

**PERILS OF EXPLORERS.**

Tragic Journey Across a Desert of Central Asia by the Great Swedish Explorer, Sven Hedin.

One of the most trying of the central Asian adventures of Sven Hedin, the Swedish explorer, was this: In February, 1895, Sven Hedin started eastward, exploring the country between the Kashgar and Yarkand rivers, proceeding in April to cross the Takla Makan desert, between the Yarkand and Khotan rivers. Never before had any known traveler attempted to exploit a course amid the eternal sea of shifting sand hills from river to river. The tale of that little, travel worn, bedraggled group, far beyond the last watering place, enveloped in dust, stumbling along through the dreary but agitated desert sea by crooks and roundabout ways, with desolation spread around and every trace of life departed, was a weird and pathetic one. "Not even a fly was to be heard in the air, not even a yellow leaf broke the monotony."

And ever at their head was the sturdy figure of the Swedish explorer, compass in hand, still enthusiastic, guiding them as best he could through the death shrouded wilderness. At length the camels had to eat their straw saddles, and the last of the bread was gone. Horrors followed. As men and camels dropped out of the line they were immediately enveloped in the whirling sand shroud and never seen again.

The end came on May 5, when Sven Hedin, crawling on all fours, dragged himself across the dry bed of the Khotan river. "All of a sudden a duck flew into the air and water splashed," he wrote. Two of his followers were all that survived, and it is doubtful whether even those two would have lived to tell the tale had not Sven Hedin carried back water for them in his boots.

**MARKED THEIR TRAIL.**

Two Brave Women Who Outwitted a Band of Indians.

One summer afternoon in 1776 Jemima Boone and two sisters named Callaway while boating on the Kentucky allowed their canoe to drift close to the opposite bank. Here, behind a bush, five Shawnee warriors were in hiding, and, although the spot was not more than a quarter of a mile from Boonesborough, one of the Shawnees struck boldly out into the water, seized the canoe and dragged it to shore with its screaming occupants.

Once in the power of the Indians, however, these youthful daughters of the wilderness betrayed a wonderful self possession and resourcefulness. They knew enough of Indian customs to realize that if their strength failed them and they should prove unequal to the long march to the Shawnee towns on the Ohio they would be slaughtered mercilessly. So they stifled sobs and calmly accompanied their captors without protest or struggle. At every opportunity, though, they secretly tore little pieces from their clothing and attached them to bushes on the trail. Nothing more was needed to inform Boone and his fellow settlers, who had quickly started in pursuit, that they were on the right track, and on the second day of the captivity they caught up with the Indians. A volley laid two Shawnees low, the rest fled, and by the close of another day the girls were safe in the arms of their thankful mothers.—H. Addington Bruce in Smith's Magazine.

Stories of W. S. Gilbert.

When Sir Henry Irving and Edwin Booth were acting together in London at doubled prices, the story goes that Mr. Herman Vezin, meeting W. S. Gilbert in the street, asked him whether he had been to this quite exceptional show. "No," said Mr. Gilbert; "I have sometimes paid half a guinea to see one had actor, but I will not pay a guinea to see two."

Mr. Beerbohm Tree was playing the part of Falstaff at the London Haymarket, and the indispensable stuffing made him perspire profusely. Mr. Gilbert, who was in the theater, went behind the scenes to see the actor, who may well have been expected to be congratulated on the excellence of his impersonation.

"How well your skin acts!" said Mr. Gilbert.—London Graphic.

Peter the Great as a Drinker.

There is preserved in the Bodleian library, Oxford, an innkeeper's bill for breakfast eaten in England by Peter the Great of Russia. The czar and his twenty companions managed to dispose of half a sheep, a quarter of lamb, ten pullets, twelve chickens, three quarts of brandy, six quarts of mulled wine, seven dozen of eggs, with salad in proportion. Peter was always a hard drinker. He would drink a pint of brandy and a bottle of sherry for his morning draft; after dinner he managed eight bottles of sack, "and so to the playhouse." But his favorite drink was hot pepper and brandy.

He Had the Bill.

