

## T. P. in His Anecdote Sven Hedin's Race With Death

BY T. P. O'CONNOR, M. P., IN T. P.'S WEEKLY.

Dr. Sven Hedin, who has just visited his Simla tailor after exploring the inmost riddle of Tibet, will, of course, write a book on his experiences and discoveries. It may be permissible to hope that it will not be quite so bulky as his remarkable work, "Through Asia," published just ten years ago. The two volumes of that interesting work weighed more than half a stone, and ran to more than 1,200 pages. Even so, I believe there was a supplementary volume.

### HIS RACE WITH DEATH.

In "Through Asia," Dr. Hedin describes his travels from the Russian Pamirs to the gates of Peking. Dr. Hedin is a Swede, and his expedition, like his recent journey, had the support of the late King Oscar of Sweden. His avowed aim was to traverse Asia from west to east, from the Caspian Sea to Peking, and the programme which he laid before King Oscar was adhered to in essentials. The path of "Through Asia" is the terrible experience which Hedin had in a hitherto unexplored part of the great Desert of Gobi. His race against thirst across the eternal sand-dunes of the Desert of Takli-Makan makes breathless reading. The starting-point was the bank of the Yarkand-darya, the only river which Hedin had in the Khotandarya. Hedin had been assured that the journey was one of four days, but he was careful to take ten days' supply of water. This precaution, which seemed so wise, was but foolishness. The journey took a month. Men and camels lay down one by one, and were never seen again. Each day the miserable remnant of water splashed more mockingly in the iron cisterns, and the bells of the fainting camels became more funeral. It was literally a voyage by compass across an unknown sea of sand. When the first tamarisk tree of the Khotandarya watershed was reached, Hedin had but one companion left, his faithful Kasim, a professional caravan-leader.

### GEORGE THE FIRST'S TIP.

Mr. George W. E. Russell is always interesting on things in general, and in "Some Threepenny Bits" (Grant Richards, 3s 6d) he has some good things to recall about libraries. More suggestive of the book's title than the topic of libraries is the all-important subject of tips, to which Mr. Russell devotes a chapter. Like all wise people, he has given up the struggle against the tip, admitting that you "might as well try to polio the hump off a camel's back as to cure mankind of these little corruptions." Besides, from time immemorial everybody has had to tip—even George I. "This is a strange country," said that King according to the report of Horace Walpole, for his first morning after his arrival at St. James's I looked out of the window and saw a park with walks, and a canal, which they told me were mine. The next day Lord Chetwynd, the ranger of my park, sent me a fine brace of carp out of my canal; and I was told I must give five guineas to Lord Chetwynd's servant for bringing me my own carp, out of my own canal, in my own park. But, after all, George's little perplexity was nothing compared with the grim irony of William Lord Russell, as he discussed the question of the tip while under sentence of death. "He asked," says Bishop Burnet, "what he should give the executioner. I told him ten guineas. He said, with a smile, it was a pretty thing to give a fee to have his head cut off."

### KEEPING HOUSE FOR A RAILWAY

A writer in "Chambers' Journal," gives some interesting particulars of the work involved in providing minor goods and chattels and foodstuffs for a great railway, selecting one of the big American companies as an example.

### HER HUSBAND WAS A DRUNKARD

A lady who cures her husband of his drinking habits writes of her struggle to save her home.

### A PATHETIC LETTER



"I had for a long time been thinking of trying the Tasteless Samaria Prescription treatment on my husband for his drinking habits, but I was afraid he would discover that I was giving him medicine, and the thought unnerved me. I hesitated for nearly a week, but one day when he came home very much intoxicated and his week's salary nearly all spent, I threw off all fear and determined to make an effort to save our home from the ruin I saw coming, at all hazards. I sent for my Tasteless Samaria Prescription, and put it in his coffee as directed next morning and watched and prayed for the result. At noon I gave him more and also at supper. He never suspected a thing, and I then boldly kept repeating regularly, as I had discovered something that had set every nerve in my body tingling with hope and happiness, and I could see a bright future spread out before me—a peaceful, happy home, a share in the good things of life, an attentive loving husband, comfort and everything else dear to a woman's heart; for my husband had told me that whiskey was vile and he was taking a dislike to it. It was only too true, for before I had given him the full course he had stopped drinking altogether. He kept repeating the medicine till it was gone, and then sent for another lot, to have on hand if he should relapse, as he had done from premises before. He never has and I am writing you this letter to tell you how I have saved my home. I honestly believe it will cure the worst case."

