

## AROUND THE WORLD

**Prowling About a Subteranean Tomb—The Home of a Reptile—A Trip to Alexandria—Barterings with the Natives.**

CAIRO, EGYPT, Feb. 21, 1903.  
While Mr. Covington and I were prowling about in an adjacent subteranean tomb, each carrying candles, I dug the well preserved head of a mummy out of the dirt. It is pronounced to be an excellent specimen. I brought it to my room and kept it two days, receiving the congratulations of all to whom I showed my find, when I learned that I would encounter serious difficulty in passing the custom houses with it unless I should secure a special permit, and even then I was liable to have it stolen, so I turned it over to a representative of a leading American university who is prepared to get it through safely. It will be given a prominent position in the department of archaeology with my compliments. I have a section of the vertebrae, which I hope to get through safely. I also secured a small idol. At another point I secured some rare Egyptian coins that circulated back yonder in the infancy of time. I have also a few coins direct from excavations about the pyramid, bearing the inscriptions of Diocletian, Trajan and Constantine, having circulated many centuries ago.

Upon the section of ground secured by Mr. Covington a number of mastabas have been excavated, some of which are very deep. His workmen (natives) are afraid of one in particular which, besides containing a few sarcophagi, has an occupant, a live snake about seven feet in length and of grayish color. He, having slept in the tombs as described, has the reputation of being fearless and proposed that we pay this subteranean chamber a visit to which I assented, not desiring to be outdone by him. He, with dare-devil spirit, led the way and I, with throbbing heart, most reluctantly followed, expecting every moment to see the varmint as we crawled forward from chamber to chamber, carrying lighted candles and touching remnants of skeletons at each move that had doubtless done their part in erecting the pyramids dreamy eyles ago—but no snake appeared to accelerate the already rapid pulse beats although a circuitous track was visible in the sand, indicating that he had recently drawn his slimy length directly across our pathway. Since the Cobra episode in central Ceylon, I have not made it a business to thrust my cane into every tuft of grass or brush-heap in order to stir up a piece of living rope, but in this case I acted on the thought that "where he leads me I will follow." On my return from that ill-fated cavern, the scorching, parching, grassless desert-partook of the nature of a paradise. The Bible story about the brazen serpent seems to have left impress indelibly upon the Egyptian mind so that an army of devils is preferable to the sight of one serpent.

LUXOR, EGYPT, Feb. 26, 1903.  
From Cairo I made a side trip to Alexandria, which lies more than 100 miles to the north of Cairo. From Alexandria, Paul embarked upon the voyage which ended in shipwreck. The principal points of interest in Alexandria are the catacombs, the baths of Cleopatra, the museum and Pompey's pillar. This pillar, made of three blocks of stone, stands almost 100 feet in height, having been erected by Pompey, a Roman official, in honor of Diocletian. It rests upon the loftiest site in the city, where the renowned library stood and was burned, blotting out all record of several of the lost arts. The philosophies of Egypt and Greece mixed here and scored their Waterloo.

Once Pompey's pillar was surrounded with arches and a hundred steps, but now the pillar stands alone while the stately halls and statues have allowed time to outrun them in the course of 2,000 years. The pillar is the only memorial in the city which survives, having looked down upon Caesar and Napoleon, upon Greek and Roman, infidel and Christian, Jew and Moslem as they struggled for possession. Near the railway station Cleopatra's needles once stood, but they have been removed, one going to London, the other to Central Park, New York.

Tradition declares that Alexandria stands upon the spot where the ever changing Protens lived about whom the poets have written so much.

