

The Nile in its course through Egypt passes successively the quarries of Silsilch on the east, Edfoo and Esneh on the west, the wonderful palace temples and memorials of Thebes, with Luxor and Karmak, on the east, and Medinet-Abou on the west; then Girgeh and Siont on the west, and the tombs of Beni Hassan on the east. In due time it reaches the ruins of Memphis and the Pyramids, all on the west bank, and leaving Cairo with its mosques and minarets, on the east, spreads out into the numerous arms which form the celebrated region of the Delta. From Assouan to the sea its average fall is only two inches in 1,800 yards, and its average velocity does not exceed three miles an hour. Its direction is almost due north, with occasional deviations to the east and northwest. The triangular area, which derives its name from a Greek letter, begins at a point about 120 miles from the two chief mouths of the river, the Rosett and Damietta mouth and stretches along the Mediterranean coast in a net work of streams and islands for about 150 miles.

The rise of the Nile is due to the periodical rains of eastern Abyssinia and the countries further south, and on their greater or less quantity depends on the height of the inundation. This height is carefully noted, as the extent of land subjected to irrigation, and the length of the time during which it will remain under water, are regulated by it; and hence the occurrence of a good or bad harvest may be predicted with certainty. The ordinary rise at Cairo is from 23 to 25 feet; less is insufficient, and more is dangerous, frequently overwhelming whole villages. A rise of only 18 or 20 feet means famine, and a flood of the height of 30 means ruin.

The lands, thus strangely irrigated, will yield annually three crops; first being sown with wheat or barley, a second time, after the spring equinox, with cotton, millet, indigo, or some similar produce; and thirdly, about the summer solstice with millet and maize. The river begins to rise about the end of June, and attains its maximum between the 20th and 30th of September. At this time the country wears a very singular aspect. "On the elevated bank you stand, as it were between two seas," writes Eliot Warburton in his book, entitled "The Crescent and the Cross." On one side rolls a swollen turbid flood of a blood-red hue; on the other lies an expanse of seemingly stagnant water, extending to the desert boundary of the valley; the isolated villages, circled with groves of palm, being scattered over it like floating islands, and the gise or dike, affording the sole circuitous intercommunication between them. When the waters subside (a process which is very perceptible about the 10th of November) the valley is suddenly covered with a mantle of the richest green, and the face of the land smiles in the traveler's eyes with all the splendor of a new created country."

The water of the Nile is exceedingly wholesome, and in its most turbid state always capable of filtration. Between the highest and the lowest periods of the yearly flood it is not less remarkable for its purity than for its transparency. The crocodile and the hippopotamus abound, but the former is now very seldom met with below 270 north or the latter further south than the second cat-

aract. Fifty-two species of fish are described as belonging to the river.

The word Nilus is probably of Lemitic origin; and like the Hebrew Lihhor, the Egyptian Chemi, and the Greek melas, may have referred to the dark hue of its waves. The natives call it p-iero, or the river of rivers, as if no other could claim comparison with it in grandeur, beauty or fertility.

The Nile typified to the Egyptians the river of death, across whose silent wave the dead were ferried to their resting places on the border of the desert, attended by the conductor of souls, the god Anubis. "How many of our own ideas of the other world may have been borrowed from the Nilotic worship of the Egyptians," wrote Mr. Adams in his book "Egypt Past and Present." When we speak of the darkling stream which separates time from eternity, we are employing an Egyptian image; and, unknown to ourselves perhaps, referring to the mysterious river of a mysterious land—the great and glorious Nile.

For some time past excursions by Europeans, Americans and others up the Nile have been quite numerous, especially during the last few years, after Thomas Cook and son built a number of first class steamers for the Nile service. These steamers are now running regularly except during the hot summer months. It takes about twenty days to make a trip from Cairo to the First Cataract and back, and the costs are \$50 for a first class passage. Some of the most interesting ruins of Egyptian temples and cities are at and near Thebes, the ancient capital of Egypt, which is up the river about 450 miles from Cairo. There are also some interesting ruins tombs and pyramids at and in the neighborhood of Memphis, another decayed Egyptian capital. This place which at the time of Joseph is supposed to have been a city of fifteen or twenty miles in circumference and one of the most populous of Egypt, is now, as was predicted of it, waste and desolate without an inhabitant (Jer. 46: 19.) Its ruins are a few miles above Cairo, on the opposite side of the river.

