



TRAMPING WITH TRAMPS

View As: 50%

Go to Page #

Go To: First Page

Cornell University Library

in it; a little more, and we shall be beyond the troubles of this life, and our children will have reached our present standpoint, and will see with surprise that the life of the world is already going down-hill. If I believed this to be the end of it all, it would not be worth the dressing and undressing." These words now bore to me a double impress of sincerity. They were mellow light falling upon the great alp, and softening its outlines.

The prince was urged to take his afternoon nap. "No," he said; "I will rest here awhile and will not talk. Der liebe Gott does n't send us Americans every day," with a kindly nod to me. But he did talk, and about his old friends Motley and Bancroft. "I learned much from Bancroft. My gardens here and at Varzin are full of his roses, and my fruit-trees are pruned as he taught me to prune them. And Motley! what a gentle, refined nature was his, and what good times we had together at Göttingen! Bayard Taylor, too, was a fine man. Ah, me! they are all gone!"

And once again conversation came back to Germany and the evils of the day. "Fortunately for me," said Bismarck, "when I was

very young I learned to repeat the Lord's Prayer, and truly to mean it when I said, 'Thy will be done.' And this I still say, and so no one can help me." Cornhill, the young man, it was suggested that it was always far easier to say "Thy will be done" at the times when the Lord's ways and our own seem to be the same, and that it must sometimes be hard to look on and see work once done apparently being undone, Bismarck exclaimed, with strength of feeling and voice: "Thank Heaven, I am not called upon to bear this trial in old age. The problems of to-day are not the ones with which I wrestled, and my work, such as it was, has not been undone. From Saxony, from Bavaria, and from other south German states come to me to-day the warmest evidences of affection, which go to prove that the unity of Germany is still strong and complete."

Soon the carriage was announced. The old gentleman escorted me to it, with the good-bys of a gracious and hospitable host. One more wave of the hand, and this great, epoch-making man had passed forever out of my sight and forever into my memory.

Eleonora Kinnicutt.

TRAMPING WITH TRAMPS.

THE AMERICAN TRAMP CONSIDERED GEOGRAPHICALLY.



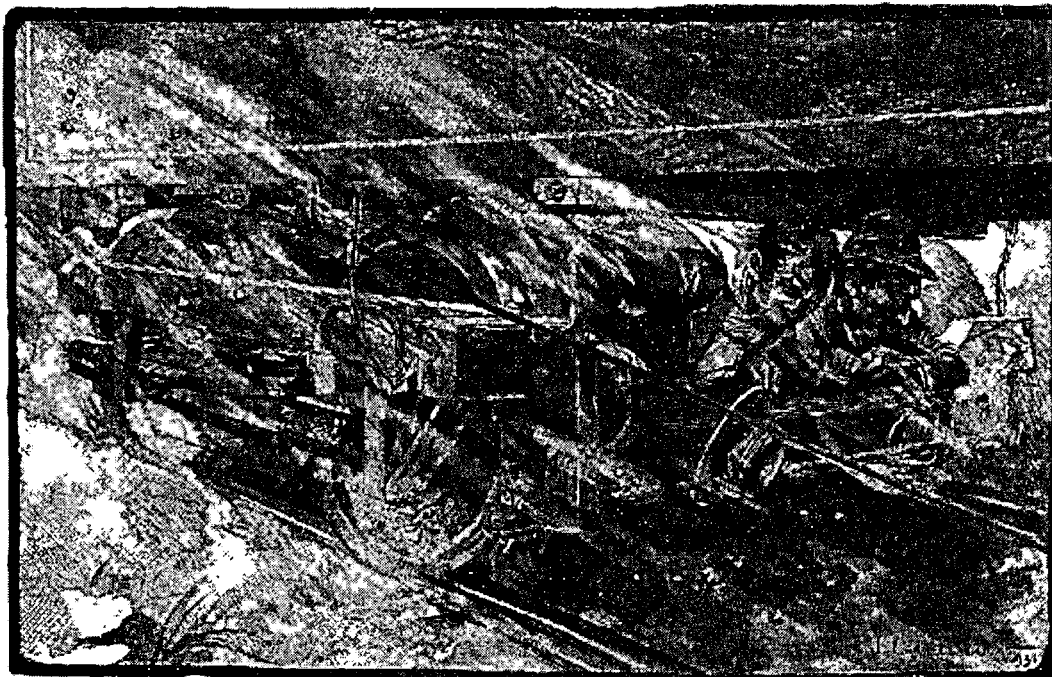
SOME years ago I was sitting one spring afternoon on a railway-tie on "The Dope"¹ when New York Barcas appeared on the scene. There was nothing very peculiar about Barcas, except his map of the United States. Not that he ever set up to be a topographer, or aspired to any rivalry with Johnston, Kiepert, or Zell, but, like the ancients, Barcas had his known and his unknown world, and, like them again, he described the land he knew just as if it was all the world there was. I came to know Barcas's map in this wise:

We were both talking about certain tramp districts in the community, and I noticed that his idea of north, south, east, and west was somewhat different from mine. So, in order that our conversation might not be troubled with petty arguments on geographical boundaries, I asked him to map out the country for me according to his "best light"; and this is how he did it. He took out his pencil and drew a line from the Canadian frontier through Chicago to St. Louis, and another line from the Atlantic through Washington to the same point, and

¹ The Baltimore and Ohio Railroad — called "The Dope" because it is so greasy.

called all the territory north of the last-named boundary the East. He drew still another line from St. Louis to the Pacific coast, and called all the States north of this and west of Chicago the West. His north comprised all Canada, but he considered the province of Quebec the most prominent tramp territory in this district. His South was all that remained below his equatorial line, but the eastern part of it he nicknamed Niggerland, while the western part, bordering on the Pacific Ocean, he called the Coast.

