

A Minneapolis Man, In A Position To Know, Says: ENGLAND WILL NEVER GIVE UP EGYPT

MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY.



Edgar Perera at the Base of a Pyramid

Snapshot of the Khedive at Review of his Troops Made by Perera



Typical Group of Soudanese Perera in a Palm Grove



The Khedive's Daughter At The Review Showing Furch Guard

A Land of Compelling Interest

EGYPT for the Egyptians! That is the cry that is rolling in a mighty chorus from the Nile to the Thames and echoing in the halls of Windsor castle and the houses of parliament. The English press is trying to discuss the embarrassing question of death, and its "leader writers" have their hands full, for the Egyptian of today can write, too. He has learned much about such civilized avocations since the British took charge of his country. But he denies that he has forgotten how to fight.

Denmark, who was a guest of the khedive at the time. The khedive spoke most graciously to some of the people in the grand stand, having a different compliment for each one. He spoke Arabic to his brother, but French and English to the others. I was surprised to hear him speak with such perfect accent in both English and French.

revere. The big pyramid is on one side, the sphinx on the other with its immense shadows under the silvery blue of the sky and stillness is over all. One could rave like a sentimental girl over a sight like that!

festivities. Cairo is crowded with Greeks, and therefore most of the prominent society ladies are Greeks. The style among these handsome women is rather French, but everything is favored more or less with a taste for oriental splendor and that is why nearly every woman wears gorgeous jewels and rich dresses. The American women soon acquire the habit of this extravagant taste and they also wear jewels.

THE excitement of the arrival at Port Said and the novelty of everything connected with the landing can never be forgotten," said Signior Perera, his enthusiasm rejuvinating by the recollection. "In one moment the orient flashes upon the bewildered traveler. The kaleidoscope never presented to the child more strange and extraordinary pictures than those which come before the eyes of the visitor at the portal of that remarkable city. It is near where Asia and Africa are joined and Europe is a near neighbor; all nationalities gather there. Ah, see, some one remarks, "There is an Indian." "And that yellow," shouts another, "he's a Greek, isn't he?" "No," a veteran traveler says, kindly, but with the air of a father instructing a child, "no, he is a Turk." They are all there, representatives of all lands, and a brilliant picture they present.

Of to the Pyramids! "One early morning we made our way in an automobile thru the crowded streets of Cairo in order to go to the pyramids. The peasants with their baskets were coming into town for the morning market. At the bridge of Kasr el Nil, a very imposing structure connecting the east and west parts of Cairo, we found ourselves surrounded by all sorts of vehicles and donkeys bringing into town the rich merchants, and long files of camels carrying loads of sugarcane. It was really a strange scene and our automobile seemed a perfect insult to its picturesque beauty. We turned to the left to the Ghizeh road to the pyramids. It is an exquisite road, bordered by sycamore trees. It was built by Ismail Pasha in honor of the Empress Eugenie, who came to inaugurate the Suez canal. After an enchanting ride of almost an hour we reached the Mena house.

proprietors of the stores and after the usual invitation of "Eikad ya ef-fende" (please come in, my master), I was offered a cup of coffee and a cigarette. Eager to come to America. "Many a question was I asked about America and many a time was I begged to try to find them a position in New York or Chicago, the only two American cities known by natives in the east. But they were surprised to hear from me that the prosperity in Egypt surpasses by far that in America. Never could they believe that the land from their former homes, that they ask in Cairo. From my personal observation and from information received from prominent merchants in Alexandria and Cairo, I can say that Egypt has never seen better days. Even the Egyptian peasant, the fellah, is more prosperous than he ever was before. With the exception of a few villages along the Nile where poverty has reached its limit and where people are next to the savage state, all the country is wonderfully prosperous. But those bazaar dealers who see the American come in and pay exorbitant prices for everything, believe that the land from which they come must naturally be tremendously wealthy, and therefore are not satisfied with the good business they are doing. Some of them would like to open stores in America.

