

rated and thoroughly explained; the descriptions, being varied by dialogue, story, and reflections, are lively and life-like.

Once familiar with our book, the pupil may unhesitatingly set out for England; nowhere will he be at a loss, neither in hotels nor in restaurants, nor in every day life.

The poetry which we have added, will be specially useful in giving him a correct intonation and pronunciation.

A. L.-W. and E.-B. L.

# “ SPEAK ENGLISH ”

## LITTLE CHATS

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### PART I

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#### CHAPTER I

#### TRAVELLING

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##### A. — A journey by rail.

##### I. — Preparations for the journey.

When I wish to make a journey, I first consider whether I shall go **into the country** or **to the sea-side**. When this has been finally settled, I draw up a **plan** of the **route** I wish to take, i.e. I find out all the places through which I must pass, in order to reach my journey's end, my **destination**.

Then I consult the **time-table** (perhaps “**Bradshaw**”) about the **arrival** and **departure** of the trains.

I next buy the various articles which I shall need, such as a **trunk** (or *box*), a **hat-box**, a **hand-bag** (a *Gladstone-bag* or *portmanteau*), a **travelling-rug** with **straps** to carry it in, a **plaid** or *rug*, a **travelling-cap**, a pair of **travelling-shoes**, etc.



If I am going to travel **abroad**, I must be careful to procure a **passport**, which may be useful in some countries.

The evening before my departure, I **pack my trunk**; then I roll up the travelling-rug, and fasten it in the straps. Then I push my **umbrella** and **stick** through the straps.

When all is ready, I send for a **cab**. If I have much **luggage**, I take a **four-wheeler**. The maid carries the smaller **packages** down, and places them in the cab. When all the luggage has been put in, I **take leave** of my family, **shaking hands** with every one, and saying "**good bye**"; they wish me a **pleasant journey** and a **safe return**.

When I have told the **cabman** to which **station** he must drive, I get in, and pull the door to; the horses start and the **cab** drives off.

## II. — The Tickets.

When I arrive at the station, I jump out, pay the cabman, and get a **porter** to take my luggage to the **luggage-office** (or *booking-office*). I then buy my **ticket**, either *single* or *return*, first, second or third **class**, as the case may be. I say to the **clerk** at the booking-office: "London, first, single; how much?" or "London, first, return, how much?"

If I wish to make a *circular tour*, I must buy a **tourist-ticket**.

When I have bought my ticket, I go to the luggage-office, where my luggage is **weighed** and **labelled**. It is then put into the **luggage-van**.

If I am going to travel on the Continent, I have my luggage **registered**, and get a **receipt**, so that I need have

no fear of losing it. If it is **overweight** (if there is *extra luggage*), I am obliged to pay a supplement for it, according to the number of pounds by which it exceeds the weight allowed **free**. On a tourist-ticket no free luggage is allowed.

In England every ticket allows a certain amount of luggage *free*, which varies on the different **railways** (*lines*). If you have **extra luggage**, you must pay for it, but most of the Railway companies are very liberal.

Children are allowed to travel by rail, **free of charge**, until they are three years of age; above three, and until they are twelve, they must have a **child's ticket**, for which *half-fare* (or *half-rate*) is paid.

When I have got the *receipt* for my luggage (or when my luggage is **booked**), and given the porter a **tip**, I make my way on to the **platform**, where my ticket is examined and **punched**.

In England, if one wishes to see a friend off, it is not necessary to buy a platform ticket as one sometimes has to do in France and Germany.

## III. — Getting into the train.

After coming on to the platform, I at once begin to look for a good **seat**, if possible a *corner-seat*, in a **carriage** which is either empty or not too full. If I am going to smoke, I look for a *smoking-carriage*.

Having chosen my seat, I put my things in the **net** (or *rack*), and sit down. A few minutes before the train leaves the platform, the **guard** cries, "**Take your seats, please**;" at this, all who are standing or walking about on the platform, get into their carriage and the guard shuts the doors.

Precisely at the moment when the train should leave,



the guard gives the signal for departure by *whistling* and waving his *flag*. The engine whistles in return, the guard calls: "**Look out! stand back!**" and the train *steams out* of the station.

#### IV. — Different kinds of trains.

Those trains which are only intended for **passengers** and their luggage, are called **passenger-trains**. Those which convey **goods** only, are called **goods-trains**. These trains travel more slowly than any others. There is another class of trains which convey both passengers and goods.

*Passenger-trains* are of the following kinds:

1. The **express trains**, which run very quickly, and stop only at important stations. They generally go direct (**through-trains**), so that there is no necessity for changing. The quickest of all in Great Britain is the "**Flying Scotchman**", which runs from London to Edinburgh (530 kil.) in less than eight hours.

2. The ordinary **passenger-trains**, which stop at every station; these go rather *slowly*. Some of the passenger-trains are called "*Parliamentary trains*", because, by Act of Parliament, the railway companies are required to run at least one train every day at the fare of *one penny a mile* for the 3<sup>rd</sup> class.