This was the extent of Barcas's geography when I knew him. He seemed to realize that there are other countries in the world besides this one which he and his *confrères* consider laid out for their own particular benefit; nevertheless, in daily life and conversation the other divisions of the world are so conscientiously ignored for all practical purposes, that North America may safely be said to comprise the American tramp's general idea of the earth. He knows well enough that he has brothers in other lands, but he considers them so unlucky in being left to ply their trade outside of his own peculiar paradise, that he feels it necessary to ignore them. For in spite of the constitutional Bohemianism of his nature, he is still far



DRAWN BY J. CARROLL LUGAS.

A RIDE ON A TRUCK.

ENGRAVED BY PETER ATKEN.

from being a cosmopolitan. If he has suffering brethren in other communities, his heart does not throb for their sorrow. No, indeed! He simply says: "Why don't they get out o' those blasted holes and come over here? This is the only country for the tramp." There is a great deal of truth in this, and the purpose of this article is to give an account of tramp traits, successes, and failures in this land of freedom. I intend to take up the various districts as Barcas indicated them, not, however, because his points of the compass are at all typical or representative. No; Barcas's map is not for general circulation, and for this very good reason, it would probably be difficult to find ten vagrants whose views would coincide with his or with those of any other ten idlers. This is a peculiarity of the vagabond, and it must be excused, for it has its *raison d'être*. As for the facts which I give in these pages, I may say that, as a rule, they are founded on personal observation. Some years ago I lived with the wandering beggars of this country for eight months. I tramped, begged, and slept with them, and, when necessary, I accompanied them into jail. In this way I had some excellent opportunities of seeing their life from various points of view.

THE NORTH.

This district (Canada) hardly belongs to the real American vagabondage. It is true that

the "hobo"¹ crosses the frontier now and then, and makes a short journey into Quebec, but it can scarcely be called a trip on business. It is undertaken more for the sake of travel, and a desire to see "them fellers up in Canady," and the scenery too, if the traveler is a lover of nature, as many hoboes are. As a rule, Canada is left pretty much in the hands of the local vagabonds, who are called "Frenchies." I have never thoroughly explored their territory, and, unfortunately, cannot write as definitely and comprehensively about their character as I would wish to do. However, the following facts are true as far as they go. The main clan of Canadian tramps is composed of French-Canadians and Indians. I have never met a genuine tramp of this class who was born in France proper, yet I can well believe that there are such. The language of these beggars is a jargon partly French and partly English, with a small hobo vocabulary added thereto. Only a very few American tramps can speak this queer lingo. I have met a gipsy now and then who at least understood it, and I account for this on the ground that a large number of the words resemble those in the gipsy dialect. *Muno*, for instance, means bread in both languages.

To be a successful beggar in Canada, one must be able to speak French, for Quebec is the main tramp district, and the local population uses this language principally. The "Galway" (Catholic priest) is perhaps

¹ The nickname of the American tramp.

 *previous page*

Page 260
(Image 270 of 1098)

next page 

View As:

