

Correspondence.

ALEXANDRIA, Egypt,
February 8, 1873.

President Brigham Young:

Our railroad ride across the angle of Italy was interesting, passing through many tunnels and heavy work, and giving us a hurried view of the agricultural aspects of this portion of southern Italy, some of which is very fertile and well cultivated, though in the hands of an indolent and degenerate race. At about 9 p.m. the train stopped at Fezzia, and we were told we must remain there all night. This information annoyed us, as we were apprehensive it would cause us to miss connection with the steamer. We went to the principal hotel in the small town, and found it so filled with lazzaroni, vermin and filth, that we returned to the station and spent the night on the benches in the waiting room.

At the appointed hour in the morning a telegram arrived announcing the train two hours behind time. We then telegraphed to the steamer office at Brindisi, but soon learned from a Greek trader, who spoke English, that the boat would not leave until after our arrival. Brindisi has a beautiful small harbor, completely landlocked. In the days of the Roman Emperors it was a place of much importance, being the terminus of the great road known as the Appian way from Rome. It was a great depot of supplies for Roman military operations to the eastward.

We arrived in Corfu at 2:30 p.m. of Feb. 1, and took our quarters at the St. George hotel. These islands were under British protection from 1818 until ceded to the Greek Government by the request of the inhabitants a few years ago. They send nine members to the Grecian Parliament. They had been for hundreds of years under the Venetian Government, as many monuments of Venetian celebrities and the frequent sight of the two-winged lion still testify. The fall of Venice left them under the control of the French. Great Britain, being unwilling they should fall into the hands of the Austrians, under the reconstruction of the European map in 1815, caused them to be constructed into a republic under the name of the Republic of the Ionian Isles, and under the protection of Great Britain, then sent a commissioner and an army to govern the islands until the recent session, blowing up, in the meantime, the immense fortifications that had been erected there by the Venetians, fearing, as they said, that they might fall into the hands of the Austrians.

The Island of Corfu is about thirty miles long, and in one place fifteen miles wide; is mountainous and rocky; produces grapes in great abundance and many choice fruits; the grass, grain and many of the trees were green, while several varieties of trees were without leaves. Twenty-five hundred years ago these islands contained "the most learned and highly civilized nation of antiquity," but now their appearance does not justify the rule of progress, only in the backward way. The Greek Church has been the religion here for 1,400 years. We went to the principal one on Sunday, Feb. 2. The service consisted in reading, in an operatic way, from the New Testament, to which the large audience was very attentive, the reading being in modern Greek, certainly an improvement on the Latin service in the Roman churches, which nobody understands; it was, however, all Greek to us. The church was decorated with crosses, paintings and holy water-vases, and lighted with numerous wax tapers; hundreds of people were dipping their fingers in holy water and crossing and sprinkling themselves, and with great gravity kissing the pictures of the Saints in the same manner as the Romans kiss the toe of the image of St. Peter in St. Peter's church in Rome.

Sunday p.m., a political meeting occurred; many thousands of people assembled in the grand square; the next Saturday being the day of election for members of the Greek parliament, they were selecting candidates. We could not understand the nature of the questions, but they became so exciting that one man saw proper to kill another, and during the evening the government kept soldiers on patrol through the city.

About one a.m. of the 3rd we went on board the Austrian Lloyd's

steamer *Saturno*, and found our state rooms had been secured by an agent of Mr. Cook. We had a very pleasant steam over a smooth sea, and arrived in this port at 7:30 a.m. of the 6th; there were a great number of passengers, including clergymen, doctors, lawyers, and others from England and America, mostly en route for upper Egypt. They were much surprised to find live specimens from "Mo-mondom," they would keep talking to us, and we preached to them nearly the whole voyage. They were a class of people that would not go to our meetings, but by this means heard something of the gospel.

The Turks are the rulers here. The Egyptians are descendants of the Arabs, who conquered the country in the 7th century, and the numerous crosses with other nations cause the streets to display a fine mixture of Europeans, Nubians, Abyssinians, Bedouins, Jews, Copts and degenerate Greeks, and the greatest variety of costumes of any place I ever visited. In the days of the Roman Emperors this place is said to have been fifteen miles in circuit, and to have contained 600,000 inhabitants, and some of the finest temples and palaces in existence. But little remains to mark even the site of this ancient city. Pompey's pillar is a fine column, 98 feet 9 inches high; and Cleopatra's Needles, one of which, 77 feet high, is standing, and the other fallen and covered with debris, point out the spot where the temple of Caesar stood.

