

# The New Excavations At Carthage

RECENT DISCOVERIES IN THE RUINS OF THE MOST FAMOUS CITY OF THE ANCIENT WORLD

TUNIS, May 15.—I have spent the whole of today among the ruins of Carthage. The French have been excavating there and are making many discoveries. The ruins lie on the shore of the Mediterranean sea beyond the lake on which Tunis is situated, and cover some thousands of acres. The center of old Carthage was about 12 miles from this city, and the Phoenician capital reached even to Tunis itself. The city had a wall 23 miles long to defend that part of it which was back from the sea, and it is said to have had more than a million inhabitants in the height of its glory. When it was destroyed, at-

you how the ruins of Roman Carthage are still to be seen here. Far more interesting to me is Carthage the Mighty, that famous city which was founded by Juno, Jupiter's housekeeping wife, and founded by Dido, the Jewish princess of Tyre. Dido's husband had been assassinated by her own brother, Pygmalion, and Dido had fled and come to this part of North Africa. Like that other Jewess of fiction, Jessica, old Shylock's daughter, she did not go away empty handed, but loaded her ship with the treasures of the royal palaces of herself and brother and took enough people along with her to start a new empire.

QUEEN DIDO'S BIG BARGAIN.  
When she first set foot on African soil, Queen Dido bought some land of

Founded B. C. 2787. It was the Chicago of its Day—Its Mighty Extent and its Colonies—its Rich People and its Business Men—Roman Carthage. Which Became the Building Quarry of the Mediterranean—The Capital of Christian Africa—A Look at the Amphitheater and its Gladiatorial Shows—Amongst the Tombs—Coffins Containing the Ashes of Burnt Babies. Together With Something About the Gay Girls of Old Carthage as Studied from the Rouge Pots, Perfumery Boxes and Gold Earrings Found in the Tombs.

sea. It was gently sloping, with a little hill here and there and with great rocky mountains in sight in the rear. The land itself was exceedingly rich, and the country around it produced so abundantly that it was for centuries one of the granaries of the world.

## A GREAT BUSINESS CITY.

As I drove out to Carthage today I saw several American windmills on great towers of steel, agitating the air. Glimpsed by the ghosts of the old Carthaginians. The windmills came from Chicago, and the city on whose site they now stand once ranked far greater than Chicago does. It was the chief business center of the old world, and it had its captains of industry and trust magnates just as Chicago has now. Founded by Dido 2787 years before Christ, it was prominent when Athens was young, and long before Rome had begun to be.

The Carthaginians had their colonies throughout the known world. They owned the greater part of Sicily and many other Mediterranean islands, and had large settlements on the Spanish peninsula. More than 2,000 years before Bartholomew Diaz or Vasco da Gama started out to explore Africa, Hanno, the Carthaginian, had sailed out of the Straits of Gibraltar with 60 ships and something like 30,000 men. He had made his way down around the west coast of this continent to the Gulf of Guinea, and brought back stories of ebony negroes, mighty elephants and gorillas. For centuries thereafter many of his tales were thought to be lies, but they have since been proved to be true. The Carthaginians established colonies on the west coast of Africa. They sent their ships to Great Britain and they had commercial centers everywhere. They were among the richest people of the world and about the best traders. They carried on business as a close corporation. They did not allow foreigners to deal with their colonies, and such as dared do so were captured and drowned. As time went on, they sent caravans across the Sahara to the Sudan and the Libyan desert to the valley of the Nile.

## CARTHAGE IN B. C. 500.

Lying before me as I write is a picture of old Carthage as it was recently reproduced by a French antiquarian. The city was of vast extent, and its character was somewhat like that of the great oriental capitals of today. Its buildings were white and flat-roofed. It had a wall about it, and this wall was higher than the great wall of China. It was over 35 feet high, and the towers, which were found at regular intervals upon the wall, were many



A YOUNG CARTHAGINIAN OF TODAY.  
Arab Boy at the Door of a Hut—Photographed for the "News" by Frank G. Carpenter.

feet higher. The walls were used for a defense and for a barricade to contain the army as well. In them were stalls for 20 war elephants, 4,000 war horses, and storage places sufficient to supply all the food. The Carthaginians in the walls for a larger army than the United States had at the breaking out of the Spanish war, and this wall, as I have said, was over 20 miles long.