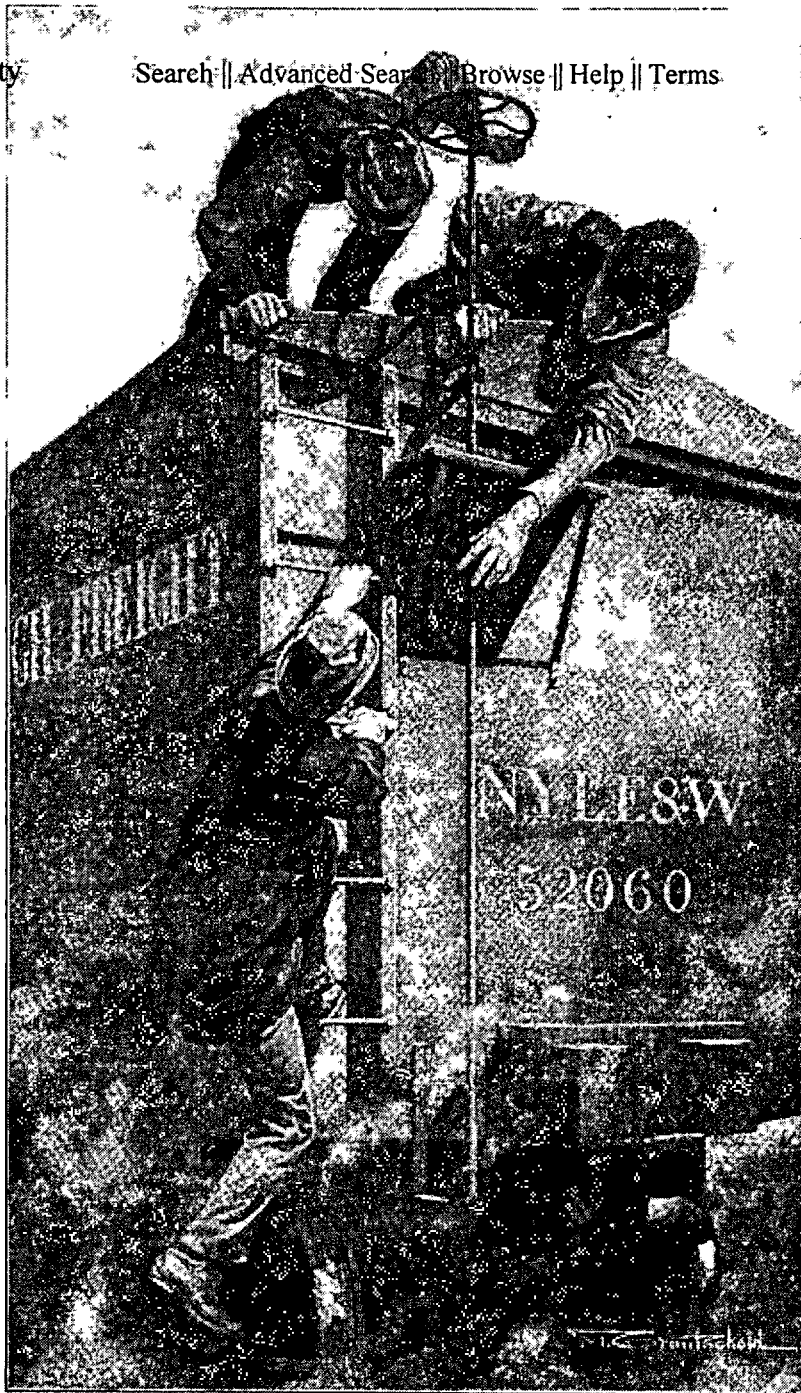
Go to Page #

Go To:

Cornell University
Library

Search || [Advanced Search](#) || [Browse](#) || [Help](#) || [Terms](#)

Cornell Making of
America



DRAWN BY W. TRAUTSCHOLD.

"STRIKING GRAYEL."

the best friend of the Frenchies; at any rate, this has been my experience. He gives alms ten times where a peasant gives once, and when a vagabond can find a cloister or a convent, he is almost sure to be well taken care of. The peasants, it must be remembered, are about all the Frenchies have after the "Gal-

way." To show how wise they are in doing out their charity, it is only necessary to say that the usual Frenchy is content when he gets his three meals a day without working. And as for myself, I can say that I have gone hungry for over thirty hours at a stretch in Canada, and this, too, although I was careful to visit

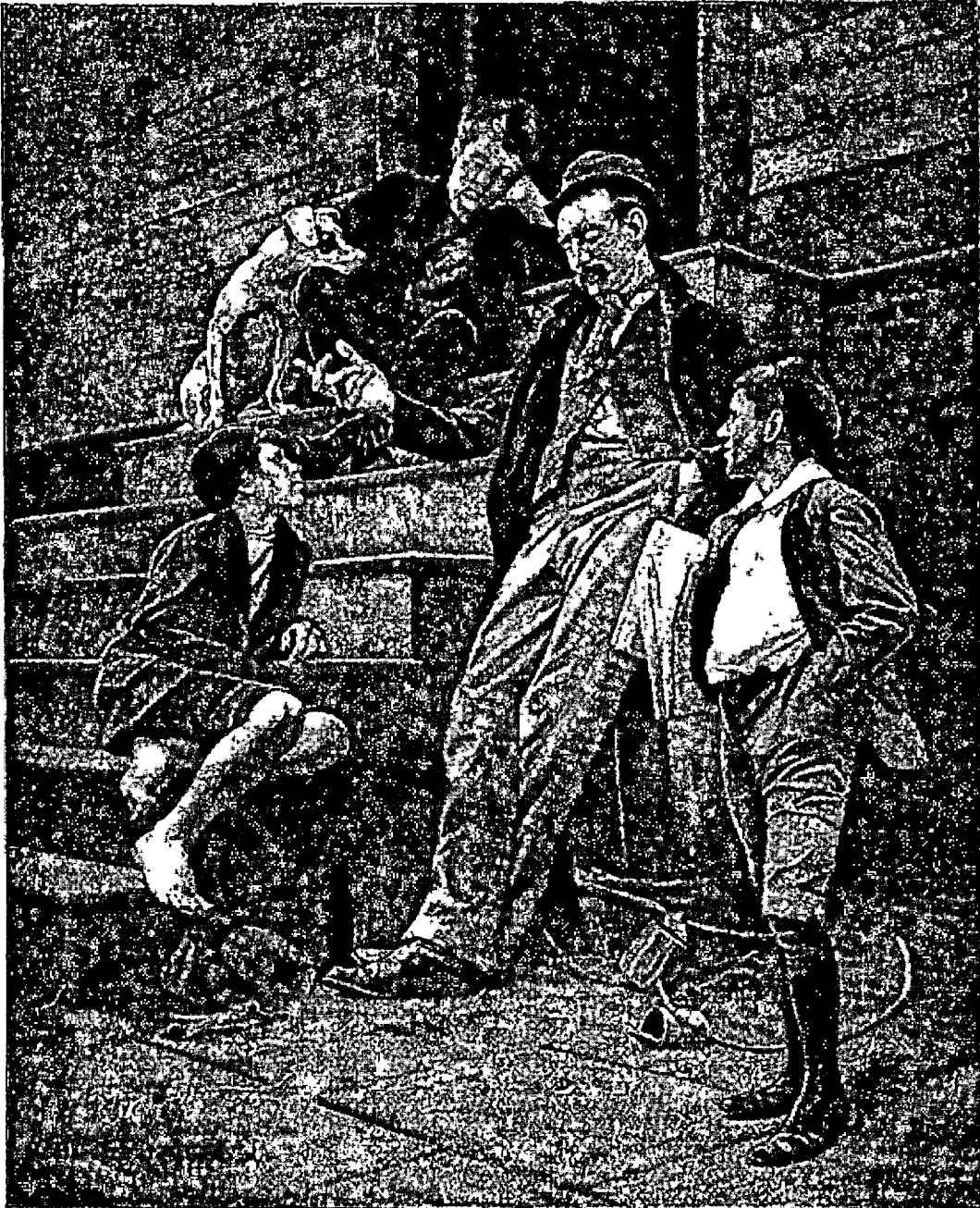
101

 *previous page*Page 261
(Image 271 of 1098)*next page* 

View As: 50%

Go to Page #

Go To: First Page

Cornell
LibraryMaking of
America

DRAWN BY N. TRAUTSCHOLD

TELLING "GHOST-STORIES."

