

stands in the centre of the Cathedral and looked out upon the valley of the Nile, I certainly thought that my eyes had never rested upon a more picturesque or interesting landscape.

The Cairene minarets are justly eulogized by travelers as the most beautiful of any in the East. They rank as exquisite creatures of the strange dreamy Arabian genius; towering to an extraordinary height, built of courses of red and white stone and ornamented with balconies from which the Muezzins announce the hour of prayer. Of these the most ancient adjoins the great mosque of the Sultan Touloun, built in A. D. 879, soon after the foundation of the city. The others belong to the magnificent mosque of the Sultan Hassan, which is situated in the palace of the Roumayli, near the Cathedral and was completed about A. D. 1362.

After passing through several streets, viewed a number of palaces and parks, my Arabian guide, his donkey and myself soon found ourselves crossing the great bridge of Kasr-el-Nil spanning the Nile. It is six hundred feet long built on six spans; and at either extremity, facing the shore, stands two colossal lions of bronze perched high upon stately pedestals. The traffic across the bridge is immense at all hours of the day; and it was here that my donkey made himself particularly conspicuous by frequently coming into collisions with the long caravans of camels, the peculiar shaped vehicles, the herds of cattle and flocks of sheep, not to speak of other braying asses, all of which moved across the great bridge both ways in two continuous "streams." I never before in my life saw such a lot of people traveling on donkeys as I witnessed here. And such it seems was also the impression of Howard Hopley the author of a work entitled "Under Egyptian Palms," who writes:

Quite an institution in Cairo are the donkeys and their drivers. But you must not suppose that the Cairene ass is as patient, depressed, and dismal looking a quadruped as his European congener. He has a smart ring of pride about him, pricks up his ears with an air of intelligence, indulges in impetuous fits, but is also given to prolonged pauses of meditation. In mere personal appearance he is more of "a swell" than his northern brother. His owner shaves him upon the back like a poodle dog. He carries a high and hungry saddle, covered with scarlet leather and tinsel trappings; so that, on the whole he can sniff up the wind proudly besides the stately camel or run unabashed in presence of his high-born kinsman the horse. But even a Cairene donkey is not without his failing; he will lie down at inconvenient times, kick up his heels and growl in the dust, and this is the more strange, since he appears thoroughly aware of the folly of such an escapade. He invariably arises with a guilty look, perfectly conscious that he is about to receive a beating; and yet the temptation to do evil is irresistible.

"Not less original than the animal is the animal's owner. Now in Cairo every little proprietor keeps a donkey which is as much a sign of respectability in the East as payment of rates taxes in the West. The proprietor is not always the driver, but whether he owns the beast or not, the driver is as fond of him as the Bedouin of his camel; he runs be-

side him, stimulates him with kind words, and takes care that he is comfortably fed and housed. His own dress is light and airy; a scarlet tarboosh or white turban of few folds for the head, a blue cotton tunic reaching barely to the knees and a long scarf for the waist completes his wearing apparel. He is as eager for a customer as any London cabman; and your appearance on the steps of your hotel is the signal for a general rush towards you of donkey drivers and donkeys."

After crossing the Nile we were in the suburban town of Gizeh, and the road now turns to the left and follows the bank of the river for two or three miles until the museum and zoological gardens are passed; then it turns to the right and runs straight to the Pyramids about seven miles from the river and the desert which are reached after traveling about ten miles from Cairo. The road is raised several feet above the general level, is well macadamized and lined on both sides with regular rows of sycamore trees. There are five miles on the road, where wheels of various models are used to raise the water that is utilized for irrigation purposes and for sprinkling the road. There are also several native mud villages on the way out all of which are built very compact and on raised ground. Then there were several ponds containing dirty water in which some of the natives were washing clothes and others plunging in headlong trying to catch the few remaining fish, which would otherwise, soon die a natural death by the evaporation of the pools of water. The making of bricks by the natives as in the days of the Israelites the cutting of grass, the cultivation of the soil, the methods of irrigation, and various other kinds of employment on which the natives were engaged constituted the most interesting features of sightseeing on our ride from Cairo to the Pyramids. At length we arrived in front of the hotel lying adjacent to the three Pyramids of Gizeh where I was surrounded by a herd of Arabs, who wanted to act as guides, aids, water carriers, and I don't know what else; they soon began to quarrel among themselves and with me because I would only engage one man, when they insisted that I needed at least a dozen. It seems strange that I got along at all, as I was the only white man among that motley crowd of semi-civilized beggars and fleecers.

