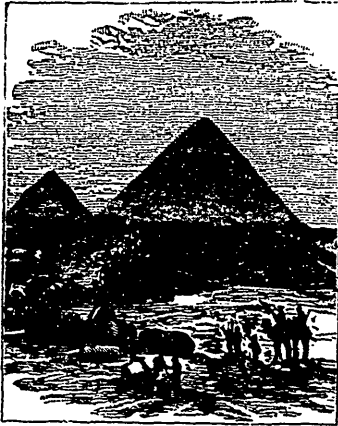


watered, fertile region ; their long and cruel bondage ; their ultimate deliverance by the hand of Moses.

Cairo and Shephard's Hotel were reached by nine o'clock. A bath and breakfast were soon got over, and we proceeded forthwith to Gizeh and its world-famed Pyramids. It was a hot day, but we took a covered carriage, and as we drove along we became sensible of a cool, refreshing breeze from the Desert. The drive took an



THE GREAT PYRAMID.*

hour and a half and was very pleasant, for the greater part of the road is shaded by ample avenues of the umbrageous lebbek tree. A short distance from Cairo we crossed the Nile over a magnificent iron bridge built by a French engineering company. Its length is 1,260 feet. Altogether it is one of the handsomest bridges I have seen. There were palaces, parks and gardens to attract our attention as we passed, but our minds and hearts dwell on what we are about to see, and what I, for one, never expected to see. From different points in the road, the huge, lofty structures are in view, dwarfing every other object, and already filling the mind with wonder and admiration at the vastness and impressiveness of these primitive achievements of our race. And as we draw near we ask ourselves, Can it be that these pyramids were built, and had been long built, when Abraham was born ? Yes, at the lowest computation the date of their erection must be placed at

* From the Smith-Peloubet Bible Dictionary ; see under the heading "Literature."

2,500 years before the Christian era, while the most trustworthy chronologists set down 5,100 years as the true date. When Joseph went to Egypt these pyramids were hoary with age, and when Moses left Egypt they had, for eleven hundred years, been pointing their peaks to the sky.

My two companions had resolved to ascend to the top of the Great Pyramid, so when we reached the plateau on which the three (pyramids) stand they proceeded on foot and left me to follow in the carriage. By the time I reached the base they had already, with the help each of three Bedouins, commenced their climb. I watched them with great interest as they clambered up the rugged surface, but with no anxiety, for they were in the hands of trustworthy, efficient guides and helpers. In about 20 minutes John reached the summit, and some minutes after his uncle. A quarter of an hour was spent in gazing out over the matchless landscape, and ten minutes or twelve brought them down in safety to the base. Then, each on a donkey, we rode to the Great Sphinx, for which is claimed a higher antiquity than for the Great Pyramid. It is a gigantic memorial of the past. Its great eyes have been peering into the desert for at least four thousand five hundred years. The rest is soon told. We hastened back to the city, I to rest, my companions to visit the streets, bazaars and mosques. They returned in time to dine ; then we had to part from our beloved fellow-traveller and brother, who went off to Suez to rejoin his ship. It was rather a solemn "good-bye," but the pleasure which mingled with it was great, seeing we had been permitted to enjoy together the visit to Cairo, Gizeh, and to the Pyramids.

During the night "my little man" was taken ill ; at eight in the morning I called in a doctor—a charming Scotchman—who knew his business, and whose treatment was successful. The rest of my stay in Cairo was for the most part confined to nursing and a sick room. Reserving for another "brieflet" an account of our visit to Alexandria and of some mission work there and elsewhere—*au revoir !*

No man has come to true greatness who has not felt in some degree that his life belongs to his race, and that what God gives him He gives him for mankind.—*Phillips Brooks.*