every house that I passed. But the Canadian tramp is evidently satisfied with small rewards, else he could not live long in his chosen district. As I know him, he is a slow-going fellow; fond of peace and quiet, and seldom desirous of those wild "slopping-ups" in American tramping for which so much money is needed. If he can only have some outcast woman, or "sister," as he calls her, to accompany him on his travels, and to make the little tent, which

he often carries, homelike and comfortable; and if he can have his daily *páno*, and his usual supply of *dohun* (tobacco), he is a comparatively happy fellow. He reminds me more of the European loafer in general character than any other human parasite I can think of; and I shall be exceedingly sorry if he ever gets a foothold in the United States, because he is a vagrant down to the core, and this can hardly be said as yet of most American tramps.



previous page

Page 262
(Image 272 of 1098)



next page

View As:

TRAMPING WITH TRAMPS

Go To:

Cornell University
Library

It is almost impossible to touch his emotions, and he usually looks upon the world as his enemy. He can hardly be called a victim of liquor, but rather the victim of an ill-matched parentage. He is often on the mercy of the world before he knows how he came into it, and it is not wonderful that he should drift into a class where no questions are asked, and where even the murderer is received with some distinction. To reform such a man requires that the social polity itself be permeated by a higher order of ethics than governs it at present — a truth quite as applicable in certain districts of the United States as elsewhere.

THE EAST.

THE tramps of this part of the country represent the main intelligence as well as "respectability" of the brotherhood. They also comprise the most successful criminal element. But of course the vocation of the great majority is simply begging. To tell exactly where they thrive, and to particularize too carefully, would demand much more space than an article of this sort affords. The most I can do is to give a very general idea of the district.

New England, as a whole, is at present poor begging territory for those vagabonds who are not clever and not able to dress fairly well. Boston is the beggar's metropolis as well as the New England millionaire's, and, until recently, Bughouse Mary's Tramp Home was as much a Boston institution as Tremont Temple or the Common. One could find there tramps of all grades of intelligence, cleanliness, and manners. And even in the streets, I have often been able to pick out "the begging brothers" by the score from the general crowd. But it must not be forgotten that a city offers privileges to beggars which the rural districts deny, and probably, if the police authorities were more diligent than they are now, even Boston could be rid of the great majority of its worst loafers. I must admit, however, that it will be difficult ever to banish the entire tramp tribe, for some of them are exceedingly clever, and when decently clad can play the rôle of almost any member of society. For instance, I tramped through Connecticut and Rhode Island once with a "fawny man."¹ Both of us were respectably dressed, and, according to my companion's suggestion, we posed as strolling students, and always offered to pay for our meals and lodging; but the offer was never accepted. Why? Because the farmers "considered themselves repaid by the interesting accounts of our travels, and talks about politics," etc. My friend was very sharp and keen, and carried on a successful trade in spu-

¹ A peddler of bogus jewelry.

rious jewelry with some of the foolish country boys, when he was not discussing the probabilities of the Presidential election. I am sure that I could never through New England, unless I respectably clad, and be gratuitously entertained wherever I should go; and simply because the credulity of the charitable is so favorable to "traveling gentlemen."

One of the main reasons why Massachusetts is such poor territory for the usual class of vagrants is its district-jail system. In many of these jails the order and discipline are superb, and work is required of the prisoners — and work is the last thing a real tramp ever means to undertake. I cannot help looking forward to very gratifying results to trampdom from the influence of the present Massachusetts jail system. For anything which brings the roving beggar into contact with sobriety and labor is bound to have a beneficial effect. New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Ohio, and Michigan are all fairly good tramp States, and all swarm with allowed beggars. The most remarkable feature of vagrancy in New York State is that wonderful town known among vagrants as "The City" and also as "York." This is the most notorious tramp-nest in the United States. I have walked along the Bowery of an afternoon, and counted scores of men who never soil their hands with labor, and beg on an average a dollar a day. Even the policemen of this city are often friends of beggars, and I have seldom met a hobo who was very angry with a New York "bull." As a rule, the police officer, when finding tramps drunk on doorsteps or begging, says in a coarse and brutal voice, "Get out," and possibly gives them a rap with his club, but it is altogether too seldom that the beggar is arrested. One rather odd phase of tramp life in New York city is the shifting boundary line that marks the charity of the town. Several years ago, Eighty-ninth street was about as far up-town as one could secure fair rewards for diligent begging. Now one can see tramps, on a winter's night especially, scattered all along One Hundred and Twenty-fifth street, not because this street is the only "good one," but because it is so "good" that better profits are realized than in those farther down. And for clothes, I have always found Harlem more profitable than other parts of the city. New York city is also one of the best places in the country for "snaring a kid" — persuading some youngster to accompany an older beggar on the road. There are so many ragamuffins lying around loose and unprotected in the more disreputable quarters of the town, that it is only necessary to tell them a few "ghost-stories" (fancy tales of tramp life), to make them follow the story-teller as unresistingly as the boys of Hamelin marched after the Pied Piper.

