

**A TRAMP TRIP; HOW
TO SEE EUROPE ON
FIFTY CENTS A DAY**

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A tramp trip; how to see Europe on fifty cents a day by Lee Meriwether

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LEE MERIWETHER

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THE AUTHOR IN TRAMP ATTIRE.

(From a Photograph taken in St. Petersburg.)

A TRAMP TRIP

HOW TO SEE EUROPE ON FIFTY CENTS A DAY

BY

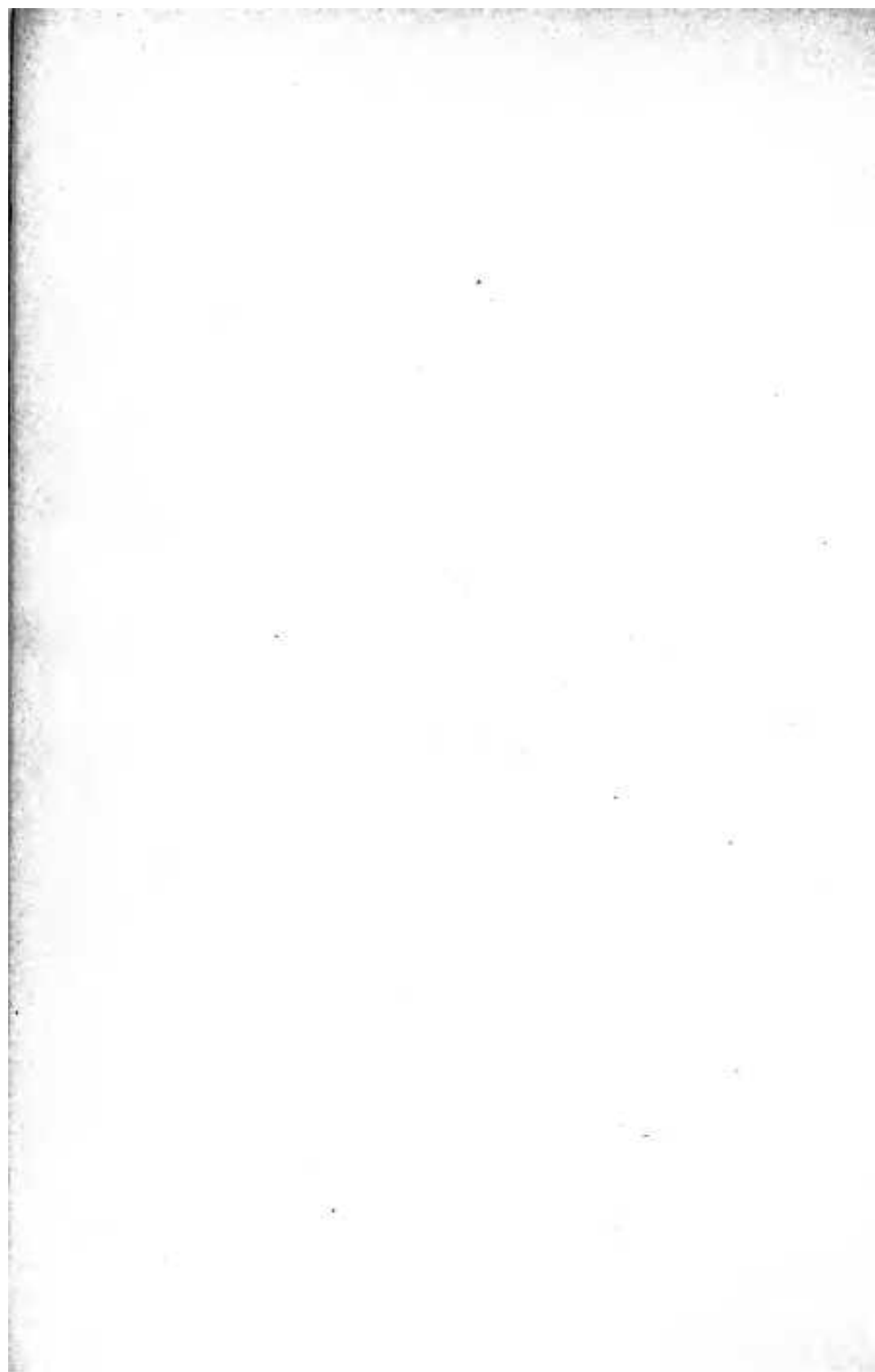
LEE MERIWETHER



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PREFACE.