Old Carthage had a forum, a market place and magnificent public buildings. It had an artificial harbor, which the French have restored, in miniature, and this was so arranged that the city could be shut up by chains at night. The door leading into it was only 60 feet wide, but this admitted the ships to the ports, and according to my estimate it is about 300 feet long and 200 feet wide. It contains marble columns broken and battered. Some of the seats and a few of the arches are still to be seen.

## WORD ABOUT ROMAN CARTHAGE.

The Carthage I have described was utterly destroyed 146 B. C. and it was almost a half century before another city began to rise on its ruins. This was the Carthage fostered by Julius Caesar and Augustus, which in time became the Roman capital of north Africa, and which once almost rivaled Rome itself. That Carthage was a city of theaters, the remains of which still stand on the ruins of the old Phoenician city. It was a city of gladiatorial shows where the gladiators were eaten by lions, gored to death by wild bulls and slaughtered by gladiators. On the hill of the museum I saw the tombs of the Carthaginians and the remains of the city of Tunis are built of Punie marble, and the bazars of Tunis are flanked with marble columns, which the Arabs have painted over in red, yellow and green stripes so that they now look more like barber poles than anything else.

Many of the houses of Tunis contain materials from the Carthage excavations. The ruins here have been furnishing building stone of one kind or another for more than 1,000 years.

During recent centuries the various museums of the world have been robbing this ancient city, and travelers also have been allowed to pick up and carry away what they pleased. This is no today, although the French have established two museums, one on the site of old Carthage and the other at Bardo, in the palace of the bey, and are trying to preserve what is left.

EXPLORING THE RUINS.  
The books about Africa will tell you that there is nothing of Carthage now to be seen except a few broken-down cisterns which once supplied the city with water. This is not true. The French have been making excavations ever since they have had Tunisia under their control. This is so not only here, but in all parts of the country, and they have unearthed ruins which will compare with those of Athens and Rome. They are anxious to increase their work along these lines, and the remains are such that it might well pay our rich American colleges to establish schools of exploration here, as they have done in old Greece.

Take this city of Carthage alone and imagine what might be found. Suppose you could blot from the face of the United States either Boston, Philadelphia or St. Louis. Suppose you could destroy all the buildings and cover them with earth. Then let them lie for decades and build other great cities on top, then destroy those cities, and let the storms and dew of a thousand years settle upon them, and you may have some idea of the condition of the ruins of Carthage today. You must add, however, the tombs in which the ancients were

accustomed to put jewelry and other relics, and imagine that the destruction was such that much of the belongings of the people were left in the debris.

It is now more than 2,700 years since the first houses of Carthage were erected, and many of the objects I saw today were more than 2,000 years old. As I went over the ruins I observed the Arab farmers plowing up bits of pottery and pieces of marble, which were parts of houses more than 20 centuries ago, and I have been bothered all day by dack-faced Mohammedans begging me to buy Carthaginian coins in use long before Christ and camoes the size of my finger nail, which were probably worn in the rings of those Punie maidens when all the world was young.

I can't begin to describe the extent of the ruins. By this I do not mean the remains of great temples and palaces, of theaters and tombs. These are comparatively few, but there are vast tracts covered with bits of pottery, pieces of broken marble, half buried under bricks and bits of mosaic. Such remains cover the ground. The sheep and goats feed among them, and they are plowed and harrowed and pulverized by cultivation to fertilize the crops of the present.

## IN THE THEATERS.

My way to Carthage was over an excellent road which runs around the bay. The scenery is beautiful and the flamingoes fly over the water, showing their pink plumage as they probably did in the past. All along the roads we saw Arabs plowing their farms. Here and there was a little camp of lookouts watching their flocks, and when we left the road and drove across the played fields we passed through a flock of fat-tailed sheep and black goats driven by natives. Nearly all our way was over the ruins of Carthage, and we were now in what was almost the heart of the ancient city. The ground was so covered with marble and pottery that we felt like getting out and looking for relics, and, indeed, during the whole day my eyes have been moving about among the stones with the hope to find treasure. I have picked up many beautiful pieces of marble. I have clawed out bits of mosaic from the stone floors, and have had opportunity to purchase all sorts of coins and clay lamps, some of the time of the Romans and some dating back to the days of the Phoenicians.