In 332 B. C., Alexander the Great noticed the natural advantages here afforded and ordered his architect to make plans for a city, to be the capitol of the East. Alexandria soon became the chief city of the Macedonian dynasty, but under the reign of Cleopatra,

who disgraced herself and Egypt also, Alexandria became the second city of the Roman empire under the Caesars, though she retained for years her celebrity for wealth, art and learning. Saint Mark came here to preach gospel. Here once stood the Pharos, one of the seven wonders of the world. A lofty white marble edifice, up whose exterior winding stairway chariots with prancing Arab horses went to the very summit under cracking whip. Here Euclid wrote his geometry and Hipparchus, Origen and Athanasius worked out their ideas which influence the world's thought of this day. When Amer took Alexandria in 640 A. D., he sent a message to his commander-in-chief, Omar, saying: "I have taken the great city of the west. It is impossible for me to enumerate the variety of its richness and beauty and I shall content myself with observing that it contains 4,000 palaces." The city now has a population of 250,000 and its sights can be seen in one day. Here, as at Cairo, one finds in the bazaars a babel of tongues, curious costumes, a motley crowd all ablaze with colors. If the proper place is chosen one may see in a few minutes a congress of nations, Syrian Jews wearing ringlets, reckless Turkish horsemen, high-capped Copts, Albanians in white dress, Nubians with rolling eyes, French and Italian so called beauties, Hindus, Bedouins, women dressed like men, men dressed just like women, Parthians, Medes, Elamites, people from Mesopotamia, India, Cappadocia, Pontus, upper Asia. Everybody and everything strange to one who has not seen Asia. Others were going wild over the scenes, while to me it was commonplace. I had seen it all and many times more in Japan, China, Philippines, Malaysia, and India.

In Egypt a person is pestered day and night by natives who are forever trying to sell something or to get a person to ride their donkeys or camels or ride in their carriages. Nearly every other person you meet holds a few scarabs before your eyes wanting you to buy. A scarab is an image of a bug, probably half an inch in length, which is found in mummies, tombs and ruins of temples. The beetle or bug was worshiped by the ancient Egyptians as the father of the gods, the creator of all things in heaven and earth, having made himself out of something which he himself had made, and being identified with the rising sun was typical of the resurrection.

It is the same here as throughout the Orient about prices and bargaining. If you pay a man all he asks he will regret that he did not ask more. Pay him more than he asks, as some do, and he will want still more. Offer him half he asks and you usually have the articles on your hands, unless you manage to get away before he accepts your offer. Sometimes an offer of one-third the amount asked buys the articles in question. At Benares or Lucknow a fellow came along wanting to sell me a knife at one rupee (32 cents). The knife was a combination affair having nine blades, saws, picks, etc. I did not want such a complete, condensed carpenter shop in my pocket, so I thought I would get rid of him by stating that I would give one rupee for three of them. He waited until I was about to leave the depot, then came and accepted my offer. I was in for the three knives. As I try to do as I agree, I gave him the solitary rupee and took the knives. What to do with them I did not know, but finally stowed them away in my already crowded suit cases. I happened to take one of the knives with me one day to the pyramids, thinking I might need such a toolchest in tearing down a pyramid or for some other purpose, and happened to be using it when some Bedouins were near. They had never seen such a weapon and were bent on securing it at any price. The first offer was much more than I had paid for the three in India so, the instrument and I immediately parted company. The next day when about to leave the hotel for a visit to Memphis, an Algerian who had heard of the deal of the previous day and of the uncounted excellencies of the article his friend had purchased from me, decided that he too would have one if I could be found and if I had another. So he came to the hotel in Cairo, a distance of seven miles from his headquarters. He made me the same offer as his friend and knife No. 2 was quickly disposed of, making its new owner as happy as a lark.

The next day when out near the pyramids I was noticed by a crowd of Bedouins who having heard of my wonderful combination, gathered about me. Among the number was one who had been present on the day that I had been discovered in possession of a wonder greater to them than the Sphinx, and this one informed the others. Not being able to supply the entire aggregation, I sold out to the first one who offered the regulation price, though prior to the sale some made higher bids. If all the inhabitants of the Saharas are similarly minded, it might pay some one to import a cargo of such ware from India's coral strand.

E. C. HORN.

(Continued next week.)

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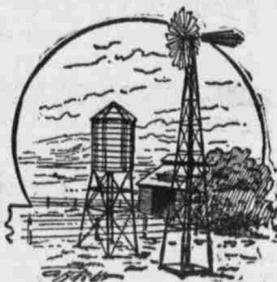


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