

Oriental travel is the sharp contrast into which the immemorial past and the busy, practical present are brought. Thus, between the legs of a colossal bull at Persepolis, some tourists found the words: "Stanley, New York

the four paradisaic streams, and here their rich alluvium was the nurse of the earliest Asian civilization, as the Delta of the Nile was of that to Africa. The soil is of wondrous fertility, and the vegetation of the greatest exuberance.



CAPTIVES LED AWAY.

Herald," engraved "in letters as bold as the Ujiji expedition."

At Bagdad, a railway, telegraphs, gas-pipes, and steamers on the Tigris, almost disenchant the "City of Caliphs." At the same time their mode of travel on the Upper Tigris, on rafts supported

An Arab village occupies the site of the garden. Through it the sacrilegious Franks have run a telegraph line.

Bagdad is the only living city of note in this region filled with the ruins of ancient monarchies. It still numbers a polyglot population of 100,000—Arabic, Greek, Armenian, Syriac, Persian, Hebrew, Turkish, Hindu, English, French, Italian and German. At a consulate dinner party of six persons, nine languages were employed—the

host's son, a young lad, using six fluently.

The Arabs are faithful in one religious duty, at least, that of praying toward Mecca at the canonical hours. No matter in what employment engaged, the Muezzin's cry brings them to their knees. The difficulties of a de-



BLINDING THE EYES OF CAPTIVES.

on inflated goat-skins, is the same as that described by Herodotus and Xenophon, and portrayed on the bas-reliefs of Nineveh thirty centuries ago.

At the junction of the Tigris and Euphrates is the traditional site of the Garden of Eden. Here are