

the land. For ages the peasants had groaned under Turkish extortion and oppression, the only law they knew being the will of the stronger. Laws have been improved and courts established to do justice to all. Taxes are heavy, but they are fairly levied, and the peasant can now enjoy the reward of his own labour. At the same time schools and colleges have been opened, and other reforms introduced, so that this ancient land is now renewing its youth.

The traveller bound for Egypt usually lands at Alexandria, a city of the greatest renown, but now shorn of its former glories. Its name recalls its founder, Alexander the Great, and the ruins which abound in the neighbourhood tell of its ancient grandeur. For some three centuries before the



CAIRO: THE OLD TOWN.

birth of Christ, Alexandria was the capital of Egypt, the greatest commercial city of the world, and the chief centre of Greek science and literature.

The railway to the capital crosses the wide, level plain of the Nile delta, a huge triangle each side of which is more than a hundred miles long. The land is extremely fertile, and is intersected everywhere by canals and branches of the river. On all sides are the blossoms of the cotton plant, rich crops of wheat, and green fields of rice fringed by feathery reeds. After a journey of some hundred miles, the traveller at last sees before him, girdled with trees and gardens, the far-famed city of Cairo.

Cairo is the largest town in Africa, and something more—the most perfect example in the world of a Mohammedan capital. The modern city, with its hotels, its broad streets,