

Who is to blame?

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WHO IS TO BLAME?

I waived a last good-bye to my host and hostess, and making myself as comfortable as I could, finally sank into a corner of a 3rd class railway compartment. "I have had a very good day" I reflected, as I was making a few mental notes of the day's outing, pulled out from my overcoat pocket a much creased music programme, the only bit of literature within reach. After a few minutes of travel, during which time I had sufficiently read the programme to know all the items and advertisements off by heart, the train slowed down and eventually stopped. My door was violently flung open, and two young fellows got in and occupied the two farthest corners of the carriage. By their appearance I judged them to be of the working class type, and their talk eventually confirmed my belief. I sat upright and folding my arms, deliberately listened to their conversation, the subject of which dealt with the present state of international affairs, and soon they were discussing the League of Nations. — After a slight pause, the eldest said words something like these: France is having her own way too much... Look here, even these conferences have to be held in her country. The League of Nations for example has to sit at Geneva, one of her biggest cities. — I was stunned at this gross geographical error but refrained from interrupting for he soon continued: "Even this Lausanne business will be in France." At this point his colleague protested, and said that Lausanne was in Switzerland, and a very lively argument started. In the end, however, he managed to convince his friend on the ground, that a relation of his works for a lady, who every year goes to Lausanne, which he swore was in Switzerland. The other gave in, and muttering something about Switzerland having nothing to do with it, went on explaining his theories of, how he thought, the world ought to be governed. But I had to receive yet another shock when he eventually tackled the International Bank of Settlements, which he declared was in a city called Basle, or something like that in Belgium. — I was never more surprised in my life at this lack of elementary knowledge, and would have protested had not our train again stopped. Some unintelligible name was voiced, and my two politicians got out leaving me alone to ponder on the faults of present-day elementary education. This so impressed me, that I was determined to find out more, and next day when an opportunity arose, tested the youngest employee on our staff. I fired three simple questions at him, regarding our country. Only one he answered correctly. I was disappointed, one so often reads, and hears impressive ideas on the high standard of English education. That to doubt whether three important cities like Geneva, Lausanne, and Basle belong to Switzerland or not, seems almost an impossibility.

After this, I feel even more grateful to my parents, for having given me the opportunity to attend school for a few years in Switzerland where education is undoubtedly of a better quality. — But really, who is to blame for this deplorable state of mental training among the working class?

Young Anglo-Swiss

GRABSCHRIFTEN.

(Aus einer Sammlung von L. v. Hörmann)

Hier liegt Martin Krug,
Der Kinder, Weib und Orgel schlug.
(Auf dem Grabe eines Schullehrers und Organisten.)

O hl. Wendelin, du grosser
Viehpatron, bitte bei Gott für uns.

Hier liegt begraben die ehrsame Jungfrau N.N.
Gestorben ist sie im siebzehnten Jahr
Just als sie zu brauchen war.

(Oberinntal)

Hier ruht der ehrsame Johann Missegger auf der
Hirschjagd durch einen unvorsichtigen Schuss
erschossen aus Aufrichtiger Freundschaft
von seinem Schwager Anton Steger.

(Auf einem Grabkreuz im Lavanntal. Jede
Interpunktion fehlt.)

Aufi gstiegen,
Kirschen brockt (Kirschen geflückt),
Abi gefallen,
Hin gwesen.

(Vor Amras)

Hier ruht Franz Josef Matt,
der sich zu Tod gesoffen hat,
Herr gib ihm die ewige Ruh'
und ein Gläselein Schnaps dazu.
(Feldkirch)

Hier fiel Jacob Hosenknoip
Vom Hausdach in die Ewigkeit.

Hier hinter diesen Friedhofsgittern
Da ruht ein morsches Haus,
Das drank gar manchen Bittern
Kelch des Leidens aus.

Hier liegt der Bote Michel,
Er fiel mit seiner Kraxen,
Brach sich beide Haxen,
Die wurden amputiert,
Das hat ihn sehr schenirt,
Dann kam der Brand hinzu!
Gott schenk ihm die ewige Ruh'!

Durch einen Oschenstoss
Kam ich in des Himmels Schooss.
Musste ich auch gleich erblasen
Und Weib und Kind verlassen
Kam ich doch zur ewigen Ruh'
Durch dich, du Rindvieh du.

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Evening — at Conway Hall, Red Lion
Square, W.C.1. (See Advertisement.)

Friday, February 19th — from 8 p.m.—2 p.m. —
Swiss Choral Society — Buffet-Dance — at
the First Avenue Hotel, High Holborn,
W.C.1. Tickets 5/6. All are cordially invited.

Saturday, February 20th, at 2 and 4 o'clock —
Nouvelle Société Helvétique (London Group)
— Swiss Film Show — at King George's Hall,
Caroline Street, Tottenham Court Road, W.

Saturday, February 20th from 6.45-12p.m. — City
Swiss Club — Dinner and Dance — at the
May Fair Hotel, Berkeley Square, W.1.

Tuesday, February 23rd, at 8.15 p.m. — Othmar
Schoeck, conducts his Song Cycle "Elegy"
at the Aeolian Hall, New Bond Street, W.1.

Wednesday, February 24th, at 8 p.m. — Nouvelle
Société Helvétique — Annual General Meet-
ing at 34/35, Fitzroy Square, W.

Wednesday, February 24th, at 8 o'clock — Swiss
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7 Uhr abends, Gottesdienst.

8 Uhr Chorprobe.

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