

sleep, but when feeding time comes are extremely alert. On some mice being thrown into the water the alligators pursued them, swimming with the mouth raised out of the water. Having seized the unfortunate mice, they held them under the surface till drowned, and then tossing them into the gullet, bolted them whole. The tortoises are not fed with live animals, but with raw meat, which they tear in mouthfuls under the water.

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### THE TOMB OF MAHOMET.

A LETTER from a traveller, now in the East, contains some very interesting information. He says:

"Yesterday, New Year's Day (January 1st, 1873), I went with three friends from Suez, to a place called 'Ayim-Mousa' or the 'Wells of Moses,' which is thought to be the place called in Exodus by the name of 'Elim.' We started early in the morning, and walked straight across the desert to the place. We could see it from the shore, as we sunk ankle deep into the mud at every step, and in one or two places we had to cross the beds of dried-up water-courses. The place itself had a small collection of Arab huts, built of palm branches, and the crevices plastered with mud. The wells are mostly covered over to keep the sun out. The water, which is very brackish, bubbles up from the ground like a fountain, and is led in little streams all round the gardens, which are well cultivated. We had our dinner under the shade of a palm tree which is supposed to be 3,000 years old. Perhaps it is one of the very trees that sheltered the Israelites on their journey. However, I supposed the place is considerably altered since Moses wrote of its 'Twelve wells of water and threescore palm trees.' We came back by the beaten road, made by the different caravans that go to Sinai; this being the first point on the pilgrimage. Both ways we came upon the skeletons