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ample. During one year the "general housekeeper" of this line purchased and distributed twenty-six thousand brooms, twenty thousand boxes of soap, twenty-five thousand scrubbing-brushes and the same number of mops to keep the stations and offices clean. The housekeepers engaged on cleaning duties reached the enormous total of ten thousand. For the use of the clerical staff the general housekeeper purchased forty thousand pens, fifty barrels of ink, and over three thousand pounds' weight of pins. The annual laundry bill for the sleeping and dining car services is over £5,000, and ten thousand pieces of linen are purchased every year.

### FOOD AND LITERATURE.

Fifty carloads of provisions are consumed in a year in the restaurants of the company, and for the dining-cars and cafe cars the year's purchases include fifty thousand barrels of flour, forty thousand pairs of poultry, ten thousand quarters of beef, and tons of fat, poultry, coffee and vegetables, while a million bottles of drinks are consumed. Over five thousand boys sell periodicals on the trains, and about half as many sell books and magazines on the stations; the income from this source last year was over one million pounds. Another big item is the purchase for the land-scapes, the purchase for the landscape gardening department, as the company sets out every season nearly a million bedding plants to decorate the grounds around the stations. On the income side of the general housekeeper's accounts are the amounts received for waste, materials; waste paper realized one thousand pounds; pens, nails, shingles and small items, twenty thousand pounds; and the "scrap heap" of old machinery brought two hundred and fifty thousand pounds into the coffers of the company.

### LOST RAILWAYS.

Talking of railways, I suppose that few Londoners know that there are no fewer than eighty-two railway companies that have obtained powers from Parliament for the construction of lines in London. The most remarkable fact about the forgotten railways of London is that those which have no rolling stock pay the best dividends. The London and Blackwall Company's line, constructed in 1836, includes not only the important Fenchurch street terminus, but gives access to Dock-lard and furnishes an entrance to the City for dwellers on the Great Eastern and Tilbury sections. It is let to the Great Eastern Company, on a lease which has more than 900 years to run, at a rental which makes it £190 scrip worth £129.

### THE BEST PAYING LINE IN LONDON.

Every one of these non-working companies gives a good return to the investor, but by far the most prosperous is the Victoria Station and Brighton Railway Company, incorporated in 1858, and owning both the Brighton and Chatham termini at Victoria and a further mile and a quarter of railway extending across the Thames to Battersea. Leased to the Brighton, Chatham, Great Western, and Northwestern Companies jointly for 999 years, the Victoria Station Company, relieved of all responsibility for rates or upkeep of the premises, enjoys an income from the leasing companies which enables it to pay a dividend of 9 per cent and a bonus. The prices of £100 stock is at present £240.

