

yields cotton equal to the best Egyptian. They plant it so that it is in the ground through the mild winter of the climate, and comes to maturity before the rains begin, or insects come forth to spoil the crops.

The people are called Mang-anja. All are tattooed in straight lines. The women wear enormous lip rings, which make them very ugly. The men use bows and poisonous arrows. We got on well with all except a party of Banjana slave-traders, and they were disposed to be impudent only until they knew we were English. They took us at first for Portuguese.

Several of our party have had fever. Dr. Kirk and I have escaped. It began so mildly in consequence of our being well provided for, that we did not recognize it at first, as that which, when destitute of every comfort, I suffered so severely myself. Charles has suffered but recovers readily. We can cure it with ease. We take him in our next trip to make magneetical observations for the Royal Society. He is now at Tette.

The cotton trade is quite ready for development in the Shire. The people do not require new seed, and they are ready to sell, but the Portuguese seem bent on keeping the entire river to themselves, and they attend to nothing but ivory, of which they export under 2,000 lbs. annually. They talk of sending out 300 colonists to occupy this region! We are waiting for a stronger ship to take us up the rapids above Tette.

DAVID LIVINGSTON.

LECTURES ON EGYPT AND ITS ANTIQUITIES.

(Abridged from the Montreal Gazette.)

On Thursday evening, Oct. 20th, a large audience assembled in the rooms of the Natural History Society to listen to an address from Mr. Robert W. Ferrier, Jr., on his travels through Egypt, and to one from Prof. Cornish on the Antiquities of that country, as well as to see the various Egyptian curiosities collected by Mr. Ferrier and his father in their late tour through the East.

His Lordship the Anglican Bishop introduced Mr. Ferrier, saying—

Ladies and Gentlemen.—We are met here this evening on a very interesting occasion—very interesting from the subject matter which will be brought before you, and very interesting also, I think, as taken in connection with the welfare of this Society with which we are connected. We are here on this occasion to listen to some explanations on a vast number of curiosities which have been brought here by one of our fellow-citizens from a very distant part of the World. It is only very recently that we have possessed a proper and fitting receptacle in which to place any such presents and donations which might be made to us for their proper conservation and exhibition to the public. This building in which we are now assembled is such a receptacle, and I do trust that this honourable and munificent example, which has been given by our neighbour and fellow-citizen in presenting this large and valuable collection, will be but the first on the part of friends who shall be anxious to make the Museum of the Natural History Society of Montreal one worthy of the reputation of this great and important city and country. It is reasonable to expect that the accumulation of such treasures as make up the museums of curiosities will not be the first thing which is thought of in new countries. We are now come to that time when we ought to look to the accumulation of such treasures as these amongst us, in order to foster in our citizens a love of science; and seeing you assembled here this evening is a proof of the interest

you are taking in such subjects, and, had the weather been less unfavourable, a still larger number would, I doubt not, have been present. The matters now brought before you will, I am sure, fully and amply repay you on this occasion. I beg leave to introduce to you Mr. Ferrier, who will explain the manner in which these curiosities were collected, he himself having taken a main part in the collection and safe transmission of what we see around us.

Mr. Ferrier then took the stand and spoke in substance as follows:—He began by saying that Egypt to the historian, the antiquarian, and the pleasure-seeker, was one of the most interesting and wonderful of all countries. Its monumental relics in their number, magnitude and splendour, as also in the vast amount of information they conveyed, far exceeded those of any other region, and disclosed the fact that the land of the Pharaohs was the cradle of the civilization of the early World.