THE first-class tourist may see the beauties of a country's landscapes and scenery from the window of a palace-car, but his vision goes no further—does not penetrate below the surface. To know a country one must fraternize with its people, must live with them, sympathize with them, win their confidence.

High life in Europe has been paid sufficient attention by travellers and writers. I was desirous of seeing something of low life; I donned the blouse and hob-nailed shoes of a workman, and spent a year in a "Tramp Trip" from Gibraltar to the Bosphorus. Some of my experiences have been related in letters to the *New York World*, the *Philadelphia Press*, the *St. Louis Republican*, and other American newspapers, and in my official report to the United States Bureau of Labor Statistics, Department of the Interior, Washington, D. C., on the condition of the laboring classes in Europe. While the following pages contain some of those newspaper letters, the greater portion is now in print for the first time.

The reader may possibly not care to make the experiment himself, yet the perusal of how another travelled on fifty cents a day may not prove altogether uninteresting.

LEE MERIWETHER.

ST. LOUIS, September, 1886.



PREFACE TO THE FOURTH EDITION.

A FOURTH edition affords opportunity to answer a question put by a number of readers of "A Tramp Trip:"

"Would not bicycling be preferable to tramping?"

Yes—and yet, No.

Generally speaking, the roads in Western Europe are smooth and well paved; if the traveller does not object to occasional steep hills, he will say they are admirably adapted for bicycling. But he who is induced by consideration of good roads to take his wheel must lay aside his ideas of economy. Moreover, he must not expect to gain that intimate acquaintance with the people which it is the fortune of the tramp tourist to obtain. As a tramp, with a modest bag on your back, you will be taken for an itinerant journeyman or peddler, and as such can fraternize and live with the peasants and people. The rider of a bicycle, however, if not mistaken by the simple peasants for some strange sort of animal, will at any rate be looked on as a *tourist*, and will be treated accordingly. Obviously in Switzerland, on account of the mountains, and in some Eastern countries, as Turkey and Bulgaria, on account of the sand, bicycling is out of the question.

It was my custom to arise at five o'clock, drink a pint

of goat's milk, and walk ten miles. At nine o'clock, after breakfast and a short rest, the tramp was resumed. I passed the time from noon until the cool of the afternoon under a tree, reading, writing, or perhaps sleeping. Then, fresh and vigorous, I started again, stopping only at night on finding a suitable lodging-place. In this way, without any feeling of hurry or fatigue, I made twenty-five or thirty miles a day, and saw all of the country that was to be seen.

The bicycler might go faster, but he would see less; so my advice is—leave your wheel at home and walk.

LEE MERIWETHER.

St. Louis, *March*, 1887.

PREFACE TO THE FIFTH EDITION.

A NUMBER of the reviews of this book just received from America make one point concerning which I shall take the opportunity afforded by a new edition to say a few words.

I am charged with unfairness in confining my comparative tariff and wage-tables to free-trade England and protected Europe, and in stating (p. 271) that that country in Europe with least "protection" pays the highest wages, thus leaving America altogether out of consideration. It seems to me that conditions in America and the European states are so dissimilar that no just economic conclusions can be drawn from such comparisons; also, that the results of investigations in America should be reserved for the account I am preparing of "Tramps at Home," and not be used in a book about Europe. But, since the point is made, let me briefly answer it.

In Europe I found the highest wages in the one State with free-trade; in America, with few exceptions, I find wages highest in precisely those trades with least protection, *i. e.*, in those trades in which there is virtually free-trade. If any set of men are specially protected by the tariffs, it is the cotton and woollen operatives of New England. They are protected so heavily that the im-