Tom (in restaurant)—Excuse me, old man, but would you mind paying my check? I haven't anything but a forty dollar bill. Jack—A forty dollar bill! Why, I never heard of a bill of that denomination. Tom—Here it is—a bill from my tailor!—Chicago News.

To Fresh Eyes.

Willie, accompanied by his father, was visiting a circus and menagerie. "Oh, papa," the boy exclaimed as they passed before an elephant, "look at the big cow with her horns in her mouth eating hay with her tail!"—Christian Register.

There is nothing so utterly hollow as a kind word that should have been spoken yesterday.—Evangel.

**As the Twig Bends.**

Kendall had a son who was the pride of his heart. One day he found one of his favorite cherry trees cut down. "Jack," he said, "did you do that?" With quivering lip Jack replied: "Father, I can't deceive you. I did not cut the tree down. Billy Brown did it, but I bossed the job."

Tears of joy sprang into the father's eyes. "Bless you, my boy," he said, "Billy will be president of the United States, but you will be chairman of the national committee."—Success Magazine.

The Gargoyle.

The word "gargoyle" is closely akin to "gargle," for "gargouille" is simply the French "gargouille" (throat). It was a good name for the architectural monster through whose mouth the rain-water was carried off. But all idea of the throat had disappeared in the terrible Gargouille de Rouen, the dragon which wasted a French district until St. Romanus threw it into the Seine. In after generations a huge sham gargoyle used to be carried round the city once a year in memory of this deliverance.

Something Wrong.

"Oh, dear, John, I just know I shall not like this dress!"

"What's the matter now?" asked her husband without laying down his pipe or looking from his paper. "I thought you said you liked it."

"That's just it. I was so sure I wouldn't like it when I got it home, though I liked it well enough in the store. And now that I am home I do like it, and therefore I know I will not like it when it is made up. Now I don't know what to do."

"Search me," grunted the cruel man, turning to the sporting page.—Puck.

Diamond Cut Diamond.

A Quaker was negotiating with an insurance agent as to effecting a policy on a vessel overdue. At this juncture he heard of the vessel's loss and wrote at once to the agent of the company:

"Friend, if these hasn't filled up the policy these needn't, for I've heard of the ship."

"Eh," said the officers, "cunning fellow. He wants to do us out of the premium." So they wrote to the Quaker:

"Thou art too late by half an hour. Thy policy is filled up."

Stromboli's Flames.

Stromboli rarely pours out streams of lava, for this Aeolian crater vomits flame persistently and cinders spasmodically. The "lighthouse of the Mediterranean" has been known to stick to its function of torchbearer for the space of 2,000 years. Whenever the tiny, regular eruption takes place the stones drop back again into the crater. While the ancients regarded Stromboli variously as the smithy of Vulcan and the headquarters of Aeolus, the men of the middle ages looked upon it as the main highway to purgatory.

What Telepathy Is.

Telepathy is the transference of emotions and sensations between souls, while thought transference is the transmission of words, ideas or images from mind to mind. Thus telepathic communication is possible only between persons of a certain degree of soul development and between whom there is a degree of emotional sympathy, while in transference of thought one dominant, positive mind may affect another without there being any degree of sympathetic vibration between them.—"Svastika."

The Earth's Crust.

The solid crust of the earth is about twenty-five miles thick, and it floats upon a denser substratum, which is fluid or at least plastic. The crust of the earth may therefore be compared to an ice floe resting on the ocean and the mountains to icebergs imbedded in it. Just as an iceberg floats with only a small proportion of its bulk above the surface of the water, so the hills as we know them are merely the crests of huge bergs that float, almost wholly submerged, in a denser substratum.—Captain Craster in New Quarterly Review.

