

THE ROOSEVELT BEARS ABROAD

By SEYMOUR EATON

Illustrated by R.K. CULVER.

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NUMBER IX

THE BEARS IN PARIS

They studied French along the way,
On train and steamer to Calais;
And TEDDY-B had learned to say
"Bonjour, monsieur," and "parlez-vous Francais,"
And "oui" for yes, and "du pain," some bread,
And "merci," thanks, and "un lit," a bed.
But on the train that afternoon
He pronounced his French in another tune.
For he ordered hats and shoes to eat
And loaves of bread for a parlor seat;
While TEDDY-G just used his paws
And worked his face and tongue and jaws
And shook each Frenchman long and good
Till he made his language understood.

But the fun they had in gay Paris
Was worth an ocean trip to see;
It would take a week the things to tell,



In trying to order a cup of tea
And rolls and butter and Paris cake
Made what he calls a big mistake.
He saw the waiter acting queer,
And thinking that he couldn't hear
He yelled his order in his ear
And gave the table such a knock,
So loud 'twas heard for half a block;
He broke a dish and stopped a clock.
But the Frenchman just excited grew
For an English word he never knew.
Then TEDDY-B took the menu card
And with the language struggled hard
And by pointing at things with his paw
He ordered every food he saw:
A meal, they say, quite big enough
Two dozen Teddy Bears to stuff.

For days and nights they were on the move;
They saw the Luxembourg and the Louvre,
The Arc de Triomphe and Elysees Park,
And Venus of Melos and Joan of Arc,
And the Tuilleries and the Place Vendome,
And old Versailles, Louis Fourteenth's home,
And Napoleon's Tomb and the Madeleine
And bridges of the River Seine,
And the famous store, the Bon Marche,
Where they shopped with children half a day.

When at Versailles, said TEDDY-B,
"There's a place out here I'd like to see;



And a thousand pictures to do it well.
They bought new suits of Paris style,
And strolled the boulevards a while
And explored the shops and bought some toys
To send back home to girls and boys;
For Priscilla Alden a special treat,
A necklace rich and jewel sweet,
And a watch and chain for Muddy Pete.
Said TEDDY-B, on a public square,
To a newsboy who was sitting there
In a little house in colors bright
As he bought some reading for the night:
"Is this your shop? How much your rent?
How many centimes in a cent?
Where is your home? How old are you?
What kind of work does your father do?
We'll pay in English, half-a-crown,
If you'll show us all around the town;
Or make it francs, say two or three,
If you'll tell us all the things to see."
But the lad said "l'Anglais" and shook his head.
And that was every word he said.
They tried French fun of every sort:
To the Bois they went for a day of sport,
And sport they had that day at noon,
For they took a ride in a park balloon
Tied by a rope, five francs a ride;
You pay your fee and step inside
And off you go one thousand feet
Above the park and lake and street.
But TEDDY-G said, "This is slow,
I'll cut the rope and let her go."
And cut he did and away they flew,
Till the park below was lost to view,
But down they came in half an hour
On the very top of Eiffel Tower,
And then to a restaurant to dine,
Where everything was very fine;
But the place was French, with not a hint
Of English word in voice or print;
And here it was that TEDDY-G



The Trianons, if standing yet;
The homes of Marie Antoinette;
Where the simple life she led, 'tis said,
Was that of country dairy maid."
They found the place and there were told
Of a girlish life, of prisons cold,
Of babies stolen, of a butchering job,
A mother killed to please a mob.
Said TEDDY-G, "Don't tell me more
Of the guillotine and its awful gore;
I'm here for fun; these things I hate;
I'd wipe all history off the slate."
With that he made the old place creak
Playing a game of hide and seek
With boys and girls who were waiting there
To play in French with a Teddy Bear.

They stopped to get a photograph,
The comic kind to make folks laugh,
Printed in color and postcard size,
Their tour abroad to advertise.
They each dressed up in costume grand
Loaned by the man who owned the stand;
TEDDY-B, the famous Richelieu,
In cardinal's robe of brilliant hue;
And TEDDY-G, as a work of art,
The great Napoleon-Bonaparte.
Said TEDDY-B, "This suit of mine
Makes me look extra superfluous."
Said TEDDY-G, "The whole world knows
That a Roosevelt Bear can fill these clothes."
The postcards made they bought ten score
Ten thousand times and fifty more
To address and post and send away
To boys and girls in the U. S. A.

At half-past ten o'clock one night
They said good-bye to Paris light
And with basket lunch of bread and jam
They took a train for Amsterdam.

(Continued next Sunday.)