

the famous picture by Michael van de Signorelgo." So they screw up their eyes for a minute or two, do their best to appreciate the great work of art, and go on to the next. Many look without seeing, but there are thousands of people who thoroughly enjoy the art galleries, and possibly they really get some good out of them. At any rate, while we are in Paris we must visit the Louvre, the finest art gallery of the world.

The building itself is shaped like a square-cornered staple. It is immense. I don't remember the exact size, but altogether there must be four or five miles of galleries lined with paintings or filled with sculptures or tapestry or relics from Egyptian tombs. At the entrance we must leave any umbrellas or parcels which we may happen to be carrying. Perhaps they are afraid that in some way we may manage to run off with one of the fine pictures or may poke a hole in it. You may remember that about a year ago one of the finest paintings of the Luvre, Mona Lisa, was stolen in some mysterious way. We can appreciate why the parcels should be left at the door, and why there are guards in every room. As we stroll from room to room with a person who knows something about the different paintings and painters, we soon learn to know that a man by the name of Rubens delighted in painting fat, naked women; that Holbein, Rembrandt and Hals painted fine, old Dutch faces; that Troyon painted animals; Ruysdall painted landscapes, etc., etc. Then it comes to seem something like a game. After a time, almost before we know it, we enjoy looking at the paintings, and we don't mind staying for two or three hours at a stretch in the gallery. To most of us the paintings of greatest interest are the two you have seen so often in the schools. They are Millet's Angelus and his Gleaners. Really, it is most interesting to stand and look for several minutes at these pictures, and know that there before you are the originals from which all the reproductions in the school books have been copied. We want to see the Venus de Milo, for most people think that this piece of sculpture is the most valuable thing in the Louvre. You have seen plaster casts or pictures of the Venus with her arms broken. A peasant digging on the island of Milo, ninety years ago, found this statue by accident. Physical culturists say that the measurements of the Venus de Milo are just right for the perfect woman. So we enjoy sitting down on one of the benches in the Venus de Milo gallery and looking at this statue and wondering about those Greeks who, hundreds of years before Christ, did such wonderful sculpturing.

If you wish, we may stop in some of the rooms where there are winged bulls, Sphinxes and tombs made by hollowing out huge stones. Before we realize it, we have been walking for three or four hours, and while we have made little more than a beginning, we are glad to go back to the hotel.

On the way back, I stopped in at a barber shop and got a hair-cut and shampoo, for one franc and twenty centimes, which is only twenty-four cents in American money.

At 7 o'clock there is the usual French dinner at the hotel, starting with sardines as an appetizer, followed by soup as a filler, and then by fish with French dressing, after which comes meat of some kind, and then chicken. After an hour or two comes dessert, after which we finish off with fruit. After dinner many tourists, especially Americans, think it quite the thing to see Paris at night, and they make the rounds of cafes, cabarets, and places less respectable. It is astonishing that American school teachers and elderly

American men with their wives and daughters often do this sort of thing. There are thousands of dollars of hard-earned American money spent every night in Paris. Some of it is spent in a wicked way, while more of it is spent because certain Americans, English and Germans are away from home and want to see how the gay and wicked men and women of Paris have a good time. They seem to think it a part of their education.

Of course we will go up to Eiffel tower. It costs four francs, but it is well worth it. It is an immense affair. Four steel legs stand nearly four hundred feet apart. We look into the air two or three hundred feet above us, where the four legs support a big platform about two acres in area. So we buy a ticket to the first floor, get into an elevator with about a hundred other people, and up we go. Look over the edge. I have climbed the highest mountain in Colorado, but never before had I felt quite so high in the air as when I looked straight down from the first platform of the Eiffel tower. We take a look around at the cafes, beer tables, curio shops, etc., and then go up to the second platform. and then to the third, 984 feet above the ground. We are in a glass house about fifty feet square, and as we walk around it we can see all of Paris. There right in front of us, at the foot of the tower, is the Seine River, and looking up and down it we see seven or eight of the fine Paris bridges. That mass of green to the west is the Bois de Boulogne, one of the finest peaks of the Parisian parks. Across the river and a little way to the east is the Louvre, and to this side of it is an open space, the famous Place de la Concorde. One hundred and twenty years ago the French revolutionists were chopping off people's heads on this spot, but today as we look we realize that Paris is a truly beautiful city. Not a wooden house to be seen. Nearly all are built of white or gray stone. Across the river we see columns and statues of white marble, some tinted with gold. Then there is the green of the park and the trees down the center of the boulevard. Then we discover another stairway and climb a few feet more to an open room about twenty feet across, and here we can stand at the railing and look straight down. It makes you feel empty inside. Some people get so dizzy they can not bear it. Others say that they feel as if they would like to jump off. We bought a few postcards on top, and then were glad enough to get back safe and sound to Mother Earth.

In some parts of Paris the streets come together in a beautiful way. For instance, at the Place de l'Etoile twelve beautiful avenues come together. Right in the center of this place is the Arch of Triumph, standing 160 feet high and 146 feet broad. Napoleon had this arch started in the year 1806. You can look straight down from this arch along the famous Avenue des Champs Elysees to the Place de la Concorde.

We cross the Seine by the beautiful, broad Alexander III bridge, and visit the tomb of Napoleon. Under a big, gilded dome is a circular chamber hollowed out. We lean on the railing above and look down on the big stone box holding what is left of one of the mightiest men who ever lived. Twelve victory statues stand in a circle about the tomb. At the foot of the coffin are the names of the big battles won by Napoleon. Back of the tomb room, with yellow light shining on it, is an altar, one of the most beautiful sights in all Europe. But the duty of our party is to investigate agricultural conditions, and we have seen enough of city sight. We stop only briefly to see Paris.



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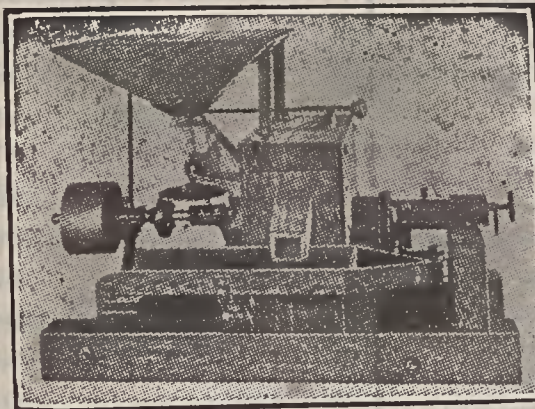
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