Cornell University
Library

Making of
America

 [previous page](#)

Page 263
(Image 273 of 1098)

[next page](#) 

View As:

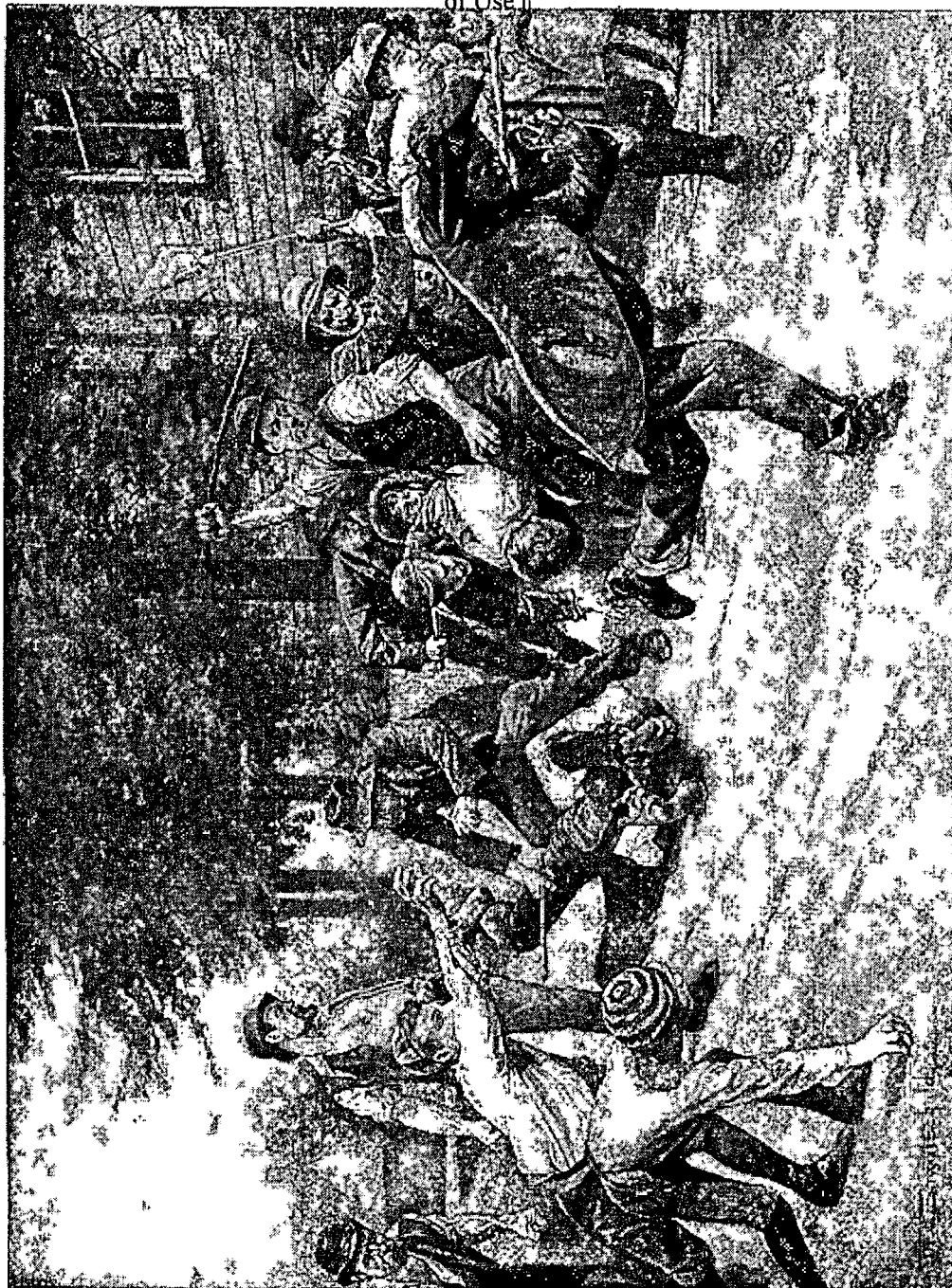
Go to Page #

Go To:

Cornell University
Library

[Search](#) || [Advanced Search](#) || [Browse](#) || [Help](#) || [Terms of Use](#) ||

Cornell Making of
America



A "TIMBER LESSON."

DRAWN BY W. TRAUTMANN



previous page

Page 264

(Image 274 of 1098)

TRAMPING WITH TRAMPS.



next page

View As: 50%

Go to Page #

Go To: First Page

Cornell
Library

Almost every third boy that one meets in a gantlet extending from one end of the American vagabondage hails from "York." town of Oxford, Indiana, to the other. The This accounts for the fact that several tramps boys and men who were "timbering" us even the beggar's ingenuity is not capable of Use came out of the scrape with a rather sore back, and should probably have suffered more had I not been able to run with rather more than the usual speed. One of my fellow-sufferers, I heard, was in a hospital for some time. My other companion had his eye gouged terribly, and I fancy that he will never visit that town again. Apart from the "timber" custom, which, I understand, is now practised in other communities also, these two States are good begging districts. There are plenty of tramps within their boundaries, and when "the eagles are gathered together," the carcass to be preyed upon is not far away. The other States of the East have so much in common with those already described that little need be said of them. Chicago, however, deserves a paragraph. This city, although troubled with hundreds of tramps, and noted for its generosity, is nevertheless a terror to evil-doers in this, that its policemen handle beggars according to law whenever they can catch them. Instead of the tiresomely reiterated "Get out!" and the brutal club-swinging in New York, one gets accustomed in Chicago to "thirty days in the Bridewell." I know this to be true, for I have been in Chicago as a tramp for days at a time, and have investigated every phase of tramp life in the city. Of course there are thousands of cases where the beggar is not caught, but I maintain that when he is found, he is given a lesson almost as valuable as the one over in Indiana. The cities in the East which the vagabond considers his own are New York ("York"), Philadelphia ("Phillie"), Buffalo, Boston, Baltimore, Chicago (here he is very often deceived), Detroit (another place where he is deceived), and Cincinnati.

