## Africa's Great White City

MOHAMMEDAN TUNIS AND ITS LABYRIN-THINE BAZAARS.

(Special Correspondence of the Descret News by Frank G. Carpenter.)

the ocean and over the Mediterranean to the shores of North Africa. Pilect your genil to set you down beside me on the top of the Kasbsh, in this snow-white city of Tunis, and let us travel together through this, one of the oddest populations of the oriental world. Before we start east your eves over the vast expanse of buildings below you. We are high above the city and it stretches about on all sides, looking like great blocks of ice, with here and there the white dome of a murabout or Mohommedan saint, and the requare marble-faced towers of a mosque rising above them. That reddish-brown section of buildings, lying a house of the water, is the new French quarter; and that wide, glossy arende, running across Lake Tunis, is the cannal which has been recently built to bring the great ocean

(Copyright, 1907, by Frank G. Carpenter.)

UNIS.—Take a seat upon one of the magic carpets of the Arabian Nights and fly across the Atlantic ocean and over the Mediterranean to the shores of North Africa. Direct your genii to set you down beside me on the top of the Kasbah, in this show-white city of Tunis, and let

IN THE BAZARS.

But let us step down into the city and



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zars running off in every direction, and the whole is a sort of a business Rosa-mond's bower in which I lose myself

again and again in trying to find m OLD CARTHAGE IN TUNIS.

Before I go on with my description of the bazars, let us look at their construc-tion. The pillars and stones of old Carthage have been everywhere used. At the sides of each little shop are mar-

At the sides of each little shop are mar-ble columns. There are hundreds—yes, I venture, thousands—of these columns here to be seen, and, strange to say, the Arabs have painted the snowy marble with stripes of red, green and black. Many are in green, and some in bright yellow. Similar columns are to be found in the residence quarters, and it is true that a large part of Moham-medan Tunis has been built from the ruins of that old Punic city. In the bazars, each trade has its own quarter. There are long streets, filled

In the bazars, each trade has its own quarter. There are long streets, filled with cells, where the Arabs make nothing but shoes, and others in which the shops are devoted to weavers. In some silk thread is sold, and in others only perfumery or groceries. There are also bazars of coppersmiths, booksellers and tailors.

THE BAZAR OF THE TAILORS.

The bazar of the tailors is not far from the Kusbah. We push our way through the white-gowned, fez-capped, turbaned Mohammedan crowd and take a look at it. We are in a covered street, about 12 feet in width, which is paved with Belgian blocks worn smooth by the bare feet and slippers of thousands. It is walled with shops which extend 15 or 20 feet back on each side.

which extend 15 or 20 feet back on each side.

The average shop is not more than eight feet in width. Its floor is about two feet above the street, and the tailors sit cross-legged, upon it before tables eight inches high, upon which they are cutting and sewing. Ney wear gowns and voluminous trousers. They have fee caps or turbans. Many of them work away, with their goods on their knees and their bare feet and bare calves plainly seen. Here at my right is a shop where they are sewing upon a burnoose of the finest white wool for some Arab gentleman, and at my left is a man making a pair of \$10 trousers for some fat Jewish lady. Other tailors are working on gorgeous Jackets and vests for both men and women. They use silk and gold-embroidered cloths. Indeed, many of the garments are exceedingly costly, as you may see by the richly clad customers who stand in the street outside and bargain for clothes.

At 10 o'clock in the morning there is an auction of second-hand clothing in this tailor street, when gray-bearded

an auction of second-hand clothing it this tailor street, when gray-bearded men go about holding fine garments high over their heads. They sing out

THE SOUK OF THE PERFUMES

the prices and quality of the g beg the people to buy. I fo dreds so engaged this mor crowd being so great that hardly make my way through

other was sweet perfume.

They sing ou

The second of th

ers and tailors

AN ARAB PERFUMERY SHOP. "We Select a Gray Bearded Old Abraham."

steamers right up to the town. There are blue mountains on our right with white buildings upon them; and away off at the left over the lake we see the snowy houses of Sidl Bou Said and the white cathedral which marks the site where old Carthage once stood. That was a mighty city more than 25 centuries ago, but this town, above which we are standing, was founded even before Carthage, and it throve until it was supplanted by its Phoenician rival.

COSMOPOLITAN TUNIS.