The spots where Joseph served Poti-pher, the village where the child Jesus dwelt with his parents during their exile in Egypt and many other localities of historical note are pointed out to the tourist and traveler as he passes through the land of the Pharaohs, but like many similar places in Palestine, Syria and other countries, the information thus given is not reliable, and the exact spots of these biblical events are, as a rule, not known to mankind at the present time.

ANDREW JENSON.

PORT LAID, Egypt, June 10th, 1896.

### TRIP TO ENGLAND.

LIVERPOOL, England,  
Wednesday, Oct. 7, 1896.

The following named Elders, on board the steamer Belgeland sailed from Philadelphia, Saturday, September 26, en route to Liverpool, where they expected to part for various missionary fields in Europe: Wm. Anderson, N. Bailey, Geo. H. Budd, Wm. Bull, John L. Oerling, Carl John Fagergren, Alfred Grant, Jacob Hunter, J. W. James, O. W. Mawson, Hiram Nielson, E. E. Pike, W. T. Seare, E. C. Stratford and Mrs. W. T. Seare.

We were conducted to our berths

where we found everything to our satisfaction. The officers on board have treated us kindly and our voyage has been enjoyed by all.

On Sunday, September 27, we applied to the saloon steward for permission to hold meetings in the saloon where we assembled and perfected the following organization to conduct prayer and other meetings while on board: Brother W. T. Seare was chosen president, with Brother E. C. Stratford and Geo. H. Budd as counselors. Brother Wm. Anderson was chosen secretary. After a few remarks by the president it was unanimously agreed that we have general prayers mornings and evenings, also that the principles of the Gospel be discussed every evening during our voyage. The following subjects were treated upon: The Gospel, N. Bailey; faith, Hiram Nielson; repentance, E. E. Pike; baptism, Wm. Bull; Holy Ghost, J. W. James; divine authority, Alfred Grant; the scattering of Israel, Jacob Hunter; the gathering of Israel, Wm. Anderson; the second coming of Christ, J. L. Oerling; the atonement, O. W. Mawson; resurrection, E. C. Stratford; divine authority of Joseph Smith, Geo. H. Budd. Brother Fagergren and Sister Seare bore their testimonies.

As the time to separate has arrived, the organization has been mutually dissolved and good wishes extended each other.

WM. ANDERSON.

### MOUNTAIN FIRES.

FARMINGTON, Oct. 21, 1896:

A very extensive and destructive fire is raging, and has been burning for more than a week, in the mountains east of Bountiful. I learn that a fire is also burning in the mountains west of Salt Lake City.

As history repeats itself every autumn in this regard, we may expect to see hundreds, if not thousands of acres of grazing ground and of large and small timber, burned over before stormy weather sets in.

I would like to present the following queries on this subject:

First—Are there any laws on our statute books prescribing a punishment to persons who start such fires; or accidentally, if they do not immediately report to some designated officer, so an effort can be made to extinguish the same in incipientcy?

Second—Has any law been enacted making it the duty of county commissioners to empower some officer or officers to arrest such offenders; and also for the same officer or officers to make some effort towards having such fires extinguished?

Third—If we have no such laws enacted, and if any other state or territory has, if not too much trouble, will the NEWS oblige by publishing the same, or a synopsis thereof?

If I remember correctly I read of this subject being discussed in one of our Legislatures, but I do not think any action was taken. I am aware that it would be unreasonable to expect county funds to be used to pay a small army of fire fighters, but I do think it very reasonable and necessary for some person in each town or city to be under obligation to attend to this important duty.

It requires but little argument to persuade a number of interested men