

plan, but that was not the case at all. The houses of one to two storeys in height were the tombs. Our guide explained that the rich men possessed houses and the lower classes tomb stones. This accounted for the deserted town we were in. The wealthy Mameluke buys a house, many of them of good size, in which he buries the members of his family. They do this because they want their wives to mourn over the dead and probably their own bodies, and yet not be seen by the Christian dogs, or even their own male friends. Around Christmas time, the whole family, or what remains of it, spend several days in praying and weeping over their departed in the privacy of their gloomy sepulchral homes. They also pay frequent visits to them during the year, but more particularly on Fridays, their sabbath day. The houses are built of stone and cost from one thousand dollars and upwards, some of them reaching as high as ten thousand dollars, but there is a very rich population in Egypt, particularly among the Copts, who number many multi-millionaires, and they can afford very luxurious cemetery homes. In the midst of this cemetery is a mosque and the tomb of a very good man, who was most philanthropic in the distribution of his wealth after his death. He endowed several museums at Mecca, whither forty thousand Mahommedans from Egypt wend their weary way each year to do homage to their high priest and receive all the blessings that can be bestowed