We visited a Mahomedan cemetery; the monuments are plain and without statues. Thousands of Mussulmen were to-day engaged in walling over their dead; many had pitched tents for that purpose to keep off the sun, and others were in the open air. Most of the women wear veils, which hide the face, except the eyes. We also visited the Christian burying grounds which contained many fine monuments, mostly to Europeans, among which we saw two American graves. The fig trees are at present leafless; the bananas are covered with foliage and have fruit two-thirds grown. The date is a beautiful tree and in full foliage. Many fruit and flowering shrubs are in bloom.

We expect to leave on Monday morning, 10th, for Cairo. We have met Mr. Alexander Howard, the principal dragoman for Mr. Cook's trains in Palestine, and according to programme, shall arrive in Jaffa on the 23d. Alexandria is situated so near the sea that it has rains at certain seasons, and is now well stocked with mosquitoes. Irrigation is necessary and is managed much as we do it. They are now irrigating portions of their gardens.

Our party are all well and in good spirits. The water was so smooth that none of them was sick while on the Adriatic and Mediterranean seas. To-day is a Mussulman gala day, and while some are waiting for the dead, others are firing cannons, and thousands in the market places are engaged in sports and pastimes.

Bro. Schettler has had a ride on a donkey, and has bought Turkish caps for several of us, which give us quite a Turkish appearance.

I learn that the firing and celebration to-day is in commemoration of the day that Mahomet ascended the mountain from Mecca, and that the pilgrims to Mecca have ascended the mountain to-day, and all the faithful Islmas rejoiced.

GEORGE A. SMITH.

ISMALIA, Egypt, Feb. 19, 1873.

Pres. B. Young:

I wrote to you from Alexandria, from which place we went to Cairo, the capital of Egypt, and understood to be the largest city in Africa, said to contain more than 400,000 inhabitants. It presents the strange mixture of a European, African and Asiatic town all under one. The Frank quarter contains many fine European buildings, and some newly made and very pleasant public gardens, but the whole city is unpaved. A few streets that are newly made are wide and convenient and have flagged sidewalks; all the others, embracing an area of some three miles by two, are very narrow, many of them too much so for one loaded camel to pass another. Most of the houses are built of concrete, and many of them are out of repair. The Mosque of Mahomet Ali, commenced by that prince, and finished after his death, is the finest public building that we saw in Cairo. A great portion is very neatly finished inside with oriental alabaster, and is better suited to the

purposes designed than any Catholic church I have visited. It is erected in the old citadel, rendered famous by the destruction of the Mamelukes by Mahomet Ali, and on the site of the old palace of Saladin. The view of Cairo from the south side of the Mosque is the finest I saw. Near this building is a well they call Joseph's, and many travelers have rejoiced in seeing what they believed was the well of the son of the old patriarch Jacob; it would seem, however, that Saladin, the Fatimite Calif, so renowned in the history of the Crusades, located the citadel here, not because it was the most commanding point in the then new city of Cairo, but because he learned by experiment that fresh meat would keep much longer there than in any other place in the city. In clearing off the spot of ground for the foundation an old well was discovered, which had been dug and walled by the ancients. Saladin ordered the sand cleared out with which it had been filled, and his other name being Yoosef, the well has taken that name. Its depth is 290 feet, and is descended by a gently sloping stair case. The water is raised by mule power, and is only fit for irrigating and for animals to drink.

We called on the Consul General, Mr. Beardsley, who treated us very courteously. His health is delicate. He complained of having to attend the Khedive's festivities twice a week for four weeks, given on account of the marriages of three of his sons and one daughter; his delicate health and apparent fatigue caused us to make our call brief.

The U. S. Consul for Cairo treated us courteously; he is a native Egyptian; he procured us passes into two of the gardens of the Khedive, and voluntarily told us if we had arrived one week sooner, he could have procured us admission to the rooms of the harem, but the close of the festivities made it impossible.

