

to cast a thick shadow over acres of land. Water wagtails and fly-catchers on your deck will fearlessly trot up and pick a fly off your boot. A crow will parade its carion under your very nose.

A curious feathered denizen of the Nile valley is the crocodile bird (the trochilus of Herodotus) which acts as a kind of parasite to that hideous reptile, and warns it of the approach of any intruder. Worthy of note too is Pharaoh's hen or the Egyptian vulture (Neophron percnopterus,) which, with trailing wings and drooping tail, sits brooding like an evil genius over the ruined monuments of by-gone splendor. And every grove abounds with Senegal doves and blue pigeons, jaunty hoopoes bright green bee eaters, Sardinian warblers, great spotted cuckoos, etc., while the corn fields are peopled with quails, the river banks with martins, and the desert borders with noisy chats. Rarer, but still not uncommon, are the rosy flamingo, the common heron, the little egret, the pelican, the curlew, the spoonbill, the snipe, the shoveller and the cormorant.

The extreme dryness of the climate of Egypt eminently conduces to the preservation of natural substances from decay; and in the rock tombs and temples the traveler looks astonished upon human bodies, which, buried two or three thousand years ago, have defied corruption. The clearness of the atmosphere lends a curious distinctness, or a remarkable sharpness to every object in the landscape, so that the outline of architrave and column seems traced against the azure of the sky as with a pencil.

The curse of Egypt is the khamisin, that fierce southern wind which in April and May blows, as its name indicates, for fifty days, hot as the blast of a furnace, shriveling the skin, parching the lips, blinding the eyes with minute particles of sand, and depressing the spirit as with the omen of some unutterable evil.

The population of Egypt seems to have increased very little since the days of antiquity. At present it numbers about 7,000,000 people. According to Tacitus, the Roman historian in the reign of Rameses, it contained 700,000 men of the military age. At this rate the entire population would be about 3,500,000; allow 500,000 for error; add one third for slaves and strangers, and the total will amount to nearly 5,000,000.

Egypt proper is divided into two great districts, namely, Musr-el-Bahri or lower Egypt, and El Sald, or upper Egypt, which together comprises 394,240 English square miles. According to the census of May, 3rd, 1882, the population amounted to 6,806,381 souls, of whom 3,965,664 were in lower Egypt, and 2,840,717 in upper Egypt. Of this total 3,396,308 were males, and 3,410,073 females. The number of foreign residents were, Greeks, 37,301; Italians, 18,665; French, 15,716; Austrians, 8,022; English, 6,118; Germans, 948; other nationalities 4,116; making a total of 90,886 foreigners. In 1884 the railway system of Egypt had a total length of 1,276 miles, and the telegraph belonging to the government of 2,707 miles. A private telegraph company has a line to Cairo 445 miles in length. The Khedive or king of Egypt acts by the advice and through the agency of five ministers. The country, which is very heavily in debt and consequently bur-

dened with oppressive taxation, is divided, for administrative purposes, into eight governorships of principal towns and fourteen moudirehs or provinces. The Egyptian money is the piastre (of forty paras,) worth about 5 cents in American money. The killow is the unit of dry measure and is a little less than a bushel; the almud is a little more than a gallon, and the oke (of 400 drams) nearly three pounds avoirdupois.

Egypt is rich in sacred associations. Abraham and Sarah fled there for food when the famine was sore in the land of Canaan, Joseph entered it as a slave, and rose to the dignity of a sovereign. The family of Jacob resided in it for several hundred years, and were led out by a high hand and an outstretched arm. Solomon married the daughter of her sovereign. Shishak carried his arms into Judea, took Jerusalem and carried away the treasures of the house of the Lord and of the king's house. (1 Kings 14:25-27,) whose name is still recorded at Thebes as "king of the country of Judah." Zerah, the Ethiopian, with his army of 1,300 chariots, were smitten by the Lord before Asa and Judah (2 Chron. 14:9-13.) Tirhakah, king of Ethiopia and Necho, king of Egypt, who overthrew Josiah in the valley of Megiddo are mentioned by the sacred historians. Several of the later Pharaohs became the confederates of the kings of Judah and Israel, and one (Ptolemy Philadelphus) gave to the world the oldest translation of the Hebrew Bible. Many Hebrews, with the Prophet Jeremiah, fled to Egypt, where the Lord "kindles a fire in the houses of the gods and burns them." And the child Jesus consecrated it by his presence, when his life was being sought by the wicked Herod. The Lord blessed the land, saying, "Blessed be Egypt my people, and Assyria the work of my hands, and Israel my inheritance." (Isaiah 19:25.)