Their custom is to get as much as they possibly can from every stranger; and as there are only a few visitors now that the tourist season was over, they are all on hand to double up on the few stragglers who come along like myself; but as I had posted myself in regard to the proper fees and lawful charges before leaving Cairo, they found me an awful stubborn customer to deal with; and when they learned that they could not fleece me at will for large fees, they were satisfied with the smallest compensation possible; so after all I got through reasonably cheap notwithstanding their number. And this was partly due to one of their number—an old man who styled himself Doctor Mahmut, and who pretended to be my friend. This he did undoubtedly for selfish motives, as he expected me to pay for his friendship, and in this he was not disappointed. Finding out that I understood him, he really did both befriend and defend me

against the others; and when I at times looked at him as if I doubted his words, he pointed toward heaven and said that Allah should witness that he was an honest man and told me the truth; and I believe he did. He and two young men accompanied me all through the inner passages and chambers of the great Pyramid, and afterwards climbed with me to the top; then I rode his camel down to the Sphinx and back again; and he also got me both milk and water to drink at reasonable prices. The day was hot, and the exertions of climbing such that I was sore for a long time afterwards. I climbed to the top and descended, and also passed through the inside without the least assistance from any one. This I did to prove the falsity of what I was told at the hotel before I started out in the morning that it was absolutely impossible for any white man to climb to the top of the great Pyramid without assistance; and the steep inside passages, I was told, were still harder to ascend and descend. But though I found it quite possible, I shall never want to repeat the exercise. I went through the inside first, and afterwards climbed to the top; but before reaching it I found myself dragging myself slowly upwards on all fours, drawing on all the physical strength I possessed. I would undoubtedly have fainted with thirst and fatigue, had not a young Arab appeared on the scene with a calabash of water. Before I left the Oroya a doctor and fellow passenger warned me repeatedly against drinking water in Egypt of any kind, on pains of being stricken with cholera at once; but the combined efforts or advices of all the doctors in the world could not have induced me to refuse taking a drink of water while on the top of the great Pyramid in my exhausted condition.

The view from the top of the great Pyramid is grand beyond description. It includes the Nile Valley for many miles up the river, the Delta in part, the city of Cairo, the site of old Memphis with a number of pyramids near by, and the great Libyan desert on the edge of which all the pyramids of Egypt are erected. It is asserted by some historians, on pretty reliable authority that 100,000 men were employed for twenty years, building the Pyramid of Cheops, the one I climbed; and the one generally visited by tourists. This is supposed to be 4,000 years ago. The original height of that great pile of rocks was 480 feet 9 inches, and its base 764 feet square. Its slope was 51° 50', but its eternal effects was much injured by the spoliation of the exterior blocks for the erection of Cairo, and several feet of the original top is missing entirely.

As nearly every reader of the News has read works on the Pyramids of Egypt, I will not attempt to describe them here. My personal opinions and impressions I will also reserve till some future day. I know that I was very, very tired when I returned to Cairo in the evening, but felt truly thankful for the preserving care of the Lord throughout the dangers of the day, and that my physical strength held out to the end.

ANDREW JENSON.

ISMAILIA, Egypt, June 9th, 1896

IN WESTERN STATES.

AMES, Iowa, September, 29, 1896.

It has been nearly a year since I left my home to proceed directly to the of