go right on making our way deeper and deeper into the enchanted country, which appeared to me still more enchanted because I knew it so well. All the more the merchants and artists at the character of the Nile, the scenes are never twice alike. "No man can ever give an adequate impression of the effect, past and present of the wonderful tombs, palaces, obelisks, colossal statues, sphinxes and sculptures of various kinds seen in upper Egypt. They continue from age to age to excite the awe and admiration of the spectator. The most perfect and colossal construction in any city of the United States would be absolutely insignificant in comparison to the masterpieces, exquisiteness and perfection of some of the wonderful monuments at Thebes. Not only to the student of Egyptology, but to every human being, the sight of these stupendous ruins will naturally create the greatest interest and a desire to know more of our progress and strenuous life, nothing have we done yet to surpass the grandeur of the Egyptians. Also in the way of appliances we learned, going thru Egyptian museums that we have hardly anything today which in a more crude form has not already been used by the Egyptians or Romans.

fetching costume for a fancy dress ball. "Camels, the quintessence of orientalism, are seen in all the streets of Cairo. They are not the camels of the menagerie or circus, but the camel at work. In the main thoroughfare near the popular hotels where the sidewalks are crowded with Americans and Englishmen and the street jammed with carriages of up-to-date Arabians who, if it were not for the occasional camel, one would think one was in a European city. After a near neighbor, all nationalities gather there. Ah, see, some one remarks, "There is an Indian." "And that yellow," shouts another, "he's a Greek, isn't he?" "No," a veteran traveler says, kindly, but with the air of a father instructing a child, "no, he is a Turk." They are all there, representatives of all lands, and a brilliant picture they present.

Humorous Arabs. "At the Mena house were found the donkeys, ready to take us thru the sandy road to the sphinx. One is first of all curiously impressed to hear the little donkey boys speak English. They have named their animals with such names as 'Yankee Doodle,' 'Rosaly' or 'Whisky and Soda'; and all along the way to Pharaoh's monument one can hear these little boys shout, 'Get up, Doodle,' or 'Get up, Whisky and Soda.' The boys are eager to talk with tourists and practice their English on them. They have a sense of humor which is remarkable and they are a constant source of amusement to all tourists. "Other Arabians also have a sense of humor. I was told by a friend that at Port Said there was a small hotel managed by a well-to-do Arab who, instead of numbering the rooms of his hotel, thought better to name them and selected names from the old Testament; so that some time one might have heard such an order as this: 'Whisky and Soda for Abraham'; 'Straight brandy for Sarah.'

How They Shop in Cairo. "Owing to my previous experience and the knowledge of the language, we might have had a more accomplished without guides or dragomans. They are an everlasting nuisance. The bazars, of course, were among the first things I visited with my friend. The Munkiy and the Hal Hall are the most important. The interesting from a tourist's point of view they would certainly drive a poor Minneapolis woman crazy if she went shopping there because the different trades and nations have separate quarters, and one is liable to lose a whole morning looking for a couple of simple articles. "But the great fun for my friend and me was when I would let him talk for a while in their broken English and then address them in Arabic or spring on them a slangy expression such as 'cut it out.' The look of astonishment and the entire change in their action was so striking and amusing that I never grew tired of repeating that trick every time I had a chance. "Too much has already been said about the pyramids and the sphinx to be able to make a new allusion to their imposing appearance and their historical associations. The same thing is true of every other monument. I saw the pyramids in the night, and I was fascinated by their bright displays of goods and buy constantly at exorbitant prices, and rather enjoy the idea of being cheated.

The Future of Egypt. "When the Egyptian project suggested by Sir William Garstin and supported by Lord Cromer, of raising the dam of Assuan and the construction of a new canal such as the Mer canal, which carries the water to lower Egypt, is carried out, it is estimated that nearly 1,000,000 acres of land will be converted from arid soil into fertile land and will thus make the Sudan a self-supporting country. As any one can see, the possibilities of this new country are immense. With the expenditure of a few millions sterling, the whole course of the Nile can be utilized to irrigate the surrounding country, which will be assured of perpetual crops. "The tremendous victory of the English army under Lord Kitchener, and the complete defeat of the dervishes in 1898, and the death of the mahdi and the final capture of Assuan, have given the English such a tremendous power that the natives of those countries are almost paralyzed and are under perfect control, so that no further rebellion can ever be feared.