

Philæ—"the shattered but splendid memorials of a dead faith and civilization, with which the world can nowhere else show anything to compare"—Mr. McCoan does not speak at length, his purpose being to describe, not the Egypt of the past, but of that of to-day. Here the author strikes a new vein, and although we may not be so sanguine about the future of that deeply-interesting country under the Pashas, as he appears to be, there can be no question about the value of the information contained in this volume. Unfortunately so much space has been already occupied in topics, which however attractive, are to some extent outside the purpose of the work under review, that we can only give a brief and condensed account of the major part of it. We have read with care the chapters devoted to the products and capabilities of the Nile valley, the Fayoum, and the oases ; to the army, navy, educational and administrative institutions of the Khedive ; and we have endeavoured to get some notion of the Egyptian finance as pictured in gay colours by Mr. McCoan, and more soberly by Mr. Cave, and Messrs Göschén and Joubert. With our author's view of the vast capabilities of Egypt we may readily agree. His account in detail, of the vegetable resources of the country are as instructive as they are interesting ; and there is much promise in the comparatively new staples of sugar and cotton. Egypt is now burdened with a debt amounting altogether to between ninety and one hundred millions sterling. This is made up of all sorts of liabilities, consolidated and floating. The *Daira* or departmental debts. are the most troublesome—so troublesome indeed that Mr. Cave did not meddle with them. To most people a Department conveys the idea of a branch of the public service ; but, in Egypt, it means one of the conduit pipes by which the country is drained to support the Oriental magnificence of the family which, according to Mr. McCoan, is bringing in a Millennium. There is the *Daira-Khassa* or Civil List, which, even under Mr. Göschén's reformed system, is to swallow up £300,000 sterling annually ; then the *Daira* of the Khedive's personal estate ; those of the Queen-Mother, the family property generally, the heir-apparent, and those of two other "Highnesses," sons of the Khedive. Where much of the money wrung from the impoverished peasantry of Egypt goes may be seen in the new Palaces erected and furnished year after year, and seldom or never used by the Khedive.

That the Khedive has received a varnish of European civilization may be true. He is enterprising, after a fashion, and if constructing railways and public works, and speculating in sugar refining at a loss, are proofs of sagacity, Ismaïl Pasha is sagacious enough. Mr. Cave, in his Report, however, stripped off the varnish and tinsel, and exposed the rottenness within. Mr. McCoan inserts it at page 372 as an Appendix, and it ought to expel any dreams of a brilliant future by binding the speculative spirit of European civilization to the dead corpse of Oriental decrepitude and decay. Notwithstanding our dissent from some of Mr. McCoan's views, grounded upon the opinions of those who have had at least as favourable an opportunity of judging aright as he, we cannot conclude without giving a most favourable opinion of the work as a whole. It is certainly the fullest, most instructive, and interesting work on contemporary Egypt that has yet appeared.