The Tunis of today is rapidly growing, and it is now one of the most cosmopolitan towns of the world. It contains, with its suburbs, in the neighborhood of 300,000 souls. It has something—like 50,000 Italians; it has 50,000 Jews, far different in costume and appearance from the Jessellies of the way as in the passa; in the same way as in the pass. The streets of the bazars are so roofed that they look is ame way as in the passa. The streets of the bazars are so roofed that they look in the bazars are is post in following them. The roofs are of stone, coated with whitewash. The bazars are lighted only by grated holes which have been cut here and there through the roof, but the sun is so bright that there is plenty of light, and the white roof itself shines like the stalactites of the cave of Luray. Some of the passageways are roofed with boards. They remind one of the old covered bridges of Venice or Florence, which had shops upon them. save that the Tunisian bazars extend for long distances and their shops are like nothing to be found outside the oriting the passage are so roofed that they look in the bazars are so roofed that they look in the bazars are so roofed that they look in the bazars are of stone, coated with whitewash. The bazars are lighted only by grated holes which have been cut here and there through the roof, but they do flight, and the white roof itself shines like the stalactites of the cave of Luray. Some of the passageways are roofed with boards. They remind one of the old covered bridges of Venice or Florence, which had shops upo

Jews, far different in costume 50,000 Jews, far different in costume and appearance from the Israelites of our country; and also thousands of Maltese. Sicilians and Spaniards. Its French are somewhat fewer than the Italians, but they include a large garrison of soldiers, dressed in gay uniforms who forms the figures where rison of soldiers, dressed in gay uni-forms, who form striking figures wher

ever they go.

The most important part of the Tunisian population, is the Mohammedan element. This numbers at least 100,000 and its members form the chief inhabitants. element. This numbers at least 100,000, and its members form the chief inhabitants of old Tunis, the great snowy town under our feet. They are orientals of the orientals, and they live in a world of their own. They do not like Christians and tolerate us only because they must. Their town is shut off from the rest of the city by an enormous wall, and the French rule is such that they are allowed to have their own customs and do about as they please. One dare not enter any one of the hundred old mosques where they go daily for prayers; he must not visit their schools, and he who would attempt to go into one of their houses without permission might be killed, and I doubt if the French would object.

I have visited most of the great cities of the oriental world; I have traveled through India, Turkey and Egypt, and I have yet to find a section so strictly eastern as the streets of old Tunis. They are narrow and winding. In some of them you can touch the walls on both sides, and others are so narrow that the fat Tunisian Jewesses have to suck in their breath in order to pass. The white houses which wall these streets are almost without windows, and the few windows which exist are

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real help for the sufferer except kidney help.
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But let us go on to the souk of the serfumers. The word souk is used as a serm for the bazars; and when you tak to be shown the Mohammeden business center you tell them to take you, not to the bazars, but to the souks. The Mohammedans are fond of perfumery. Their great prophet once said that there were two things which expecially delighted him consecutive delight dd that there were two things which pecially delighted him—one was the clety of a beautiful woman, and the The Habous, or the Great Arabian Trust-Queer Business Methods-Among the Oriental Tailors, Shoemakers and Saddlers-Perfumes Worth Their Weight in Gold-How French Tunis Grows-Its New Casino, Where the Audience Gambles Between the Acts-A Theather of Old Carthage Excavated and Phoenician Plays to be Performed



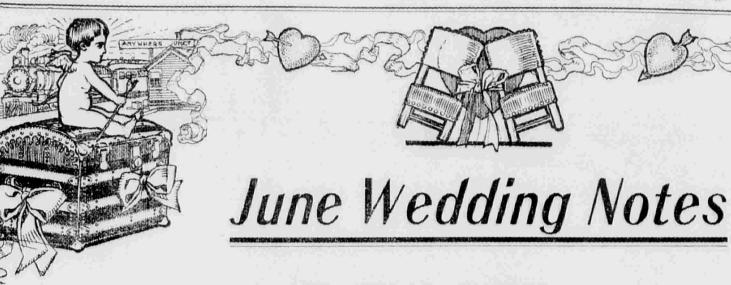
striking contrast with the Aral S of this city is the new section

THERE ARE BUN

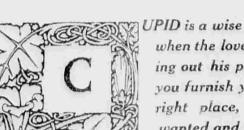
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