

Truth's Contributors.

EGYPTIAN RECOLLECTIONS.

ARRIVAL AT ALEXANDRIA—TEMPERATURE—
THE U.S. CONSUL—THE SHORE OF LAKE
MAROUTIS—SHELLS THROWN FIVE
MILES—GETTING POSSESSION OF THEM
—THEIR VALUE.

BY REV. E. R. STIMSON, M. A.

"As the double-stars, though sundered far,
Seem to the naked eye a single star,
So facts of history, at a distance seen,
Into one common point of light convene."

Upon our arrival at Alexandria in March, the winter of that country had nearly left and warm weather was fast approaching. Neither snow nor rain distinguish the seasons from each other, for of these elements none ever falls,—at least, none to speak of. Once in two or three years, perhaps, it may sprinkle a little.

The story is told of a foreigner arriving there, and as night approached he anticipated obtaining credit for prophesy by predicting a copious shower that night. "Why do you say so?" asked his friend.

"Don't you feel the humidity in the atmosphere, and are there not clouds?" was the reply.

"Traveler, recollect it has not rained here for the last two thousand years," was ejaculated, "and it is scarcely probable a change to-day will occur in accommodation to your prophesy."

The traveler was not much wrong, for strangers frequently look for rain and find disappointment.

This condition of climate obviates the construction of barns and sheds for the reception of grain at the markets of the city or on the farms of the fellah. The ground is made smooth and hard; mud walls are thrown up, against which grain is stored.

To say nothing more just now in relation to temperature, we continue by noticing that the steamship *Satur*, which brought us from Trieste to this port, cast anchor only a little farther down nearer the city after passing over the water where were stationed the inside squadron, *Monarch*, *Invincible*, and *Penelope* at the time they bombarded Fort Meks—the principal one of the three taken by Admiral Seymour.

The usual shouts of wherry-men were encountered. We drew up at the Customs Department—passed its official eyes only to meet with the turbulence of donkey boys and men and commissioners. Besides these you find a mixed population of Turks and Arabs, Americans, Greeks, Syrians, Maltese, Jews, and Europeans of almost every nation.

Through this Salamagundy of people, as Washington Irving would term it, we made our way to the "Hotel Abbat," now, since the destruction of a larger one by the mob at the time of the massacre, the most notable of the city.

Over 300,000 is the estimated population of Alexandria; and a period of two thousand and twenty years having elapsed since Alexandria was founded we may well imagine that sufficient time has been allotted for the construction of large and important palaces, and for the growth of gardens and aromatic foliage. But the infuriated rabble without discrimination destroyed the valuable and beautiful along with less pretentious buildings and less attractive objects of interest. And there, like hills peering down from the sky, lie the remains of what was the ornament, and in many particulars the medium of support, for many hundreds of nomadic people.

To the right as you pass on to Pompey's Pillar, stood the crossbeams upon which some of the leaders of the massacre paid the penalty of death by hanging; and save the mounds of the debris of houses in the heart of the city, nothing striking presented itself to remind a stranger of the treacherous scenes so recently enacted.

The evening approached with quietude; and the people walked about as at other times. A breeze soft and yet refreshing came from off the Mediterranean, and an amphitheatre, under the direction of a German with fifty musicians, half of whom were ladies, playing upon the violin and flute, received visitors and entertained them in accord with their experience and education. Austrian, Italian, other merchants and dealers in fabrics in general had arrived; for a court of indemnity was about to sit, and claims for losses were about to be presented for adjustment.

Young men from Vienna and the Southern part of the continent were en route for Oriental stations in search of mercantile employment which might yield large returns, and travelers, with no other object in view than to acquire knowledge, were all in this public rendezvous, eager in consultation, curious to see and be seen, their vision sharpened by innocence and beauty, their appetites satisfied, their thirst abated, and their senses cooled by zephyrs, as they floated in from the setting car of light, which having bid adieu by some hours to the light of day, were attuned to the harp, the viol, and the lute.

It was our duty and privilege the next morning to pay our respects to the United States consul, Baron B. L. de Menasse.

Baron Eli L. de Menasse, jr., and son of the former, is acting consul.

Mr. Alex. Dello Strologo is secretary. The first is a man of medium size, dresses in a black cloth suit and silk hat. He is quiet in his manners and anxious to accommodate all who may call upon him with whatever information or tangible articles of business they may desire to possess. The second participates of the character of the father, only that perhaps he possesses a little more of what the Americans significantly term "snap," while Mr. Strologo is a young man of Greek antecedents, quick in answer to demands upon his time, most obliging in his ways and ready at any time to serve a visitor. He is a fine looking young man with a pleasant address. With his companionship we obtained much information in pursuance of the object of our mission to this memorable but non-progressive part of the Eastern planet.

The commercial people of the city unexceptionably expressed themselves as interested in the interchange of policies and products with the Western hemisphere; and as they could only represent a sectional circle of their country, a recommendation was formulated, under which the Government at Cairo might accept of my duties as a Commissioner. Personal amenities were generously extended to the writer which pleasantly contributed to success in finding all that which displays to another quarter of the globe the skill, industry, and indigenous products of the latitudes and longitudes of the whole of the land of the Pharaohs.