No first visited the amphitheater where the gladiatorial shows were held. It lies near an Arab village, and as I stood in it, I heard the shrieking of a spaniel baying at the air which once resounded with the cries of the Christian martyrs. The amphitheater has been only partially excavated. The cages for the wild beasts can be plainly seen, and the great vaults below in which the martyrs waited. The arena was elliptical in shape and its area was more than an acre. I paced from one end to the other, and according to my estimate it is about 300 feet long and 200 feet wide. It contains marble columns broken and battered. Some of the seats and a few of the arches are still to be seen.

## THE GREAT CISTERNS OF CARTHAGE.

The oldest and best known of the Carthaginian ruins are the great cisterns which were built to supply the city with water. There were two sets of them, one at each side of the town. They were of vast dimensions, enormous barrel-shaped caverns, 424 feet long and more than 30 feet in diameter. They were surrounded by cupolas and were connected with pipes for distributing the water. The largest of these cisterns are near an Arab village, and they are now used as stables and dwellings by the Arabs. They number 21 and cover many acres. I went down into some of them. In one I found a tiny gray cat, and in another a girl standing beside it, and in another an old man with a flock of little chickens feeding about her. A part of one cistern has been walled off as a hay mow, and another is now an Arab house, and in the third I saw a Bedouin woman grinding meal upon two stones which rested on the floor.

The dust of ages has half filled these great caverns and they make an excellent protection from the weather. As I made my notes within them I heard the cry of prayer from a Mohammedan tomb nearby. The cry was, "There is no God but God and Mohammed is his prophet." As I listened I could not but think of the people who drank from these cisterns 2,500 years before the Christian era, and more than 1,000 years before Mohammed first saw the light of day in the deserts of Arabia.

## 2,500 YEARS OLD AND STILL IN USE.

Later in the day I visited the cisterns on the other side of the town. They are 2,500 years old, but the French have repaired them, and they now supply water to the villages and towns about. The water comes from Tunis, and it is pumped in by steam engines. The cisterns are 600 feet deep, and something like 600 feet long. The engineer

told me that he had about 6,000,000 gallons in them at the time of my visit. These cisterns, as used by the Carthaginians, were first filled with rain water. Later on they were supplied by an enormous aqueduct erected by the Roman emperor Hadrian. This brought the water from Dougga, about 80 miles away. It carried 6,000,000 gallons a day, and the water passed through underground canals and over valleys on magnificent arches to Carthage. The remains of this aqueduct can be seen in many places, and parts of it have been so restored that it now supplies Tunis with water. The work cost millions, and it was done by a French engineer, from plans have been used instead of the arches, but the old masonry still upholds much of the works. The water supply is much greater than it was in the days of the Romans.

## AMONGST THE TOMBS.

I have spent considerable time wandering through the old Carthaginian cemeteries. Many tombs have been excavated, and the dead of a dozen generations have been taken from their graves to be shown to us, the heathen tourists of the present. Some of the tombs were far below ground, and others almost at the surface. From one cemetery they have taken 289 epitaphs, and from another 300, including the names of librarians, schoolmasters, doctors, soldiers, nurses, dancers and slaves. Some of the oldest tombs are of the shape of a house, and contain marble sarcophagi, and in some were men and women loaded with jewels.

During my visit to the museum I saw many little stone boxes which were found full of charred ashes and bones. They date back to the days of Carthage the Mighty, and are supposed to have contained the ashes of children who were sacrificed to Moloch. This brazen god was made red hot at the times of sacrifice, and the children were placed in his arms. It was the custom to have but only little children, but also young men and maidens. The victims were thrown into his red-hot arms, and from there they were carried down into the blazing furnace below.

## GAY GIRLS OF OLD CARTHAGE.

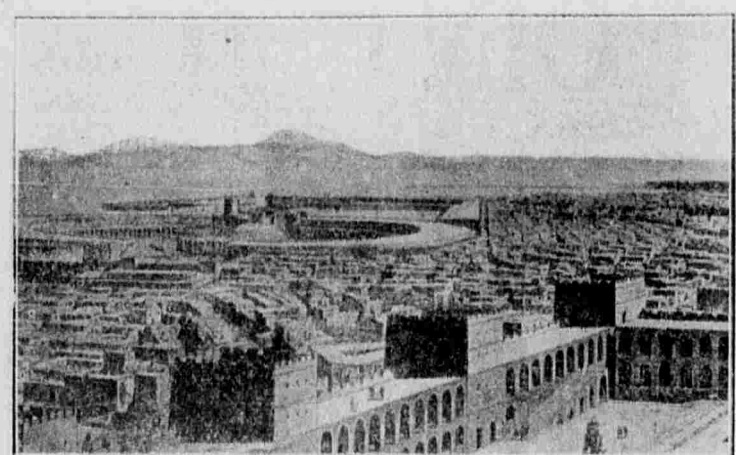
The museum at Carthage is filled with treasures which have been found in