As for myself, I became very much interested in Egypt, and only regret that time would not permit me to stay longer. A trip up the historical Nile would have added very much to my knowledge of the land; but as other duties have claim upon the exercise of my time and what few talents I possess, and I am already several months behind the temporary traveling program prepared before leaving home about thirteen months ago, I am now trying to land in Turkey, where a Latter-day Saint mission was commenced about eleven years ago. As soon as I land, I expect to make my way to Haifa, in Palestine, where there is a small branch of the Church. From there I expect to make a visit to Jerusalem and other places of historical importance; and then I go to Europe to finish up my labors in the European mission. After that I hope my next port of call will be the dear State of Utah. ANDREW JENSON.

On board the steamer Thalia off Beyrout, Syria, June 19th 1896.

IN "OLD VIRGINNY."

SUMMIT, Spottsylvania County, Virginia, October 4th, 1896.

At the last Virginia conference, which was held at Haran, Roanoke County, July eleventh and twelfth, Elder Joseph B. Kendall, of Oxford, Idaho, and myself were appointed to labor in Spottsylvania County, as "meteoric" Elders. This necessitated a journey of nearly two hundred and fifty miles on foot, as the

direction was given to travel without purse or scrip. We were already fatigued as was the case with many of the Elders, some having walked two hundred miles to the place of meeting.

The joy of meeting with the servants of God, which none can appreciate more than the ambassadors of truth in a strange land. The exchange of ideas regarding the mode of labor, the spiritual feast which the conference afforded to all present, and above all the valuable instructions given in our priesthood meeting by our worthy president, E. S. Kimball, enthused our souls with a desire to go forth, depending upon the promises of the Most High. The promises of the Lord are sure, but the flesh of man is weak. These truths were refreshed in our minds at conference; and this with our souls filled with compassion toward all men, and our hearts full of a desire to keep the commandments of God, we started, on July 19th, for our new field of labor, to preach the power of God unto salvation, and to prove the people among whom we were called to travel. The way we had to go was unknown to us, neither did we know any friends to call on for food or shelter; but every day brought its special blessings and we did not lack for anything. Always in the time of need was a friend raised up to provide the comforts of life. Paper and stamps were furnished us whenever wanted. When our shoes were rent they were mended, and when money was necessary it was given to us. Before conference we expected to pay for our washing and sometimes had difficulty in finding someone to do it, but since, both can testify that we have had no trouble in getting it done freely. We acknowledge the hand of the Lord in all these things, and by experience we do know that God will provide for those who will go forth to preach His word without purse and scrip, and depend upon Him, for the labors is worthy of its hire.

The following incident occurred July 24th. We were nearing the James river and were depending upon the Lord to provide a way for us to cross. On reaching the river we found the ferryman much opposed, he would not allow us to cross without the money of which we had none. To turn back meant a trip of several miles either up or down the river to another ferry. Not knowing the disposition of the owners of either ferry, we decided to wait and see if the way would be opened for us to proceed. Our faith in the Lord never faltered, for He had aided us in past times when necessity required. On the river bank were two sycamore trees between which was a plank for a seat. While here contenting ourselves, a heavy thunder storm arose, the cloud rested upon us with such density that midday became almost as dark as night and the rain fell in torrents, while the thunder was deafening. Fortunately a half capsized boat afforded us protection. The rain ceased and soon a number of men seated themselves in a small boat at the opposite side of the river. They soon reached the landing and we learned that they had come to launch the boat that had protected us from the warring elements. One of the men recognized us as Mormon preachers and come to us saying; "I've met some of your men before." After a short conversation we explained our situation. Meanwhile the boat had been launched and they were