We visited a Coptic church, and employed one of its members, Salaman Monsour, for our dragoman while in Cairo. The Copts are bigoted and ignorant. The Greek church also has its organizations here, one of which we visited, but Christianity here is of a low type, though the present government protects all religions in a manner entirely disliked by the more zealous Mahomedans. Mr. Beardsley told us that the Khedive had recently hung a Dervish sheik for interfering improperly with his neighbors' religious rights. He thinks that while the present Khedive lives any one is free to follow his religious convictions, but remarked that he has much prejudice and bigotry to combat.

We visited several palaces and their surrounding grounds belonging to the Khedive; constructed and laid out with the spirit of modern improvement, and are highly creditable. We paid a visit to the obelisk at Heliopolis, which is all that remains of the renowned city of On. The obelisk is supposed to be one third of its length in the ground; there are sixty-two feet above ground, and it is surrounded by a luxuriant sugarcane field. The surrounding ground is a vast accumulation of the ruins of the old city, and is exceedingly fertile, a considerable portion having been recently brought under cultivation by the Khedive who brought to it the waters of the Nile. The obelisk is six feet square, tapering to the summit, and is covered with hieroglyphics.

Joseph's wife Asenath was the daughter of Potiphar, priest of On, our grandmother, of course. Moses was educated here, as this was the seat of the great college where the Egyptian notables received their schooling. Its name, On, is said to have been determined from the interpretation of an inscription on the obelisk.

Near this place we visited a sycamore tree which bears the name of the Virgin Mary; it is said that Joseph and Mary camped by this tree when on their flight to Egypt with the young child Jesus in the days of Herod. Near this tree is a well which was salt at that time, but Mary washed in it, and it made it sweet. A donkey was at work raising the water by a rude wheel to which were attached several earthen jars. We drank, and found the water pure, but warm, the taste much resembling that of the big spring at St. George. The tree is very old, and has suffered severely by devout people carrying off pieces of it and carving their names on it, to prevent which the owner has

surrounded it with a substantial plank fence, and that has been disfigured, although neatly painted, with awkwardly cut Roman initials.

The large plain north of Heliopolis has recently been brought into cultivation, by bringing the Nile waters over it, and is very productive. It is memorable in Egyptian history as the battle field upon which Selim the 2nd, Sultan of Turkey, defeated the Mameluke Caliph in 1517, reducing Egypt to a Turkish province for 356 years, except the three years it was occupied by the French. The Sultan put the Caliph to death, but retained the Mameluke aristocracy, on condition that they paid tribute, renounced their religion and adopted his, and inserted his name in their prayers, which they continued to do until they were destroyed by Mahomet Ali, the grandfather of the present Khedive, in 1811.

Our hotel accommodations at Shepheard's were much better than I had expected to find in Egypt, though so crowded that two had to occupy a room. The floors were stone, but carpeted. They furnished meat, potatoes and wines; the hotel fare was sixteen shillings a day. When driving out we took with us a dragoman to interpret and keep from us a numerous lot of beggars and bummers, clamorous for backsheesh, and only equalled, as far as we have traveled, by the beggars in Naples.

We left Cairo on the 17th by rail for the Red Sea. Several hours of our journey lay through one of the finest cultivated regions I have seen, all irrigated by water from the Nile. We lunched at Zagazig, supposed to be in what was the land of Goshen. Zagazig is near some extensive ruins of an ancient Bubastis, said to have been the capital of Egypt in the days of Shishak, and to have contained a magnificent temple of Mercury; the ruins indicate the site of an extensive city. A fresh water canal has been constructed from the Nile on or near the line of an ancient canal, which existed in the days of the Pharaohs, to Ismailia, whence it is forced in a pipe 50 miles to Port Said on the Mediterranean, and the canal continues in an opposite direction to Suez on the Red Sea, the railroad lines following near this canal.

A portion of the way from Zagazig a strip is cultivated on one side, while the other is naked sand, and this line leads through what was, probably, once a choice portion of Egypt, but now it is so desolate that our Utah deserts are but semi-deserts compared with it.