The connection of Egypt with the early history of God's ancient people gave it also an especial charm for Christians of every name. Almost everything great in the World's history seemed to converge into the pathway of him who traversed that memorable country. Abraham, Sesostris, Moses, Agesilaus, Alexander, Pompey, Cæsar, Cleopatra, Aristarchus, Origen, St. Mark, Athanasius, Saladin, Napoleon, Mehemet Ali,—what names were these? What contrasts did they not bring before us? In Egypt the past was so faithfully reflected in the present that the drama of ancient life seemed never to have been interrupted. This fact encouraged him to hope that a brief account of the "lights and shadows" of Egyptian travel would not prove uninteresting. On the morning of the 28th of December, 1858, the low-lying land of Egypt was visible from the mast-head of the steamer "Vienna," of the direct line between Smyrna and Alexandria. The only object visible from the deck was a small speck, and that was Pompey's pillar. Standing on the vessel's deck in the harbor of Alexandria, the eye wandered over the town to which the ancient city has left nothing but its name and very few of its ruins. One could observe but little of what it once had been, and imagination could hardly find a place for the ancient walls 15 miles in circumference, the 4000 palaces, and the homes of 600,000 people. All that was now visible within the shrunken walls was a town half European and half Oriental. The suburbs were incrustated with the wretched hovels of the Arab poor, and immense mounds of rubbish occupied the space between the town and its walls. The objects of principal interest in Alexandria were unquestionably Pompey's Pillar and Cleopatra's Needle, both of great antiquity, yet of neither could it be said that it bore a correct name, nor was in the place to which it originally belonged. There were also many remains of sumptuous buildings concerning which there was no tradition among the inhabitants, or any account on which reliance could be placed. Arrived at Alexandria, the traveller was yet far distant from the Nile. The traveller who was bound for Cairo might either go there in seven hours by rail, or take the Nile boat at Alexandria and consume as many days on the canal and river. The latter is more commendable. The objects of interest on the river before reaching Cairo were altogether of modern origin. There was first a railway bridge, constructed on a similar principle and now as near completion as the magnificent work of art which spans the river opposite this city; and next a magnificent structure of brick, pointed with stone, stretched across the Nile at a point a little below the apex of the Delta, and intended to raise the waters somewhat higher, and thus increase the annual inundation. A few short hours' sail from this

point brought the travellers within sight of the Pyramids on the western bank, and in another short space of time on the opposite bank were to be seen the domes and minarets of Cairo. The approach to Cairo was by a spacious avenue, lined and covered with the olive, the tamarind and the sycamore. The walls of the city were of mud. The most fashionable streets were not above 12 feet wide, and, as the upper stories arched over them, only a narrow strip of blue sky appeared between the topping verandahs. Mean-looking and crowded as Cairo was, it possessed some extensive squares and stately houses, but its most interesting building was certainly the Citadel, where Mehemet Ali treacherously murdered, with the exception of one only who escaped, the Mameluke Beys whom he summoned to consultation on the approach of war. Five miles of a carriage-road brought the traveller from Cairo to Heliopolis, the On of Scripture, and the Oxford of old Egypt. Having spoken of the Pyramids and a visit to them, as well as the arrangements of a Nile boat, the speaker went on to say that his party visited the sepulchres of the rich and poor of old Memphis. For miles they rode over heaps of bones, skulls and mummy swathing. This vast cemetery extended 20 miles. The nearness of this ancient ruin to the modern city left the traveller but little chance to procure antiquities of any kind. He proceeded to detail a very interesting account of his visit to the catacombs of Bennisassen, the temple of Dendera, and Sbebesarnak. They spent part of their time at Thebes in procuring from under the very nose of the Pasha of temples and tombs, who unfortunately was performing his duties very rigorously, the greater part, indeed almost the whole of the curiosities now lying on the tables. So strict was the surveillance that the cover of night and early morn was resorted to in order to convey the mummies to their boat. Having described visits made to other deeply interesting localities, Mr. Ferrier expressed a hope that the distinguished flag of Canada, which was to be seen floating from the yard of their Nile boat, might never be found wanting among the flags of other nations which every winter were seen hovering over the inviting waters of the great river of Egypt.

On the close of Mr. F's address his Lordship moved that the thanks of the audience be tendered to Mr. F. for the pleasure he had afforded them by his very interesting lecture, which being carried by acclamation, the Bishop thanked the lecturer on behalf of himself and the audience for the gratification given them by his address.

After this there was a recess of 15 or 20 minutes, occupied by those present in examining the various Egyptian curiosities, as also the previous collections of the Society in the other rooms of the building.

When the audience were reassembled, the Bishop again took the stand and introduced Prof. Cornish, who, he said, would give them some account of ancient Egypt.

Prof. Cornish spoke to the following effect:—That it was not his intention to enter upon any consideration of the vexed questions of Egyptian history and chronology, for to give even a sketch of these points would more than occupy an entire lecture, much more than a fraction of one. The Egyptians, the lecturer stated, considered themselves the aborigines of the land they inhabited, but their form, features and other peculiarities clearly indicated them to be of Caucasian origin, and that they probably migrated to Egypt at an early period of time. No other country dating so far back into the past had left so many memorials of what it once had been. The numerous mummies brought to light, the representations on their monuments, &c., enabled them to judge,