

where it is not uncommon for men, women, and children to be exposed for sale. On the coast are Mogador, the port of Fez, and the still more important town of Tangier, where the representatives of foreign nations have their residences.

The Valley of the Nile

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FROM Tunis eastward for a thousand miles of coast the country is under Turkish rule; but Italy has taken steps to establish her power over this region. Tripoli, as this state is called, is mostly Saharan land, a plateau of sand or rock, with scanty vegetation in parts, and fertile oases where water is found. East of the Gulf of Sidra, in the district of Barca, there is a ridge of high ground which seems a continuation of the Algerian Mountains, and here in the valleys grow crops of barley, wheat, and beans, while olives, oranges, and lemons are also produced. There is little to interest us, however, until we reach the wonderful Nile valley, which contains the country of Egypt and the Egyptian Sudan.

The history of Egypt extends so far back into the past that it almost makes us dizzy to think of it. There are traces of men who had reached a certain degree of civilization in that land about ten thousand years ago. Written records have been found dating some seven thousand years back, and giving a fairly connected account of the country and its kings down to the dawn of history among the neighbouring peoples of the East. At the time when Moses lived, Egypt had a history more ancient than that which any European nation possesses to-day. Engraved on the walls of tomb and temple, painted on the coffin of the dead or written on papyrus and inclosed within it, these records lay for ages unknown, and only during the course of last century did men discover the key to the language in which they were written.