the ruins. There are dice, miniature spears, surgical instruments and thousands of clay lamps and censers of all kinds. As far as the Phoenicians are concerned, it is, I doubt not, the greatest museum in the world, and in its relics of the Roman period it compares with the Egyptian and other museums. I was especially interested in the exhibits of jewelry and other things which once belonged to the gay girls of Carthage of 2,500 years ago. There are a box of rouge with some of the powder still in the bottom, alabaster cases holding perfume and also pins, mirrors, trinkets and other gewgaws of the kind which were worn by the girls of the Carthage of 2,500 years ago.

There are golden necklaces of beautiful workmanship, and hundreds of gold rings of all sizes, from one large enough for a two-year-old baby to some which may have been wedding rings for 12-year-old brides. Many of these rings are set with canoes and stones. There are gold and silver rings, the hundreds, and beautiful little finger rings. As I looked at them I asked the white father beside me about the maidens who wore them. He said that he was told the mortality of all things earthly. In reply he pointed to the shelves under the cases. I looked and saw the bones of a young Punie girl, holding perfume and also pins, mirrors, trinkets and other gewgaws of the kind which were worn by the girls of the Carthage of 2,500 years ago. He then took me to a marble sarcophagus nearby, and I measured his skeleton and it was five feet two inches in length. On the face of the hand there was a beautiful ring, evidencing the vanity of its owner. He may have been a friend of Hanno or Hannibal, or perhaps only some new rich man of the time! Who knows? FRANK G. CARPENTER.

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"CARTHAGE THE MIGHTY."

The Ancient City as Sketched by M. Paul Ancier, a French Antiquarian—Photographed for the "News" by Frank G. Carpenter.

for its long war with Rome, it contained more than 500,000 people, and during that war it furnished armies of enormous size. When Hannibal went from Spain to invade Italy he took 50,000 men and 40 elephants with him over the Pyrenees and the Alps, and during the first Punic war a fleet started out from Carthage with 500 ships of a capacity of 100,000 troops. Each of the ships had an iron beak to ram the bows of the enemy, and the sailors were the best of the then world.

## CARTHAGE THE MIGHTY.

That was during the closing days of Carthage the Mighty. A short time later the Romans destroyed and plowed up the ground upon which it stood. Later still they founded a city upon its site, and made it their capital of Africa, and it was for a long time the third city of the world.

Farther on in this letter I shall tell

the natives and by a real estate trick obtained this big tract upon which Carthage stood for a long time. Our forefathers purchased the site of New York of the Indians the price was a peck of glass beads and brass buttons. It is said that all Chicago was once offered for a pair of old boots and that the ground upon which Melbourne, one of the richest cities of Australia, now stands, was sold for two old blankets. The thrifty Dido bought the location of this greatest city of antiquity at a somewhat similar price. According to tradition, she told the natives that she only wanted a patch of land big enough to be inclosed in a bull's hide and they made a contract of sale on those terms. But Queen Dido cut the bull's hide into leather sheerings and, tying them together, took in what seemed to the natives all out of doors. The tract ran around a beautiful harbor, inclosing the whole peninsula between the lake and the

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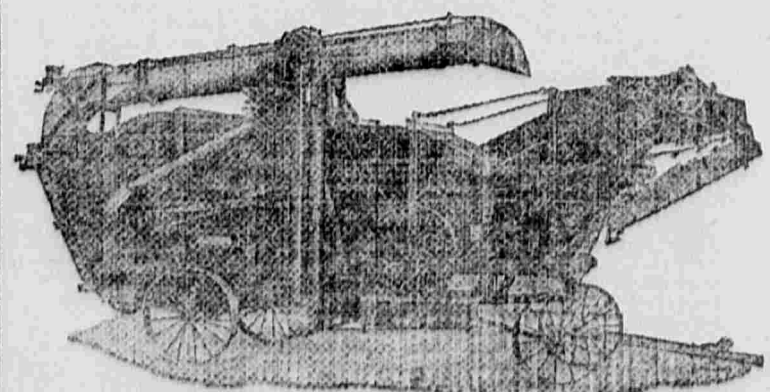
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