

# **THE HAPPY TRAVELLER**

I saw mankind, in this weary old age of the world, either enduring a sluggish existence amid the smoke and dust of cities, or, if they breathed a purer air, still lying down at night with no hope but to wear out to-morrow, and all the to-morrows which make up life, among the same dull scenes and in the same wretched toil that has darkened the sunshine of to-day. But there were some, full of primeval instinct, who preserved the freshness of youth to their latest years, by the continual excitements of new pursuits, new scenes, and new associates, and cared little, though their birthplace might have been here in New England, if the grave should close over them in Central Asia —*The Seven Vagabonds.*

**THE  
HAPPY TRAVELLER**

**A BOOK FOR POOR MEN**

**BY  
FRANK TATCHELL, M.A.**  
VICAR OF MIDHURST

**SECOND EDITION**

**METHUEN & CO. LTD.  
36 ESSEX STREET W.C.  
LONDON**

*First Published* - - - *March 15th, 1923*  
*Second Edition* - - - *May 1923*

**PRINTED IN GREAT BRITAIN**

DEDICATED  
TO  
YOUNG ADVENTURERS OF THE FUTURE  
IN THE HOPE  
THAT THEY MAY HAVE AS MUCH  
FUN  
OUT OF TRAVELLING  
AS I HAVE HAD

## INTRODUCTION

In time to come every man will be called to account for all the good things which his eyes beheld and which he refused to enjoy.

—*Old commentary on the Psalms.*

**A**LL islanders love travelling, and it is the ambition of every young Englishman to go for a jaunt abroad, if only once in his life. Our mixed ancestry and our world-wide Empire alike lure us beyond the seas.

We are often held back from satisfying this in-born craving by thinking it too difficult or too costly a thing for us to attempt—misconceptions which I will try to dispel.

In one of his essays, Cowley says that the getting out of doors is the hardest part of the journey, and it is a man's own fault if he dies without seeing anything of the wonderful world in which he lives. Laziness and a tame surrender to the tyranny of circumstances hold back many of us who would be ideal travellers could we but take the first step. But if your lot does not please you, you can, with determination, change it. Once aware of your bonds, you are on the high-road to freedom, and need not be dissuaded by those who tell you that you must know your own country first before venturing abroad. You will have time enough for that when you settle down.

Then there is the notion that travelling is only for the rich. But a wise man's happiness costs very little wherever he is, and I shall have failed in my purpose if I do not

convince you that a man can live as cheaply abroad as at home. So do not wait until you are rich, but set out while you are young and keen and poor. It is the common tragedy of mankind to spend life amassing money and then die before it can be enjoyed.

I cannot promise you that you will be happy all the time. After all, who is ? Now and then you will feel that you would exchange all the blue skies in the world for a cloudy day in England, and all the crowds for a sight of the faces of your own folk.

Western wind, when wilt thou blow ?  
The small rain down can rain.  
Christ, if my love were in my arms  
And I in my bed again !

Still, the mood passes ; and I help my own recovery by saying over and over again : " There are all manner of things I have yet to do, all manner of things to see." Curiosity is the secret of a traveller's happiness, and the best antidote to the feeling of nameless regret and longing which underlies all human affairs. So make up your mind to enjoy yourself and refuse to be put out of your humour. Especially beware of taking yourself too seriously, and of introspection, the bane of a man travelling alone. Rather, play at being a native of the country you are in, or regard all you see as a spectacle played on your account, with yourself as a grave senior among delightful, romping children.

And so you keep moving on in unclouded serenity with ever a goal to attain ; now hanging about in markets and busy havens, now trudging along the ever-changing road, and how petty seem all those troubles which cost you such anxiety ! At one time you are passing sunny, vagabond

days ashore, in towns amid the bustling hum of men, or, far from the crowd, regaining something of that awe of Nature which men cooped up in cities never feel ; at another you are on the sea, that *camino* eternal, occasionally in a storm, when, though you seem in such danger, you are really so safe, but more often in halcyon weather, enjoying the long roll of the Southern Seas, as of a giant breathing, and revelling in those wonderful nights when the glaring day is over and it seems a sin to go below. Then comes the return home, and, as the familiar white cliffs come in sight, you murmur :

Over the world and under the world,  
And back again at the last to you,

and appreciate, as you never did before, the ripeness, greenness and repose of your own country.

Sympathy and tolerance, acquisitions of great price, are the reward of your journeying. Having mixed much with your fellow-men, you view mankind from a new angle and have gained the charitable outlook that only comes with seeing the world. And, as you grow older, you will be ever better company for yourself, having remembered, what so many of us forget, that, to have pleasant memories then, we must contrive for them now. At any rate there is small risk of your becoming that miserable thing, a disappointed man, nor will it ever be said of you, as it was of one who had wasted his life : " His days should have been a rosary of priceless pearls, and he let them slip through his fingers like beads of common glass."

I have said nothing of Belgium and the battlefields, which will, I suppose, be overrun by tourists for the next



few years ; nor of Germany and Austria, countries none of us will want to visit for pleasure for a long time to come. Leave comfortably-upholstered Switzerland until you are old and a lover of ease ; and, if you want to preserve your illusions, do not visit Palestine at all.

And so I send out this book with some confidence that it will be of use if it falls into the right hands. At least, I know how I should have relished something like it, when, as a lad, I started on my travels.

BON VOYAGE !

*Feb. 1923*

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