

licious ! What exquisite pleasure ! The noblest wine pressed out of the grape, the finest nectar ever made, was never half so sweet."

After drinking some half-a-dozen pints of the precious liquid he began to think of Kasim, whom he had left lying alone in the forest fighting against death. How was the water to be carried to him ? A happy idea struck him—"My boots." His Swedish waterproof boots were filled up to the brim. "Not a drop came through the leather." He hastened back in the night, but was unable to find Kasim, although he shouted till he was hoarse. At last he slept, to rise at daybreak to find his great boots still full of water. He soon found the trail :

"I swallowed a mouthful of water, and set about looking for my trail of the night before, and now I quickly found it. When I came to Kasim, he was lying in the same position in which I left him. He glared at me with the wild, startled eyes of a faun ; but upon recognizing me, made an effort, and crept a yard or two nearer, gasping out, 'I am dying.'

"'Would you like some water?' I asked quite calmly. He merely shook his head, and collapsed again. He had no conception of what was in the boots. I placed one of the boots near him, and shook it, so that he might hear the splashing of the water. He started, uttered an inarticulate cry ; and when I put the boot to his lips he emptied it at one draught without once stopping, and the next moment he emptied the second."

A little later, though parted from Kasim again, he heard the lowing of a cow, "a voice which in my ears was welcomer than the singing of a *prima donna*" :

"The farther I went, the more distinctly I heard the voices of men talking, and the bleating of sheep, and through an opening in the forest I caught a glimpse of a flock of sheep grazing. A shepherd with a long staff in his hand was keeping watch over them ; and when he perceived me, in my tattered clothes and blue spectacles, breaking out of the tangled thickets, he was not a little startled and amazed."

After this marvellous deliverance

from death, Dr. Hedin went down the river to Aksu and then to Kashgar.

Dr. Hedin contrived to be in the Pamirs at a momentous time. Having reached the summit of "the roof of the world," the high plain whence waters flow westward, eastward, and to the Indus southward, he heard that the Anglo-Russian Delimitation Commission was busy in an adjoining valley. He was fortunate enough to know leading officers on both sides and was warmly welcomed. For many days high festivities were held, dinner parties, a Derby day, "tug-of-war," and other sports, in which Cossack and Afridi, Kirghiz and Kanjuti, mingled and contested in the best of spirits. The Swede was much impressed by the friendly and confidential footing on which the officers of both camps stood with each other. "Both sides were animated by a frank and cheerful spirit. Englishmen and Russians were like comrades together." He would never have imagined them rivals, the Russians trying to push the frontier as far south, and the British as far north, as they could. Both sides vied in entertaining the intrepid traveller, and succeeded in keeping him with them until a certain important event. This was none other than the arrival of a telegram from Lord Salisbury accepting the frontier line proposed by the Russians. The four last frontier pillars could now be filled in, and the labours of the Commission were at an end. Immense rejoicings followed and lavish, even luxurious, feasting; the Russians dining the English and then the English the Russians in glorious style. Dr. Hedin asks whether that will be the last Anglo-Russian Boundary Commission in Asia, but reflects that the destiny of Persia is not yet decided. In any case the Swede is to be congratulated on being pre-