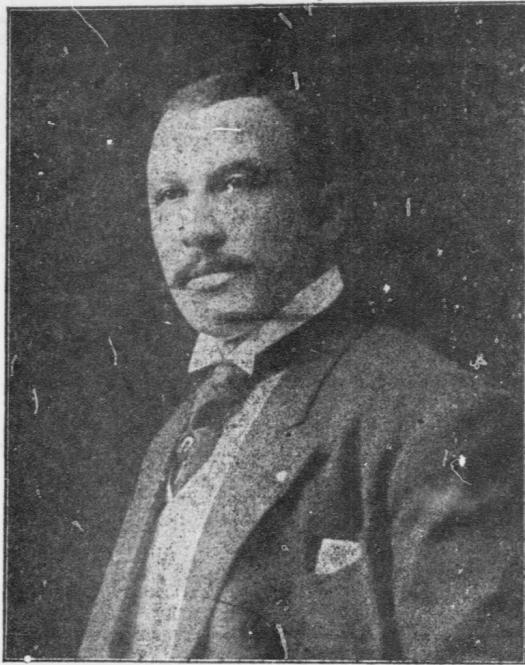
Eating Oysters.

Surely the queerest way of cooking an oyster is that mentioned in the year 1672, when Richardson, the fire eater, took a live coal on his tongue; on this he put a raw oyster in his shell, while an attendant blew upon the coal with bellows until it flamed and sparkled in his mouth. This continued until the oyster opened and was perfectly cooked.

The European Magazine for 1806 contains an account of a young lady at Brighton who undertook to eat for supper the amazing quantity of 300 oysters, with a certain amount of bread and butter. This feat she performed, greatly to the astonishment of all present.

Armor Plated Pawnshops.

The inside of a Chinese pawnshop is a terra incognita to most people, Chinese and English. Few are admitted within its mysterious walls except those directly connected with the business. A traveler was recently permitted to inspect one in an inland town and was surprised to find the entire building incased in sheet iron about one-eighth of an inch thick. It must have cost a large sum to build an iron house within the usual lofty brick edifice, yet there it was, even to the roof. It served a twofold purpose—a protection against fire and thieves. Yet even within this iron castle night watchmen armed with heavy revolvers and clad in bullet proof jackets ever keep watch.



MR. A. C. HOWARD, OF NEW YORK. Where to Buy Howard's Polish in Washington: DEPARTMENT STORES

- Saks & Co., Department Store.  
S. Kann & Sons, Department Store.  
M. Goldenberg's, Department Store.  
George Goldenberg, 463 Pennsylvania avenue, Department Store.  
DRUGGISTS  
Gray and Gray, True Reformers' Building, 122 N street northwest.  
Southwestern Drug Company, Second and H streets southwest.  
Board & McGuire, 1912 1/2 14th street, northwest.  
W. L. Smith, 2201 Seventh street northwest.  
Leroy H. Harris, 600 Third street southwest.  
J. R. Mayer, Fourth and N streets southwest.  
L. M. Day & Co., 14th and P streets northwest.  
J. W. Morse, 1904 L street northwest.  
George Murray, 201 D street southwest.  
Napper's Pharmacy, 1846 Seventh street northwest.  
Marke Pharmacy, 1000 20th street northwest.  
L. M. Singleton's Pharmacy, 20th and E streets northwest.  
JOBBER.  
American Barber Supply Company, 1009 E street northwest.  
Tony B. Dason, Shoe Findings, 1918 Seventh street northwest.  
George Goldberg, 163 Pennsylvania avenue.  
M. Garfinkle, 1117 Seventh street northwest.  
J. Scheinerman & Son, 1230 12th street southeast.  
GENERAL DEALERS.  
T. J. Watts, 221 Pennsylvania avenue.  
M. A. Harris, 870 Florida avenue northwest.  
J. Fairfax, 1906 Pennsylvania avenue northwest.  
J. H. Maxwell, Terminal R. R. Yards, Pullman Porter's Rooms.  
A. A. Viennas, 1115 Pennsylvania avenue.  
J. J. Wilson, 635 G street northwest.  
All Towel Supply Companies use Howard's Polish in their outfits.  
All Barracks and Forts around Washington use Howard's Polish.  
Holtman's Shoe Store, Pennsylvania avenue.  
Arthur Martin, 105 Eighth street northwest.  
National Shoe Manufacturing and Repair Company, 442 Ninth street.  
W. A. Taylor, 1202 New York avenue.  
Robert Harris, 906 11th street northwest.

**A DARING BUCCANEER**

Edward Thatch, Who Was Known as the Blackbeard Pirate.