We speak of the result just now en gross. The particulars may come in by and by, as definite colors in a picture blend and constitute a whole. But by no means did Alexandria remain unrepresented. The war just emerged from seemed to agitate the whole of Europe and to excite the political interest of America. And it was natural that incidents and substantial trophies from the scenes of hostilities would enlist the

curiosity of dwellers in foreign parts. With such an idea in view Mr. Strologo's companionship was solicited in making a prospective journey to Fort Meks. En route, Pompey's Pillar and the outer gate of the city were passed. Then came large plantations of vegetables well irrigated and bearing as many as three crops per annum. After this came a desert with pits many feet square and deep, from which a soft building stone had been quarried; the pits themselves being suggestive of such as were in the country when Joseph's brethren of Scripture narrative cast him in and left him there to perish. To the left, on the shore of Lake Maroutis, were the earthworks thrown up by Arabi Pasha. Behind these his forces retreated upon their expulsion from Fort Meks. But their presence was of short duration, although distant five miles from the man-of-war ship *Invincible*. With a loud, sharp, whistling rush shells weighing seven, three and two hundred pounds were projected from the ship over the fort with the precision of a rifle bullet to astonish these Arab soldiers into a rapid flight. The ground being soft, sufficient impact was not obtained to explode the projectiles. They sank deep down in the yielding sand and mud, while the alarm they gave from rank to file completed the errand upon which they were despatched. There were Arab children from eight to twelve years of age in the neighborhood who saw these enormous messengers of death as they made their instant journey through the air and the spot where they struck. With those children Mr. Strologo conversed; backsheesh obtained their assistance, and by the removal of earth the shells were discovered. They were not yet in possession; for the obtaining of them and their safe removal to a place of exportation in town much labor and finesse were necessary. The next day two trolleys and thirteen Arabs, with a Commissionaire, came into requisition. The latter employee assumed to be a man of honesty and importance, but his conduct proved him to be a swindler of no common order. The Arabs were indolent; and to express a disrelish at lifting the weights before them a fear of explosion was expressed. The fear was less urgent than a hope to gain backsheesh, strongly encouraged by my dishonest Commissionaire. Partly by yielding to their cupidity, and partly by threats to report their behaviour to the Government, four shells of seven hundred pounds each and four of three hundred pounds were at last rolled upon the trolleys. The sun during the afternoon was burning hot, and left with me as a memento of the event a touch of sun-stroke, the effects of which are yet occasionally perceptible.

Difficulty had yet to be encountered upon our arrival at grey of evening in Alexandria. It was known that the shells held their charges, which, upon explosion, might destroy property and lives. Some of the people fled for safety—others forbade a further handling of the articles. Here again persuasion and backsheesh had their work to do—the latter proving to be the most potential in the argument for a reception of the articles until skilled gunners from Fort Ras-el-tin employed their art in the removal of the charges. At last, here we have these trophies of the bombardment—the only ones of the kind to be obtained in the world. One of a similar character was got and sent to the Prince of Wales, who, upon its arrival in England gave instructions for the withdrawal of the charge. The poor gunner, by a slip of his hammer, caused its ignition, and he was instantly blown to atoms. So the writer is the sole possessor of sole missives to be for ever had and to be

for ever held remarkable on account of their historical connection with the bombardment of Alexandria.

Hereupon we may drop a word as to the value of such pieces of property. Negatively, they are lumps of iron, conical in shape, and without artistic beauty,—fit only in the estimation of a dealer in crude metal for a junk shop. In the estimation of an observer of passing events and a calculation of future ones, the intrinsic value remains the same; but the value of association and sentiment mingling with history, in part at least, by projectiles of such magnitude, constitute a value to be decided upon according to the intimacy of feeling involved and the length of the purse of a purchaser. Throughout the whole of the community of the Dominion, so far as it has become known, no one has presented himself extraneous to the circle of practical dealers, who wishes to possess these articles for historical purposes,—a circumstance easily reconciled with the remembrance that we are citizens of an inland country, far removed from Egypt, and more engaged over an industrial pursuit of wealth than were artists of Italy during the renaissance period over the objects of art which now distinguishes their names and their era far in advance of the ordinary artisan or the common scholar.

In the little office at Fort Ada, occupied by Arabi Pasha, we found the lamps had been accustomed to use. It is now in our possession, together with much Arabic correspondence which took place prior and during the war.

This is of value as showing the opinions prevalent among the natives who placed themselves at Arabi's disposal.

(TO BE CONTINUED.)

CANADA OF TO-DAY.

M. Victor Du Bled, a French literateur, has written an interesting article for *Paris Revue des deux Mondes* in regard to the progress and condition of Canada. Of course it is written from a French stand point, but the article is well worth reading.

Truth is indebted to the *Chautauquan*, an excellent American monthly, for the translation:—

Canada, for so long a time apparently forgotten by her mother country, came out from her isolation and again called back to herself the attention of France by sending to the Exposition of 1855 specimens of her products. In 1856 M. de Belveze, commander of the French frigate "*Capricieuse*," was sent into Canadian waters. His mission resulted in the establishment of a French consulate, and the reduction of the tariff which permitted the two countries to enter upon commercial relations.

From 1854 to 1862 material and intellectual progress here marched by the side of great political progress. Public works, canals, and interior colonization, all, during this time received a vigorous impulse.

There is no such thing as spontaneous generation in politics any more than in natural history. Questions give rise to other questions, and the philosophy of history shows them springing up, one after another, from some mysterious source, obeying a sort of atavism, and producing often a most unexpected result. Excitement over representation, fixed according to the population of the country, gave birth to the confederacy. On October 1, 1864, a conference assembled at Quebec, composed of delegates from the maritime provinces, and from the Canadian government. After a long and stormy session, during which threats of resorting to arms were now and then heard, the cause of the confederation triumphed by a large majority. A basis of federal union was submitted to the several legislatures for ratification, and on July 1, 1867, the confederacy was established in the midst of public rejoicings. They gave to the united provinces