3. The **excursion trains**, which travel on special occasions at a reduced rate.

Certain trains have special names. All trains going to London, from the country, are called "**up-trains**"; and those going from London into the country "**down-trains**".

4. The **suburban trains**, that run to and from the suburbs of large towns.

All express trains, called "*corridor trains*", have generally a dining-car, and night-trains, **sleeping-cars**.

#### V. — Frontiers. — Customs.

The traveller going abroad must get out at the *frontier-station*, and make his way to the **Custom-House**, to have his luggage **examined** by the **custom-house officer**. This official usually asks: "**Have you anything to declare?**" (or "*Have you anything liable to duty?*"). If the traveller has anything *dutiable* with him, he answers "Yes". The officer generally asks him to open his trunks, and then examines the *contents*; usually he merely thrusts his hand into the boxes, but sometimes he turns everything out. When the examination is over, he marks the boxes with chalk, to show that they have been examined. The traveller then locks his trunks, picks up his bag, etc., and goes into the **waiting-room**, or **refreshment-room** (or *buffet*), until it is time for his train to start.

The trunks, travelling-baskets, etc., which have been examined, are carried back to the luggage-van by the porters.

#### VI. — Arrival at the journey's end.

As soon as the train has stopped, I get out of my carriage, and find my way with other passengers to the "**Way out**" from the station, giving my ticket to the **ticket-collector**, as I pass out. I then take a cab. If I have a receipt, I give it to a porter, telling him to bring my things to the cab, for which I give him a tip. Then I get into the cab, shut the door, and the cabman drives me to the **hotel** where I am going to **put up**.

On arriving at the hotel, I ask if I can have a room; I say:

"Have you a room to give me? I want one facing the street".



I then enquire about the price :

“ What do you **charge** for the room *daily, weekly, monthly?* ” (or : by the day, by the week, by the month).

“ With *attendance?* ” (or : is attendance included ?)

— “ Yes, with attendance ”, or “ No, attendance is *extra* ”.

— “ What do you charge for attendance ? ”

The price having been agreed upon, I take the room.

## VII. — Departure.

When the day for departure comes, I ask for my **bill**.

“ Waiter! the bill, please. ”

On the bill are marked the **charges** for *rooms, attendance, meals, washing, etc.*

The *prices* may be *reasonable* (moderate), or *high* (very high, exorbitant). When the bill is paid, the *hotel-proprietor*, the *cashier* or the *head-waiter* receipts it.

On leaving, I do not forget to **tip** the waiter (I give the waiter a *tip*). — “ This is for you, waiter ”, I say.

## B. — A voyage.

### I. — The embarkation.

**Voyages** are generally made in **steamers**, as these travel faster than **sailing ships**. The first thing the passenger does, is to go to the *office* of the **shipping-company**, in order to book his **passage**. He takes a **cabin**, with a **berth**, either 1<sup>st</sup>. or 2<sup>nd</sup>. class. Having made his way to the place of embarkation, he goes **on board**.

When all the passengers have embarked, the **captain** gives the order to **weigh anchor**, and the steamer is started.

The **engine-man** sets the engine going, the **propeller** revolves, the boat moves forward, leaves the **harbour**, and steams out into the open sea. The passengers on board, and their friends on shore, wave a farewell to one another.

## II. — The passage.

When the weather is fine and the sea calm, the boat has a *good passage*, the passengers walk up and down the **deck**, or examine the different parts of the ship : they look at the **pro**w (the front part of the ship), the **stern** (the back part), the **cabins**, the **saloons**, the **store-rooms**, the **engine-room**. The **steersman** (*helmsman*) explains to them the working of the **compass** and the **helm**.

As long as the good weather continues, everyone is cheerful and in good spirits ; but often the sea becomes **rough**, and the passengers have a bad time of it. A **storm** comes up, the **waves** grow higher and higher, and break against the ship with a noise like thunder ; they rise more and more, and at last dash over the *deck*, sweeping before them all that is not securely fixed in its place. Whistling and howling, the wind adds its tumult to that of the waves. The passengers are forced to take refuge in their cabins. All those who are not *good sailors*, are **sea-sick**, except the *captain* and the **crew** (the *sailors*, the *cabin-boys*) who are accustomed to the sea.

Some nervous passengers are afraid that the boat may be **wrecked** ; but their fear is groundless. The trusty vessel weathers the storm, and arrives safe and sound at its destination.

The ship enters the harbour, (the port), and **drops**



**anchor** (or : *puts into port and casts anchor*). The passengers descend the **gangway** and go on shore, delighted at having dry land once more beneath their feet.

### C. — A trip in a balloon.

A man who makes excursions in a **balloon**, or *air-ship*, is called an **aeronaut**. The aeronaut makes **ascents** sometimes in an **air-balloon**, sometimes in a **captive-balloon**. The latter is attached to the ground by iron-wire, or very strong thick rope.