Over in New Jersey, I think, there are more tramps to the square mile than in any other State, excepting Pennsylvania, and one finds very nearly the same state of affairs as in "York." The neighborhood around Newark, when I was in the brotherhood, was simply infested with beggars who met there on their way into and out of New York city. They often have a "hang-out" on the outskirts of the town, where they camp quite unmolested, unless they get drunk and draw their razors, which is more than common with Eastern tramps. It is surprising, too, how well they are fed, when one remembers that they have "battered" in this community for years. It is in Pennsylvania, however, that the tramp is best fed, while I still maintain that he gets more money in New York city. I do not know of a town or village in the Keystone State where a decently clad roadster cannot get all that he cares to eat without doing a stroke of work in payment. He can travel, too, more freely than elsewhere, for the railroads intersecting the State are the most friendly in the country. There is not one which does not harbor "dead-beats," at least at night. The jails are also a great boon to the fraternity. In the majority of them there is no work to do, while some furnish tobacco and the daily papers. Consequently, in winter, one can see tramps sitting comfortably on benches drawn close to the fire, and reading their morning paper, and smoking their after-breakfast pipe, as complacently and calmly as the merchant in his counting-room. Here they find refuge from the storms of winter, and make themselves entirely at home.

Ohio and Indiana, although fairly friendly to tramps, are noted for certain "horstile" features. The main one of these is the well-known "timber lesson"—clubbing at the hands of the inhabitants of certain towns. I experienced this muscular instruction at one unfortunate time in my life, and I must say that it is one of the best remedies for vagabondage that exist. But it is very crude and often cruel. In company with two other tramps, I was made

VOL. XLVII.—14.

in a gantlet extending from one end of the American vagabondage hails from "York." town of Oxford, Indiana, to the other. The This accounts for the fact that several tramps boys and men who were "timbering" us even the beggar's ingenuity is not capable of Use came out of the scrape with a rather sore back, and should probably have suffered more had I not been able to run with rather more than the usual speed. One of my fellow-sufferers, I heard, was in a hospital for some time. My other companion had his eye gouged terribly, and I fancy that he will never visit that town again. Apart from the "timber" custom, which, I understand, is now practised in other communities also, these two States are good begging districts. There are plenty of tramps within their boundaries, and when "the eagles are gathered together," the carcass to be preyed upon is not far away. The other States of the East have so much in common with those already described that little need be said of them. Chicago, however, deserves a paragraph. This city, although troubled with hundreds of tramps, and noted for its generosity, is nevertheless a terror to evil-doers in this, that its policemen handle beggars according to law whenever they can catch them. Instead of the tiresomely reiterated "Get out!" and the brutal club-swinging in New York, one gets accustomed in Chicago to "thirty days in the Bridewell." I know this to be true, for I have been in Chicago as a tramp for days at a time, and have investigated every phase of tramp life in the city. Of course there are thousands of cases where the beggar is not caught, but I maintain that when he is found, he is given a lesson almost as valuable as the one over in Indiana. The cities in the East which the vagabond considers his own are New York ("York"), Philadelphia ("Phillie"), Buffalo, Boston, Baltimore, Chicago (here he is very often deceived), Detroit (another place where he is deceived), and Cincinnati.

Just a word about the Eastern tramp himself. His language is a slang as nearly English as possible. Some words, however, would not be understood anywhere outside of the clan. His personal traits are great conceit, cleverness, and a viciousness which, although corresponding in the main to the same in other parts of the country, is nevertheless a little more refined, if I may use that word, than elsewhere. The number of his class it is difficult to determine definitely, but I believe that he and his companions are many thousands strong. His earnings, so far as my eight months' experience justify me in judging, range from fifty cents to over two dollars a day, besides food, provided he begs steadily. I know from personal experience that an intelligent beggar can average the above amount in cities, and sometimes in smaller towns.

Making of
America



(Image 275 of 1098) TRAMPING WITH TRAMPS.

View As: 106 50%

THE WEST.

Go to Page #

Go To: First Page

Cornell University Library

VAGABONDAGE in this part of the country is characterized principally by the "prushuns," "gay-cats," and a small number of recognized tramps who, however, belong to none of the foregoing classes, and are known simply as "Westerners." The blanket-stiffs are men (or sometimes women) who walk, or "drill," as they say, from Salt Lake City to San Francisco about twice a year, begging their way from ranch to ranch, and always carrying their blankets with them. The ex-prushuns are young fellows who have served their apprenticeship as kids in the East, and are in the West "looking for revenge"; i. e., seeking some kid whom they can press into their service, and compel to beg for them. The gay-cats are men who will work for "very good money," and are usually in the West in the autumn to take advantage of the high wages offered to laborers during the harvest season. The Westerners have no unique position, and resemble the Easterner, except that they as well as the majority of other Western rovers drink alcohol, diluted in a little water, in preference to other liquors. On this account, and also because Western tramps very often look down upon Eastern roadsters as "tenderfeet," there is not that brotherly feeling between the East and the West in vagrancy that one might expect. The Easterners think the Western brethren too rough and wild, while the latter think the former too tame. However, there is a continual intercourse kept up by the passing of Westerners to the East, and *vice versa*, and when neither party is intoxicated, the quarrel seldom assumes very dangerous proportions.

