

AROUND THE WORLD

PORT SAID, EGYPT, Feb. 20, 1903.

Egypt has a population of about 7,000,000 the greater number of whom are descendants of the original inhabitants who antedated the coming of Jacob (Israel) several thousand years. The Normad Bedouins number about 300,000; Turks about 16,000; Greeks about 40,000; Italians about 18,000; French 16,000 and 16,000 English, Austrians and Germans. Cotton is the chief article of export, though wheat and rice are also items in the export list. There are about 1,200 miles of railroad and canals are everywhere among the low lands along the Nile. It was a surprise to me to note that the Nile has only a very narrow strip of land on each side that can be cultivated. The remainder is desert with the exception of a few small oases. I followed the Nile 730 miles south from Alexandria and am safe in asserting that below the delta country, one can see across the green belt from the eastern sand dunes to the western and parched Saharas. This narrow belt of greenery follows the Nile, affording the food supply. So valuable is this narrow belt that much of it rents at from \$20 to \$30 per acre annually.

Having arrived in Cairo at 5 o'clock in the evening, was impatient for the morning's sun as I had read and dreamed of the pyramids until anxiety was at the climax. To think of being within seven miles of the greatest wonder of the world, and the only one of original seven wonders that remains to this day, and be forced to wait till morning to behold it was about as trying to me as it was for my little boy Victor, aged five, who having patiently waited three weeks for the coming of an advertised menagerie said on the day before the event, "Mamma, do I have to sleep again before I can see the elephants?" I managed to sleep apart of the night, though it was a battle, and hastened toward the Egyptian giants' headquarters soon after aurora's horsemen drove in sight. Crossing the Nile bridge I entered the tram which runs to the pyramid hourly in the forenoon and every half hour in the afternoon, requiring about forty minutes in each direction, charge of three piasters (15 cents) for the round trip; the distance is said to be seven miles. Approaching the pyramid, accompanied by Mr. J. W. Sprinkle of Cleveland, Ohio, an old college mate, I was disappointed, but on my arrival and walking up to the base and casting my eyes toward its summit I was astonished, bewildered with the proportions of the giant. The base line is 732 and its perpendicular height is 460 feet and it is said to cover thirteen acres of ground. No picture can do the pyramid justice. Its immensity to be appreciated or even imagined must be seen. History freely pronounces it the most stupendous structure erected by the hand of man in all the world. Its building antedates history. Herodotus, the father of history, came here and picked up every available thread of tradition lingering in the minds of the people, and stated that it was built by a pre-historic race, requiring 100,000 men ten years in getting the materials and twenty additional years to erect this wonder of the world. Some assert that it was built uncounted years before the flood. Herodotus assigned it to King Cheops, who, it is asserted, reigned over Egypt 4,200 years B. C. When Egyptologists differ at least twenty-two centuries in their chronological statements one must be on his guard when any date whatever is even suggested. Other writers such as Diodorus and Phiny try to unravel the mystery, but failure perches upon their every attempt.

Bunsen claims that Egypt had enjoyed at least 6,700 years of prosperity before the pyramid building was begun. Piazza Smith, a noted Egyptologist, thought that the great pyramid was the first one reared of the family of pyramids numbering over thirty, and that it was undertaken immediately after the migration into Egypt from the plains of Shinar under divine guidance, and sets the date at 2,170 B. C. when the Pleiades pointed exactly at the entrance passage. The pyramid was built to be used as a tomb. At 820 A. D. an entrance was forced into the pyramid, discovering to the world two large chambers. The entrance is about forty feet from the base of the northern side and leads through a massive vaulted gallery to a subterranean chamber 347 feet from the entrance and about ninety feet below the base of the pyramid. This large chamber is 46x27 feet and eleven feet in height. It is believed that this chamber was constructed to deceive people and cause them to think it the real resting place of the king. But about sixty feet from the entrance

and upward passage begins leading towards the center of the pyramid. After we followed this about 120 feet we came to a place called the Great Gallery, where a well or shaft more than 100-feet deep leads down to the subterranean chamber. Just before reaching the Great gallery we turned off on a passage 110 feet in length, leading into the Queen's chamber, which is twenty feet high and 18x17 in length and breadth. Returning to the passageway we entered the Great gallery which is seven feet wide, twenty-eight feet high and 150 feet long, which leads upward to the King's chamber, the largest, being 34x17x19 feet. In the King's chamber is a sarcophagus cut out of red sandstone. The lid has been taken away by vandals if one ever existed. Many urge that this piece of red sandstone was not carved to be used as a sarcophagus, but as a standard of measure which should be handed down to all time, being the exact size of the layer of the Hebrews. Above the King's chamber are two smaller rooms which I did not visit as they afford no interest. The stone in the Great gallery is so smoothly polished that one can stand upright only with great difficulty. It is really not safe to make the trip with shoes, so slippery is the footing and in places to slip means severe bruises if not death, yet people continue to wear their shoes on that crawling, slippery, climbing, irksome trip. Wind cave, Mammoth cave and the Cave of the Winds are easily visited compared with the interior of the great pyramid. Until those toe holds in the smooth, steep rock are deepened, I shall pronounce it dangerous to make the tour of the interior even if you do have two Arabs to help you, whose charge is two shillings. But of all trips requiring strength, a level head and endurance, that to the top of the great pyramid easily preeminent. For two Arab helpers a charge of two shillings is made and none but the strong should attempt the climb. Should one become dizzy enroute to the summit a fall and the smashing of every bone is certain. When about half way up I looked down to the ground and it seemed that the earth was fading from view, and when I turned my eyes toward the summit it appeared that the ascent had only begun, so deceiving are the surroundings. The slant height or hypotenuse is said to be 610 feet. I had ascended the Washington monument 500 feet in the elevator and was almost afraid to look out of the portals at that dizzy height as the scene bewildered, but here I was 460 feet above the level of the ground and 610 feet from the starting point and on the outside of the world's greatest wonder, which made the cold chills creep from the alpha to the omega of my framework on account of the extreme danger incident to this aerial situation.

E. C. HORN.

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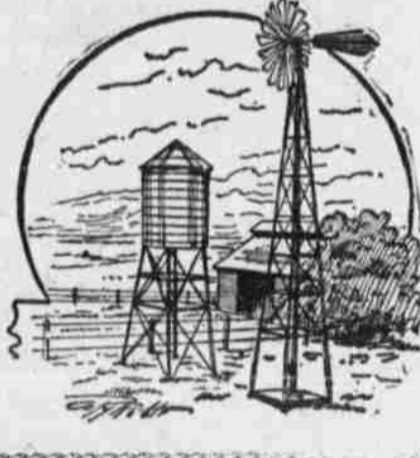
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