Suez was considerable of a native town of old, though the fresh water had to be brought from a distance on pack animals. The story, so widely circulated, that an artesian well had been sunk here, is a canard. A railroad by a more direct route was constructed between Cairo and Suez, but having to carry water in cars, it was discontinued when the fresh water canal was completed, notwithstanding the present line is one-third or more longer. For some time Suez and the canal laborers were furnished with water by the short road. The presumption is that the children of Israel crossed the arm of the Red Sea, named the Gulf of Suez, near this place. A band of English clergymen were about starting on camels this morning to visit Sinai, said to be a 60 hours' journey. The gardens at Suez and Ismailia show that the most desert sand will produce vegetation wherever water can be applied. There is but little to encourage the growth of these towns, as the shipping trade goes directly through. No great expense is required to keep the Suez canal in order, as we are told the current keeps it clear of sediment. Among the most unthrifty and cheerless of all human habitations is an Arab village, located above irrigation, treeless, a mere collection of miserable mud and concrete huts.

Our party are all in our usual health, and the prospect is that we shall not think any the less of our mountain home and friends after our return.

GEORGE A. SMITH.

THE following letter from Elder A. Carrington we find in the *Millennial Star* of Feb. 18, which from some cause or other has but just come to hand:

EGYPT.

ALEXANDRIA, Feb. 8, 1873.

Elder James G. Bleak:

Dear Brother—On the 2nd instant

I mailed letters at Corfu for Liverpool and Utah, and at midnight we went on board the steamship *Saturn* for Alexandria, and about 4 a.m. of the 3rd she steamed out on her way, and passing, among other islands, near Zante and Candia, dropped anchor in this port at 7:30 a.m. of the 6th. The water was so smooth in both the Adriatic and the Mediterranean that no one of the party was in the least sea-sick, and the voyage was very pleasant. The customs' officers here passed us and our luggage very readily, and we reached Hotel de l'Europe, on the Grand Square, at 9 a.m., where we were accommodated with excellent rooms looking upon the Square. Brother Snow, myself and some others of the party spent most of the day in walking through several streets, bazars and market squares, observing the appearance, habits, customs, and costumes of the very various and mixed peoples inhabiting this city, while the others were reading or writing. On the 7th we drove to Pompey's Pillar, the Mohammedan cemetery near to it, the public gardens, Cleopatra's Needles, and through some of the principal streets of the city, but few of which are paved and have flagged sidewalks, though the city is said to contain over 200,000 inhabitants. To-day Pres. Smith and I drove again to the Mohammedan cemetery, it being a day in which thousands were then morning their dead, while on the outside other thousands were engaged in various pastimes. From there we drove to the French and Italian cemetery, where were many very costly and handsome monuments; and from there past the Greek to the English cemetery, in which a few Americans are buried, and which is neatly laid out and well shaded with cypress and other trees, in strong contrast to the naked appearance of the treeless Mohammedan burial ground, in which the monuments are also all very plain.

The weather has all the time been and still continues very pleasant, and the health of the party excellent, by which we are much favored with opportunities for visiting and observing that which is of most note and interest in different localities, so far as time at each place will permit.

There is no admission to the mosques here, except for the followers of Mohammed, so a view of their interiors has to be deferred till we reach Cairo, for which city we leave here on Monday the 10th, and expect to remain there some eight days, visiting the pyramids in the time.

We met Mr. Cook's chief dragoman here, and he says he will have tents, horses, saddles, provisions, servants, &c., all in readiness for us on our arrival in Jaffa on the 23d inst., which is an excellent arrangement, relieving us of care, and from liability of being imposed upon.

With kindest regards to yourself, all at 42, and all the Saints, I remain, your Brother in the Gospel.

ALBERT CARRINGTON.

BREVITIES.

Railroads have now three gauges—broad gauge, narrow gauge, and mortgage.

Profane swearing is abominable. Vulgar language is disgusting. Loud laughter is impolite. Inquisitiveness is offensive. Tattling is mean. Telling a falsehood is contemptible. Ignorance is disgraceful and laziness is shameful.

Whatever be a man's station in life, whether higher or lower, public or private, he will become a better man; and escape many a disaster if he will listen in due season to the voice of the intelligent and the refined among the other sex.

A reporter was disturbed one night by a noise, which proved to be a man fallen at his door in a fit, when he cried to his better-half, "Mary, Mary, bring my note-book and a candle directly; here's a paragraph come to the door."

To make hens lay.—A poulterer recommends feeding a mixture composed of five parts of bran to one of middlings—wetting up about four quarts in the morning in a large tin pan, taking pains to have it rather dry, though all damp. Just enough is mixed for the fowls to eat the day through, it standing accessible to them all the while. Just before sundown a light feed of corn is given, and eggs are abundant.