scrutinizing a list of sold and unsold compartments by the aid of the conductor's lantern braceleted on his elbow. He turned the glare of his lantern on my ticket, entered the car and preceded me down its narrow aisle and siid back the goor of Number Four. I stepped in, and discovered to my relief, my small luggage, hatbox, shawl, and umbrella, safely deposited in the upper berth. My night's rest, at all events, was assured.

I found also a bald-headed passenger who was standing with his back to me stowing his small luggage into the lower berth. He looked at me over his shoulder for moment, moved his bag so that I could pass, and went on with his work. My sharing his compartment had evidently produced an unpleasant impression.

I slipped off my overcoat, found my travelling cap, and was about to light a fresh cigarette, when there came a tap at the door. Outside in the aisle stood a man with a silk hat in his hand.

"Monsieur, I am the Manager of the Compagnie Internationale. It is my pleasure to ask whether you have everything for your comfort. I am going on to Paris with this same train, so I shall be quite within your reach."

I thanked him for his courtesy, assured him now that all my traps were in my berth and the conductor had shown me to my compartment, my wants were supplied, and watched him knock at the next door. Then I stepped out into the aisle.

It was an ordinary European Pullman, some ten staterooms in a row, a lavatory at one end and a three-foot sofa at the other. When you are unwilling to take your early morning coffee on the gritty, dust-covered, one-foot square, propped-up-with-a-leg-table in your stuffy compartment, you drink it sitting on this sofa. Three of these compartment doors were open. The woman with the dog was in Number One. The big dog and the maid in Number Two, and the ring-master in Number Three (his original number, no doubt; the clerk had only lied)-I, of course, came next in Number Four.

Soon I became conscious that a discussion was going on in the newly-arrived circus car whose platform touched ours. I could hear the voice of a woman and then the gruff tones of a man. Then a babel of sounds came sifting down the aisle. I stepped over the dog, who had now stretched himself at full length in the aisle and out on to the platform.

A third gentleman in chocolate—the porter of the circus car and a duplicate of our own-was being beseiged by a group of people all talking at once and all in different tongues. A mild-eyed, pink-cheeked young man in spectacles was speaking Greman; a richly dressed woman of thirty-five, very stately and very beautiful, was interpolating Russian, and a plump, rosy-cheeked, energetic little Englishwoman was hurling English in a way as pointed as it was forcible. Everybody was excited and everybody was mad. Standing in the car-door listening intently was a French maid and two round-faced, wide-collared boys, of say ten and twelve. The dispute was evidently over these two boys, as every attack contained some direct allusion to "mes enfants" or "these children" or "die Kinder," ending in the forefinger of each speaker being thrust bayonet fashion

toward the boys. While I was making up my mind as to the particular roles which these several members of the Greatest Show on Earth played, I heard the English girl say—in French, of course—English-French-with an accent-

"It is a shame to be treated in this way. We have paid for every one of these compartments and you know it. The young masters will not go in those vile-smelling staterooms for the night. It's no place for them. I will go to the

office and complain." The third chocolate attendant in reply merely lifted his shoulders. It was the same old lift—a tired feeling seems to permeate use gentlemen, as if they were bored to death. A hotel clerk on Reviera sometimes has this lift when he tells you he has not a bed in the house and you tell him he-prevaricates-I knew something of the liftit had already cost me five francs. I knew, too, what kind of medicine that sort of tired feeling needed, and that until the

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