Of the States in the Western district, I think that Illinois, Iowa, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Colorado, Washington, and a part of California are the best for tramps. Illinois is thought especially well of by vagabonds because of its "good" railroads. The Illinois Central, for instance, is known the country over as the best for a journey south, and I have known tramps to travel from New York city to Chicago, and go south by this line rather than start from New York direct for New Orleans. The "C. B. & Q." is also a great "snap"; in fact, so much so that, when I was on the road, it was called "the bums' line." In Nebraska, where the "Q." becomes the "B. & M. R.," the lines are more tightly drawn, and it behooves a roadster to take to the trucks if he is anxious to make good time. Truck-riding is necessary almost everywhere west of the Mississippi. Of course one can "fool around" freight-trains, but he is liable to be knocked off when the train is at full speed, and unless this occurs on the Desert, or where the ground is rather soft, it may

prove dangerous. I once attempted to ride a "freight" on the Southern Pacific road, and it was the hardest experience I ever encountered. I was pressed to the side of a cattle-car in an effort to keep out of the brakeman's way, but he eventually found me, and ordered me to get up on top. There I was made to turn my pockets inside out to convince him that I had no money. Being angered that I could not give him a dime, he said: "Well, hit the gravel! I can't carry you on this train." I told him that I would never hit the gravel unless he stopped the train. "You won't, eh?" he said; "well, now, we'll see." So he chased me over his train for about fifteen minutes. I dodged here and there, and found that I was quite able to elude him as long as he alone followed me; but soon the "Con." appeared, and then the chase began in earnest. They finally pressed so near that I was compelled to climb down the side of a cattle-car. They then tantalized me by spitting and swearing. Finally the "Con." climbed down also, and stepped on my fingers, so I had to let go. Fortunately, the train was slackening its speed just then,—I really think the engineer had a hand in the matter, for he is usually a good fellow,—and I got off safely enough. But I had to "drill" twenty miles that afternoon without a bite to eat or a drink of water. In the far West after that experience I always made use of the trucks.

Iowa is usually liked very much by roadsters, but its temperance principles are thoroughly hated, as are also those of Kansas. It is needless to say, however, that in the river towns a tramp can usually have all the liquor he can stand. I was in Burlington once when there was a Grand Army celebration, which the tramps were attending (!) in full force; and the amount of "booze" that flowed was something astounding for a "dry" State. Nearly every vagrant that I met had a bottle, and when I asked where it came from, I was directed to an open saloon! A great fad in Nebraska, Iowa, and Kansas is to beg from the hotels. I have received hospitality in these places when I could get absolutely nothing at the private houses. This is especially true when the cook is a negro. He will almost always give a beggar a "set down" (square meal), and sometimes he will include a bundle of food "for the journey." Still another fad when I knew the country was to call at the penitentiaries for clothes. I saw one fellow go into Fort Madison "pen" (Iowa) one day with clothes not only tattered and torn, but infested with vermin. When he returned, I hardly knew him, he was so well dressed. Stillwater Penitentiary in Minnesota also had a notoriety for benevolence of this sort, but I cannot affirm this by personal observation.

Cornell University Making of America


 previous page

Page 266

(Image 276 of 1098)

TRAMPING WITH TRAMPS.

 next page 

View As: 50%

Go to Page #

Go To: First Page

Cornell
Library

Wisconsin, although not exactly friendly to tramps, is nevertheless a "poor" State, because it has no very large city, and is peopled largely by Englishmen. Search Advanced Search Help Terms
 the best place for a beggar. The Germans will give him all the beer he wants, and feed him well besides, for they are the most unwisely generous people in this country. Where they have a settlement, a tramp can thrive almost beyond description. For instance, in Milwaukee, as in other Wisconsin towns, he can "batter" for breakfast successfully from six o'clock until eleven o'clock in the morning, and is everywhere sure of a cup of coffee. I once attempted in Milwaukee to see just how many dinners I could get inside the ordinary dinner-time, and after an hour and a half of rather lukewarm search, I returned to the "hang-out" with three bundles of food, besides three dinners which had already been disposed of. I could have continued my dining indefinitely, had my capacity continued.

San Francisco and Denver are the main dependence of tramps in the West. If one meets a westward-bound beggar beyond the Mississippi, he may usually infer that the man is on his way to Denver; and if he is found on the other side of that city, and still westward bound, his destination is almost sure to be "Frisco," or at least Salt Lake City, which is also a popular "hang-out." Denver has a rather difficult task to perform, for the city is really a junction from which tramps start on their travels in various directions, and consequently the people have more than their share of beggars to feed. I have met in the city, at one time, as many as 150 bona-fide tramps, and every one had been in the town for over a week. The people, however, do not seem to feel the burden of this riff-raff addition to the population; at any rate, they befriend it most kindly. They seem especially willing to give money. I once knew a kid, or prushun, who averaged in Denver nearly three dollars a day for almost a week, by standing in front of shops and "battering" the ladies as they passed in and out. He was a handsome child, and this, of course, must be taken into consideration, for his success was really phenomenal.

"Frisco" is even better than Denver, furnishing districts in which tramps can thrive and remain for a longer time unmolested. There are more low lodging-houses, saloons, and dives; and there is also here a large native class whose character is not much higher than that of the tramp himself, so that he is lost among them—often to his own advantage. This difficulty of identification is a help to roadsters, for there is nothing that pleases and helps them so much as to be considered "town bums," the latter being allowed privileges which are denied to strangers.