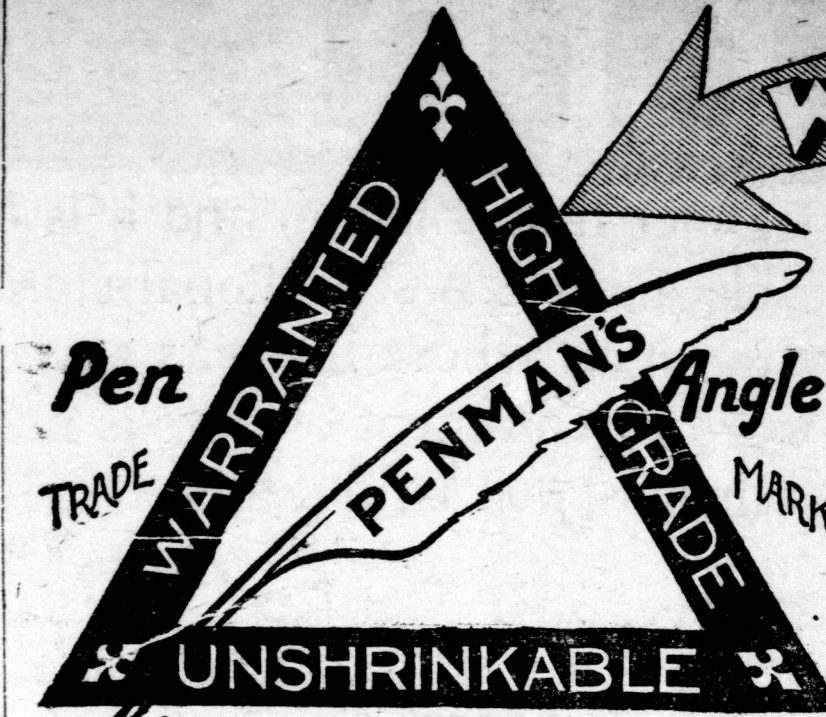
### THE SKYSCRAPER.

The skyscraper of New York has not yet reached its limit with the lantern of the Metropolitan Life tower, which rises 700 feet above the sidewalk. Plans have been filed recently for a tower building to be put up by the Equitable Life Company which will be 909 feet high. What is the limit? Under existing conditions, says a writer in the "Scientific American," the "ultimate limit of height" determined by a certain clause in the present building code of the city of New York, which says that the maximum pressure under the footings on a rock bottom, if caisson foundations are used, is not to exceed fifteen tons per square foot. That is to say, if the architect and builder and the owner see fit to do so, they may keep piling story upon story until the pressure upon the rock underlying the foundations has reached a maximum of fifteen tons to the square foot.

### WHAT CAN BE DONE?

The writer goes on to assert, on the authority of O. F. Samsch, who is responsible for the engineering of the Singer tower, that without exceeding the building code limit of foundation-pressure, a building of 150 stories, 2,000 feet high, can be built upon an area of 200 square feet. The walls of the building would be 12 inches thick at the top, and 140 inches or almost 12 feet thick at the bottom. Assuming two-thirds of the wall surface for windows, these walls would weigh, if built of brick, 263,000 tons; and assuming the dead weight of the floors and other interior construction at 80 pounds per square foot of floor area, the weight of that part of the building would be about 213,500 tons. The "live" floor load to be transmitted to the foundations, according to the requirements of the building code, would be 100,000 tons. Adding these items, we would get a total weight of 516,500 tons. This distributed over the entire area of 40,000 square feet available for footings, would result in a pressure of 13 tons per square foot.

The allowance for increase of pressure due to wind, and the weight of the footings themselves, would easily bring this figure up to the limit of 15 tons per square foot. This would mean that there would have to be one solid block of concrete covering the entire area of the lot. The total wind load on one side of this building, when exposed to a heavy gale of wind, would be 6,000 tons; and as the centre of pressure would be 1,000 feet above the street-level the



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overturning moment due to this pressure would be 6,000,000 foot-tons.

### PERFECTLY SAFE.

At first glance it would seem that a pressure of 6,000 tons applied at a height of 1,000 feet to this building must surely overturn it, but the writer in the "Scientific American" maintains that, owing to the weight of the huge mass, it would require more than eight times as much pressure before it could be overturned. The overturning moment would be, as stated, 6,000,000 foot-tons, but against this there would be an opposing moment of stability of 51,650,000 foot-tons, so that the structure of 2,000 feet high is perfectly safe from being blown down.

