

THE Methodist Magazine.

MARCH, 1893.

WHAT EGYPT CAN TEACH US.

BY THE EDITOR.

III.

THE atmospheric effects on the Nile are a never-ending source of delight. The dawn seems to come out of the sky with a rush, brightening quickly into broad daylight. The mornings are delightfully clear and cool, the air so transparent that the many grottoes and tombs in the cliffs are seen with great distinctness. Towards noon the glare is intense, shining on the yellow cliffs and on the deep green of the bean and clover fields; but overhead the blue vault of the sky reveals a fathomless depth of space. As the day wanes, the colour of the cliffs deepens to a lovely rose pink, with deep purple shadows, the river becomes a rich wine colour, or as if smitten again into blood. As it reflects the level rays of the sun, it becomes, like the apocalyptic sea of glass mingled with fire. A strange afterglow suffuses the sky, like that which I have seen in California and the high Alps. It is described as "like the temporary coming back of life to a corpse." At night, in this dry atmosphere, the stars shine like lambent lamps, Venus and Jupiter throwing bright reflections upon the waves, and the white light of the moon bathes the whole land and water scape in a wondrous sheen, and touches with silver now the feathery foliage of a palm, now the white dome and minaret of a mosque, and now transfigures into alabaster the mud hut of a fellah.

"The Nile," says Mr. Weymouth. "is emphatically the river of the dead. It is a river of tombs and temples. The miserable Arab towns and villages along its banks have no more to say to it than the fungi upon the trunk of a fallen tree have to do with its past vigour. The least imaginative traveller cannot fail to be touched by the romance of the great river. From source to mouth it is enveloped in mystery. It rises in the heart of the Dark