In the estimation of the tramp the West does not rank with the East. The railroads are not so "good"; there are fewer cities; even the people are too poor; and taking the country as a whole, the inhabitants are by no means so generous. I doubt whether the average gains of Western beggars amount to more than twenty-five cents a day. In "Frisco" and Denver, as well as in a few other large towns, begging is of course much more remunerative, but in the rural parts the average wage of a beggar is even below twenty cents a day, besides food; at least, this is the result of my observation. In general the Western tramp is rough, often kind-hearted, wild and reckless; he always has his razor with him, and will "cut" whenever there is provocation. The "blanket-stiff" is perhaps the least violent of all; his long walking-tours seem to quiet his passion somewhat, and overcome his naturally wild tendencies. The "ex-prushun" is exactly the opposite, and I know of no roadster so cruel and mean to the weak as this young fellow, who is, after all, only a graduated kid. This is not so surprising, however, when one recollects that for years he has been subject to the whims and passions of various "jockers," or protectors, and naturally enough, when released from his bondage, he is only too likely to wreak his pent-up feelings on the nearest victim. After a year or two of Western life he either subsides and returns to the East, or becomes more intimately connected with the true criminal class, and attempts to do "crooked work." Several of the most notorious and successful thieves have been ex-prushuns.

Just how many tramps there are in the West it is even more difficult to decide than in the East, because they are scattered over such wide territory. Experience makes me believe, however, that there are fully half as many voluntary idlers in this part of the country as in the East. And the great majority of them, I fear, are even more irreclaimable than their comrades in other communities. They laugh at law, sneer at morality, and give free rein to appetite. Because of this many of them never reach middle age.

THE SOUTH.

TRAMP life here has its own peculiarities. There are white loafers known as "hoboes," which is the general technical term among white tramps everywhere, and there are the "shimies," who are negroes. The odd part of it all is that these two classes hardly know each other: not that they hate each other or have any color line, but simply that they apparently cannot associate together with profit. The hobo seems to do better when traveling only with hoboes,

and the shiny lives much more comfortably in his own clan. My explanation of this fact is this: both parties have learned by experience that alms are much more generously given to a white man when alone than when in company with a negro. This, of course, does not apply anywhere but in the South, for a colored tramp is just as well treated in the East and West as a white one.

My knowledge of the shinies is very meager, for I was compelled to travel as a hobo when studying vagrancy in the South, and I have never met a member of that class who knew very much about his negro *confères*. From all that I can gather, however, I think that they resemble very closely the gay-cats, for they do work now and then, although their being on the road is usually quite voluntary, unless their natural laziness can be considered as a force impelling them into trampdom. Their dialect is as different from the usual tramp lingo as black from white, and I have never been able to master its orthography.

As the South in the main is only skimmed over by most white tramps, and as a few cities represent the true strongholds of vagrancy, it is unnecessary to give any detailed account of this region. Besides, it is only in winter that many tramps, excepting, of course, the shinies, are found here, and consequently there is not very much to describe, for they go into this part of the country principally to "rest up," and shun the cold weather prevalent in other districts. The chief destinations of wandering beggars in the South are New Orleans, St. Augustine, Jacksonville, Tallahassee, and Atlanta. Several towns in Texas are also popular "resting-places," but usually the tramps in Texas have begged their money in other States, and are there principally for "a great stopping-up," for which dissipation Texas furnishes much more suitable accommodations than any other State in the Union. The usual time for Eastern and Western tramps to start south is in October. During this month large squads of vagabonds will be found traveling toward "Orleans." I once was on an Illinois Central freight-train when seventy-three tramps were fellow-passengers, and nearly every one was bound for either Florida or Louisiana. These two States may almost be called the South so far as hoboes are concerned. New Orleans is especially a tramp-nest, and ranks second to New York in hospitality, according to my experience. In the older part of the town one can find beggars of almost every nationality, and its low dives are often supported by the visiting knights of the road. Begging, as they do, very fair sums of money, and being only too willing to spend it quickly, they afford these innkeepers of the

baser sort very fair rewards for keeping up their miserable "hotels." A well-trained beggar can very often average a dollar a day in New Orleans if he begs diligently. But he must be careful not to be arrested, for the jails in the South are man-killing holes in many and many an instance. Even in the East and West several of the county prisons are bad enough, but they cannot compare in filth to some of the miserable cells of the South.

Jacksonville and St. Augustine are good "hang-outs" for tramps, and in the winter such visitors are very numerous. They make a very decent living off the transient tourists at these winter resorts. But success is so short and precarious there that many hoboes prefer New Orleans, on account of its steadier character, and seldom visit the other towns. Besides, to "batter" around the hotels in St. Augustine one should be respectably clad, and polite in manner and bearing, which, in most cases, involves far too much trouble.

The most generous people in the South are the poor, but not the negro poor, who, according to my experience, are by no means large-hearted. Take them in the East or West, and they are friendly enough, but on their native heath they are, as a rule, stingy. I have received much more hospitality from the "poor whites" than from any other people. The negroes, when I asked them for something to eat, would say: "Oh, go and ask the Missis. I can't give you anything"; and when I would call upon the "Missis," she was not to be seen. But the "poor white" would invite me into his shanty, and treat me as well as was in his power. It was not much, I must admit; but the spirit was willing though the pantry was nearly empty. In West Virginia, for instance, I have been entertained by some of the "hill people" in their log houses in the most hospitable manner. The obvious reason of this is a scarcity of tramps; when they are few, generosity is great, and the few get the benefit.

If the students of this particular phase of sociology will only look minutely and personally into the conditions under which trampdom thrives and increases in our country, Barcas's map may yet become famous. Charles Godfrey Leland once wrote an article entitled "Wanted, Sign-Posts for Ginx's Baby." It would seem that his prayer has been answered, and that this unwanted, unprovided-for member of society has found his way through forest and mountains, over rivers and prairies, till now he knows the country far better than the philanthropist who would gladly get on his track. If this topographical survey shall serve to bring him nearer what should be, and what I am convinced aims to be, a source of betterment for him, Barcas will not have lived in vain.

Josiah Flynt.