**HIS BATTLE WITH MAYNARD.**

After the Hand to Hand Conflict the Desperado's Head Hung at the Bow-sprit End of the Lieutenant's Sloop as She Sailed Back to Virginia.

It is almost 200 years since Edward Thatch, better known as the pirate Blackbeard, was a name with which to terrorize the Atlantic coast of the then new country of America. As a buccaner whose deeds of desperate daring made him feared wherever his name was known he stands a close rival of the famous Captain Kidd, if indeed in some respects he did not surpass that notorious freebooter.

The date of Thatch's birth is lost in history, and his native place is variously given as Bristol and Jamaica. He first appears as a foremast hand to Major Stede Bonnet, a gentleman of Barbados, who, although a man of property and having small knowledge of the sea, thought proper to fit out a sloop and take to a life of piracy, the explanation of his being "a little distracted" being charitably given by one biographer. However that may be, his crew missed in the major the qualities of a successful commander. They deposed him and elected Thatch in his place. Bonnet was tried and executed in 1711.

Thatch's first independent exploit of which we have a detailed account took place in June, 1718, when he captured two French ships near the Bermudas, one laden with sugar, the other empty. Transferring to the latter the crew of the laden vessel and letting them go their way, he sailed with his prize of vessel and sugar for Bathtown, N. C., with the governor of which place, Charles Eden, he had previously arrived at a pleasant understanding.

Thatch gave out that he had found the French ship deserted. Governor Eden received sixty hogsheads of sugar as his share. Tobias Knight, his secretary, took twenty, and the remainder fell to Thatch and his crew. Thatch lingered there for some months, plundering and insulting the merchants of the place. These, understanding at length the futility of expecting redress from Eden, applied to the governor of Virginia to rid them of the pest.

The governor, after consultation with the captains of the Pearl and Lime, then lying in the James river, agreed to provide two sloops, the warships to furnish a complement of men. Lieutenant Maynard of the

Pearl was placed in command, and the punitive expedition sailed on Nov. 17, 1718. On the 21st the pirates were sighted in an inlet about sixty miles from Bathtown, and Maynard anchored for the night.

On the following morning Thatch, maneuvering to elude attack, ran his vessel aground, but Maynard's sloop, drawing more water, though she had no guns on board, failed to get to close quarters. The lieutenant, however, threw out his ballast and in answer to a truculent defiance from Thatch promised to be "soon aboard him with his sloop." Coming at last within close range, a broadside from the pirate killed or wounded twenty of Maynard's crew and nine on board his consort.

Maynard now ran alongside the pirate, when, under cover of a discharge of grenades, Thatch and fourteen followers boarded the king's ship. Maynard and Thatch, pistol and sword in hand, engaged in a desperate personal encounter. The lieutenant's sword broke, and more than once he narrowly escaped a fatal injury. But at last Thatch, having received sixteen wounds, fell dead in the act of cocking a pistol. His followers jumped overboard and cried for quarter. Maynard hung Thatch's head at the bowsprit end, sailed for Bathtown, where he seized the governor's storehouse, and then, still with his grisly sign of triumph swinging in the wind, rejoined his ship in Virginia, where thirteen of the captured pirates were hanged.

One of the Blackbeard's crew who obtained pardon was Israel Hands, who makes his appearance in "Treasure Island." Shortly before Thatch met his death Hands had been lamed for life by a pistol shot in the knee fired by Thatch from under the cabin table, at which he, with Hands and others, was carousing, just to remind his crew in general "who he was." Such an act was only one of the many eccentric brutalities of Thatch's career.

When he felt himself in the vein or was going into action his appearance was somewhat startling—his bushy black beard tied up with ribbons, the ends of which were thrown over his ears; a fur cap on his head, with a lighted match on either side, and three brace of pistols slung across his shoulder. Of the usual condition of himself and his crew much may be gathered from the fact that "our company somewhat sober" was a circumstance deemed worthy of note in the diary found after his death.—London Globe.

Not Yet.

"Do you desire a room with a bath?" asked the affable clerk.

"Gee whiz, no!" replied the gentleman with the canvas telescope. "This is only Tuesday, ain't it?"—Chicago Record-Herald.

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