### HUNTING THE RHINOCEROS.

To my mind rhinoceros hunting is the most dangerous of all hunting, bar none. I have had a worse time with rhinos than with lions, elephants, leopards or buffalo. The beast seems possessed of a sort of devilish cunning; you can't fool him as you can an elephant, nor intimidate him as you can a lion. Unless aroused, he is timid and nervous during the day, and particularly so when alone. But at night he seems to lose absolutely all fear of man. He does not wait to be attacked, but has an unpleasant habit of charging anything he sees in the shape of an enemy as soon as he sees it—and his sight is remarkably keen. Besides, like the elephant, the rhinoceros can, when he wants to, show a speed that

is nothing short of marvellous, when one considers his huge and clumsy bulk. I have known cases where a rhino got sight of a hunter and deliberately stalked him, coming upon him before the man had an idea that he was anywhere in the vicinity. And he always dies fighting; I have never known a rhino, however badly wounded, to try to bolt for safety. Once you rouse him you must kill him, or he'll kill you if he can get you.—Every-body's Magazine.

### FALLACIES ABOUT MARS.

Professor Simon Newcomb, whose deliverances concerning astronomy are entitled to a consideration enjoyed by perhaps no other living astronomer, contributes to Harper's Weekly an exceedingly interesting article entitled "Fallacies About Mars." He considers illuminatingly the theories pro and con concerning the possibility of life on that much-discussed planet, and presents these conclusions:

"As between Mars and Venus, the latter is probably better adapted to life than the former, always supposing that other conditions than those of temperature are fulfilled. It is quite likely that a planet revolving midway between the orbits of the earth and Venus would be better adapted to life than the region around the higher forms of life. On the whole, it seems from all the data we can gather from science, that Mars is no better adapted to life than the region around the north pole of our earth, or the tops of the highest mountains. Finally he expressed the belief that, so far as we can infer from all the facts and principles of science, 'the conditions on Mars seem to be unfavorable to any form of life, unless of the very lowest order.'"

## THE GIRL I LEFT BEHIND ME

ORIGIN OF THE POPULAR SONG—TUNE TWO CENTURIES OLD.

The origin of this most popular of popular songs cannot easily be traced. William Chappell, in his valuable work, "Ancient English Music," has ascribed it to the fifteenth century, but both words and music are English, and Mr. Baring Gould, in his "English Minstrelsy," backs up the statement by copying it. Dr. Rim-bault possessed a manuscript copy of the song bearing date 1770, with the words attributed to a certain bard, written about 1758 or 1759, when there were encampments on Brighton Downs, while Admirals Hawke and Rodney were watching the French fleet in Brest harbor.

### THE QUESTION OF DATE.

It is quite easy to prove that the words as given by Chappell and Rim-bault could not have been written in 1759, for the simple reason that in the second verse the fifth line runs:

"But now I'm bound for Brighton Camp."

Now, Brighton was always called by its original name of Brightelmstone, until 1787, and was not generally known as Brighton till twenty years later—vide an historical account of the town by George Augustus Sala, and the ordinary guidebook supplies this information also. It was Thackeray who called this happy seaside resort "Dr. Brighton," by the way, and it was George IV., when Prince of Wales, who popularized the seaside village by building his celebrated residence there. There is a reference to Brightelmstone Camp in 1783, whence the Duke of Clarence writes, according to the newspapers of the day, in J. D. Parry's "Coast of Sussex" there is, after occupation of Brightelmstone in 1757-1752, a note of Oct. 4, 1793, "Camp near Brighton," after which the name always appears in the extracts as Brighton, when doubtless the new abbreviation became general.

### AN IRISH SONG.

To come to facts. "The Girl I Left Behind Me" is of indisputable Hibernian origin, though the exact date of its composition is not certain; but Arthur O'Neill, the celebrated harpist, informed Bunting, the greatest authority on Ireland's ancient music that we have, that it had been taught him when he was little more than a child (he was born in 1730), by Owen Keenan, who had had it from a previous harper. O'Neill died in 1815 at the age of 85 years. As the British army has been largely composed of Irishmen, especially in the foot regiments, it is conceivable that the musical men of Erin brought the tune into the English bands as a sort of heirloom of their native land. "The Girl I Left Behind Me," according to military tradition, became the parting tune of the British army and navy about the middle of the eighteenth century. The air of "The Girl I Left Behind Me" was appropriated by Moore, for his pretty ballad "As Slow Our Ships."

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### "LOATH TO DEPART."