The balloon is made of *silk* or *taffeta*, covered with gutta-percha, to render it *air-tight* and prevent the gas from escaping. When the aeronaut wishes to make an ascent, he has the balloon filled with *hydrogen gas* which makes it expand. To prevent it from rising into the air at once, several strong men hold it down by *ropes*, or the ropes are fixed to *stakes* driven into the ground.

While the balloon is being filled, the aeronaut finds out which way the wind is blowing, by sending up a few *trial-balloons*. When the balloon is full, and everything else ready, the aeronaut steps into the car and calls "Let go!".

It is an impressive sight to see the balloon calmly and majestically rising into the air, whether it ascends amid the awed silence of the crowd — for its fate is always uncertain — or amid the shouts and cheers of the spectators who admire the courageous aeronaut.

In order to rise higher and higher, the aeronaut, from time to time, throws out **ballast**, in the shape of sand sewed into small bags.

The passenger obtains a **bird's eye view** of town and country, as the balloon floats along high up in the air.

What a wonderful experience that must be!

By means of a **barometer**, the **altitude** at which the balloon is floating may be ascertained.

When the aeronaut wishes to descend again, he opens the **valve**, and the gas escapes. The balloon sinks gently to the ground; then he **casts anchor** and the excursion is at an end.

### D. — A walking-tour.

A man who is fond of walking, and does not easily tire, from time to time makes a **walking-tour**. With a **stick** in his hand, and a **knapsack** on his back, he sets out early in the morning. Sometimes he goes along one of the **main-roads** (the *king's highway*), sometimes he follows a **by-path**, a *foot-path*. In order to be sure of taking the right turning, he consults the **sign-posts** at the **cross-roads**, or asks the way of someone whom he meets, saying:

"Excuse me", (or: "I beg your pardon"), does this road lead to X?"

Or, "Can you tell me if this road leads to X?"

Or, "Which is the nearest way to X, please?"

If the *pedestrian* wishes to know what distance he still has to walk, he asks:

"Is it much farther from here to X?"

Or, "How long does it take to get to X, please?"

Or, "How far is it to X?"

Now and then he makes a **halt**, in order *to rest*, and take some *refreshment*.

In the evening, he goes to a **hotel** or an **inn**, dines and sleeps there, and sets out again the next morning.

If he be a good **mountaineer**, he will not be satisfied unless he climbs a mountain during the excursion.



He buys special *shoes* for this purpose, which are **studded** with **iron nails**; he also buys an **alpenstock**. Then he hires a **guide**, who will guide him safely along the right path. He spends the night in a *herdsman's cottage*, on the mountain-side. Next day he climbs to the **summit** (the *top*) of the mountain. After he has rested, and thoroughly enjoyed the beautiful view which opens out before him, he descends the mountain. On his way down, he will probably pick some *rhododendrons*, or *cyclamens*, or a bunch of *edelweiss*, if he be at a sufficient height to find any of the latter.

Refreshed in body and mind, he returns home, to resume his usual occupations. The memory of his walking-tour will be a pleasure to look back upon for many a day to come.

## CHAPTER II

### THE FAMILY

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#### I. — The members of the family.

The **family**, in the proper sense of the word, consists of the **parents**, viz (1) the *father* and *mother*, and the **children** (the *sons* and *daughters*). In a wider sense, the word *family* includes the **grand-parents** (the *grand-father* and *grand-mother*), the **uncles** and **aunts**, the **nephews** and **nieces**, and the cousins, as well as all the other relations.

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(1) *Viz* is an abbreviation of the Latin word *videlicet*, and is read *namely*.

#### II. — Engagement and Marriage.

When a gentleman wishes to **marry** a lady, he **proposes** to her, he asks her hand in marriage.

If he is accepted, and not rejected, the **engagement** takes place. Mr. N. is now said to be *engaged* (*betrothed*) to Miss X. The betrothed (the *fiancé*) gives an engagement **ring** to his betrothed (his *fiancée*). In England, as in France, the lady wears an engagement ring: She wears it on the left hand.

After the engagement, the **banns** are published (or *put up*), the coming marriage is announced on three successive Sundays, before the marriage ceremony, so that if any person knows of a reason why the engaged couple should not be married, he may make it known. The **wedding-presents** are displayed at the house of the *fiancée's* parents a few days before the **wedding**.

If no objection be raised, the *wedding* or **marriage** takes place in a church, or in the house of the **bride's** parents.

Sometimes what is called a *civil marriage* is contracted before the **registrar**, but it is very seldom in England that the betrothed go through both forms of marriage. The civil marriage is not compulsory as in France and Germany. One marriage is as binding as the other.

For a *fashionable wedding* in a church, the building is decorated with flowers and foliage. The bride generally wears a white satin **wedding-dress**, a white veil and a few **orange-blossoms**, the large *wreath* being no longer fashionable. She then receives her *wedding-ring*.

It was formerly the custom for the bride and **bridegroom's** unmarried sisters, and the bride's most intimate friends to act as **bride's-maids**; but now, the bride's-maids are children as often as adults. They are often the