down the river at a trifling cost. Our party board one of these boats for a trip up the river to see the Bastille, a distance of eight miles. The fare was a mere nothing, twenty centimes or four cents Canadian money. The river Seine is spanned in the city by thirty-two bridges. Arriving at the Bastille we leave the boat to make an inspection of this old prison. It is mostly underground and in it are yet to be seen all the instruments of torture used in the days of persecution; the wheel or rack the victims were placed on and the wheel turned and crushed their bodies; dungeons for underground with the ring bolts and chains where many suffered and died. Our stay in that locality was pretty short as it was in a tough part of the city. The sail along the river was most beautiful, as we had opportunity to see how many of the people live. Whole families live together in boats on the water and from appearances as many women man the barges as men. I saw a number of large women bare headed with sleeves rolled up steering the barges with the sweep. Returning to our hotel, it being Saturday night, we prepare for the Sabbath. First Sunday in Paris. I was awakened at an early hour by the rattle of carriages and the noise and confusion on the streets. I arose from my bed to look out of the window and the streets were thronged with people all intent on a day's pleasure. As I learned afterward the races came off that day and also the great fountains were to play at Versailles fourteen miles out of the city. The exhibition, as my readers know was open on Sunday as well. I listened for church bells but could not hear any. No Sabbath in France. Pity the nation who does not respect the Sabbath. France has forgotten God and made the Sabbath a day of pleasure. Her sins will yet be visited upon her, ever on the eve of a revolution. I observed the factories and work shops and stores were all open as on other days. Street repairing went on. Men were working in the stone quarries and upon buildings and nothing pointed to a day of rest. I thought to myself how unlike London and other cities of Britain where the Sabbath is kept and all business suspended and persons attend the house of worship. No

wonder her morals are low. I witnessed indecencies on the public streets in day light under the eyes of the police that if carried on in one of the streets of London they would soon bring the perpetrators into the hands of the police. We Canadians are amused with the strange customs here. On many of the streets they eat out of doors under the awnings and as far as the eye can carry may be seen small marble top tables that will accommodate from two to four persons. They are made round and a brass band runs around the edge of the table to prevent the glasses from falling off. I observed the class of persons who frequent these cafes and found they were of the lower walks of life and I must say a happier lot I have never seen. They all seemed to be talking at once using their hands and tongues at the same time. After the tables are cleared off then the games commence, cards and other amusements, music and dancing. I almost forgot to mention that these people all drink claret, red or white wine, and I have seen them sit down to the tables with a small piece of dry bread and a bottle of wine. A pint bottle of wine can be bought here for forty centimes or eight cents Canadian money and the poorest man in the realm can drink these cheap wines. One is amused in the way the French bake their bread, in long rolls, from three to four feet long and from three to four inches through. Baked in this way it is about all crust and let me say to any of my readers who may visit Paris, provide yourself with good teeth as you will need them. The women of the upper class are fine looking and one sees them driving out in fine weather on the boulevards dressed in their silks and for a bonnet a bank of flowers on the head. The women of the lower class do all sorts of labour, we see them driving market waggons and heavy loaded teams, and sweeping streets, etc. We make a visit to the Latin quarter of the city on the south bank of the Seine. Here we enter the palace Du Trocadero. This is an immense building put up for the exhibition in 1878. It is now used as a museum and is filled with objects from America and the islands in the Pacific ocean and from Africa. We thought we had seen plenty of beggars before coming to France, but here is no end to them. Nearly every place you go hands are uplifted to solicit alms. The blind, lame and halt meet you at every turn and if you are riding, when you stop they will catch you by the shoulder to make you notice them. An old blind man who spoke English sat in a shady nook reading his Bible using the raised letters, attracted my attention as I passed by him for several days and always found him reading aloud, a plate at his feet to receive the pennies from the passer by. In my next I will give an account of a visit to the palace of Versailles.

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Scholarly Servants.

In many of the smaller hotels of the Latin Quarter in Paris it is no common occurrence for guests to be waited upon by young men who are actually graduates of the French Universities, and who resort to such domestic employment in order to gain a living. Unlike our own 'Varsity students, French undergraduates are often the sons of exceedingly poor people, who deny themselves the necessities of life that their sons may enjoy a University training. The extraordinary spectacle is often witnessed therefore of a classical scholar cleaning boots and scrubbing floors.

Some years ago the writer chanced to be travelling in Normandy, and encountered at a small inn in that province, a young "factotum" who entered into an elaborate conversation with him concerning the relative merits of Greek and Latin poetry. Further chat proved that the servant in question had taken high honours at the University of France, and that he was endeavouring to save sufficient money from his "tips" and salary to complete his education and become a barrister.

A Russian servant engaged in a large private house in Moscow recently composed a Greek ode after the style of Anacreon. The verses celebrated the dignities and virtues of the family by whom he was employed and was said to be a masterpiece of style, composition, and grace.

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Cresswell, March 28, 1901.

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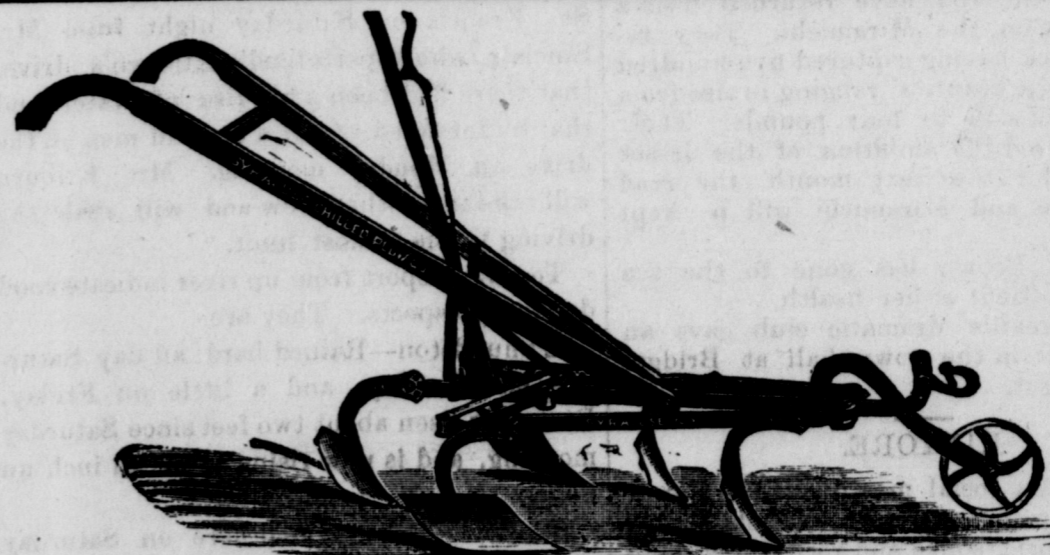
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