The tune, since it first became popular, has been played for nearly two centuries as a "loath to depart" when a man-of-war weighs anchor, and when a regiment quits the town in which it has been quartered, consequently it has been carried wherever British soldiers and British mariners go. I give the two first stanzas of the Irish version of the song, as sung in camp and on the battlefield, though, of course, it is not the lyric that was first sung in Ireland—that is lost in obscurity:

"The dames of France are fond and free,  
And Flemish lips are willing,  
And Spanish eyes are willing,  
And Spanish lips are willing,  
Still, though I bask beneath their smile,  
Their charms all fail to bind me,  
And my heart falls back to Erin's isle,  
To the girl I left behind me."

"For she's as fair as Shannon's side,  
And purer than its water,  
But she refused to be my bride,  
Though many a year I sought her;  
Yet since to France I sailed away,  
Her letters remind me,  
That I promised never to gainsay  
The girl I left behind me."

### AN IRISH TRAIT.

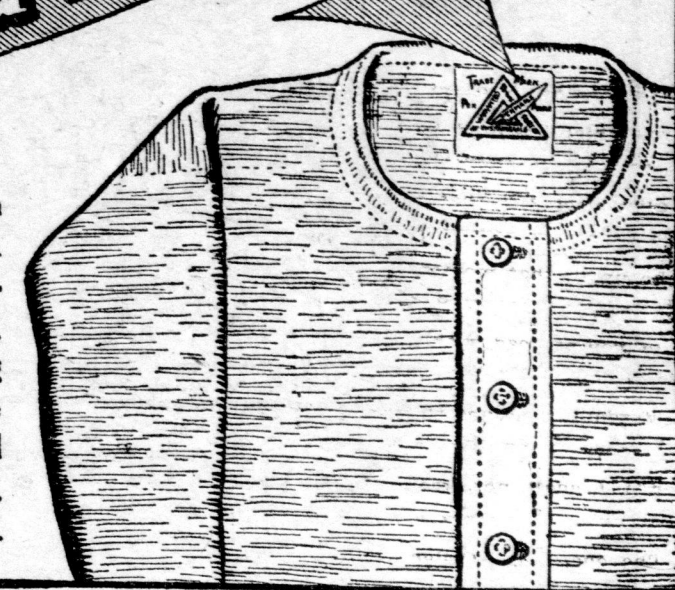
In one of the regiments quartered in the south of England a century and a half ago there was an Irish band-master who had the not uncommon peculiarity with the sons of Erin of being able to fall in love in ten minutes with any attractive girl he might chance to meet. It never hurt him, however, for he fell out again as readily as he fell in, and so acquired a new sweetheart in every town the regiment passed through. Whenever the troops were leaving the place where he had a sweetheart he ordered the band to play "The Girl I Left Behind Me," which, even then, as I have indicated, was an old Irish melody. The story of his accommodating heart soon spread through the army, and other bandmasters, at the request of the officers and soldiers, began to use the tune as a parting melody, and by the end of the eighteenth century it was accounted disrespectful to the ladies of the garrison and the town to march away without playing "The Girl I Left Behind Me," and in this wise it became a stock piece in the repertoire of every British band throughout the whole world.

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## QUOTE SCRIPTURE WITHOUT KNOWING

PHRASES ON EVERYBODY'S LIPS  
THAT COME FROM THE BIBLE.

A great many people quote genuine Scripture without knowing it; and, indeed, our common speech is so deeply dyed in Scriptural language that it is difficult to do otherwise. When we talk of our dear friends' "talents," we are, as Macaulay pointed out to Lady Holland, quoting from St. Matthew's Gospel. Similar instances come crowding on the memory. My brother's keeper—Naked and ashamed—Sport for the Philistines—The prophet's chamber—The skin of one's teeth—The haven where we would be—The olive-branches round our table—The fly in the ointment. Who is there that does not sometimes find one of these inevitable words?

And who is there that feels ashamed of having used it? Then, again, the whole Book of Proverbs seems to have been composed expressly for the purpose of quotation: "Surely in vain the sparrow is spread in the sight of any bird," "Go to the ant, thou sluggard," "Stolen waters are sweet," "A tale-bearer revealeth secrets," "In the multitude of counselors there is safety," "A virtuous woman is a crown to her husband," "Faithful are the wounds of a friend," "The horse-leech hath two daughters, crying, 'Give, give,'" "The conies are but a feeble folk, yet make them their homes in the rocks," "The tender mercies of the wicked are cruel," "The slothful man roasteth not that which he took in hunting," "Hope deferred maketh the heart sick," "A soft answer turneth away wrath," "The lot is cast into the lap, but the whole disposing thereof is of the Lord," "The beginning of strife is as when one letteth out water," "There is a friend that sticketh closer than a brother," "Train up a child in the way he should go," "The contentions of a wife are like a perpetual dripping," "Put a knife to thy throat, if thou be a man given to appetite," "With-draw thy foot from thy neighbor's house, lest he be weary of thee, and so rate thee," "No one, I suppose, would be surprised that these excellent maxims should be banished from common speech merely because they are included in the Sacred Canon; but some persons, I believe, hold that quotation from the Old Testament is right, and quotation from the New Testament wrong. Even granting—and I do not grant it—that this principle is reasonable, it is difficult to apply rigidly. The Sheep and the Goats; the Mammion of Unrighteousness; the Burden and Heat of the Day; the Wedding Garment; the Eleventh Hour; the Broken Reed; the Lost Sheep; the Prodigal Son; the Fatted Calf—surely all these images, though allowed by the most exact of sanctions, belong to the common speech of Christian people. And an even more striking instance of the same principle is to be found in the universal and anomalous usage which speaks of a peculiarly heavy affliction as a "Cross," which the sufferer is compelled to "bear." And so, again, with such proverbial phrases as "Friend, go up higher," "Sweet and garnished," "Clothed and in his right mind," "Riotous living," "Often infirmities," "Thorn in the flesh," "Anathema Maranatha"—the words have so embodied themselves in our thinking and speaking that it is difficult to believe that moral wrong attaches to the free use of them, so long as no insult to divine truth is intended.

It is worthy of remark that some most eminent teachers of religion in our own time have been experts in the secular use of sacred phraseology. Archbishop Tait once compared Hankey's Mansion; the Queen Anne's Gate to the Tower of Babel, as being a mass of bricks and confusion; Lord Shaftesbury agreed to likened Lord Beaconsfield to "a leper," and Mr. Gladstone's followers to "the Pigs in Scripture." Dr. Liddon's jokes about the Egyptian when Moses killed the ass in the pit, and the alabaster box of ointment will not soon be forgotten by those who heard them. Dr. Vaughan, who of all preachers that I have known, knew most strongly condemned profane speech, said, when one of his two schoolmistresses at Doncaster was promoted to a better office, "It is only what we are taught of expect—two women grinding together; one taken and the other left."

My own conclusion has long been that, barring the case of wilful profanity, the rightness or wrongness of a Scriptural quotation depends entirely on the circumstances under which the quoted phrase was originally used. Thus I can scarcely conceive that any Christian who remembers the occasion on which the words were first spoken would ever say about the difficulty of early rising, "The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak." Contrariwise, I believe that the greatest saint in Christendom might, without risk of conspicuous visitings, re-echo Job's half-querulous, half-humorous question, "Is there any taste in the white of an egg?" and might ask with Amos, "Can two walk together except they be agreed?"

POOR MATERIAL FOR BRITISH ARMY.

If there be any doubt that physical deterioration in the submerged classes is more serious than it used to be, the report of the army medical department pins one down between that opinion and the conclusion that the army is recruited from a lower social stratum. Average British recruits, the report states, "are not only the youngest but in the poorest physical condition of those in any civilized army. They cannot stand work which did not injure well-fed conscripts of twenty years of age; still less can they face exercises which would do harm to robust men." They are, in fact, far from food and from the cigarette habit such miserable specimens of humanity that it takes two years to make men of them. The report

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confirms what we said the other day, tortuously; but the larger question raised by it is whether an amount of training and selection can produce an efficient army out of such material.—Pall Mall Gazette.

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