

The number of Jews in Cairo was differently stated at three, four, five, or six thousand. But I am disposed to think that the highest number is considerably under the truth. They are an industrious people, and are chiefly engaged in retail traffic, as in this country; but many of them being able to read, write, and cypher, are employed in the different offices of government. They have seven synagogues in Cairo. The Copts are generally considered as the legitimate remains of the ancient Egyptians, as retaining in their features and even in their name, proofs of their descent from that great and wonderful people. Though I must be permitted to say, that neither in their features nor in their complexion, have they the smallest resemblance to the figures of the ancient Egyptians that are represented in the tombs of Thebes, or any other part of Egypt that I ever visited. There are about 8000 of them in Cairo; and throughout the whole of Egypt, and are much employed by the Pasha in matters of accounts, yet they certainly are an uncouth and grovelling race, and further removed from civilization and the softened habits of society, than any of their fellow citizens. They have a sulky and designing look, with much of the low cunning that renders a man unpleasant and suspected.— They have an unusual command of feature, but not of eye, which announces, with all its diversity of expression, the craft and intrigue of their disposition."

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THE COPTS.

The present Copts, Dr. Richardson is decidedly of opinion, are a mixed race, bearing in their physiognomy the marks of an alliance to the great Circassian family, and obviously distinguished from the children of Mizraim, the aboriginal Egyptians.

"Prior to the Persian conquest, Egypt possessed a population of 7,000,000: all of them, it is presumed, Egyptians. That three and twenty hundred years of bondage and persecution should have reduced them to their present number, is not so surprising as that they should, notwithstanding all their changes of masters, have remained a distinct people. Evidently the Christian religion, the strongest cement of society, has knit them together in one bond of union, and placed an insurmountable barrier between them and their present masters. The same distinction obtained, in a certain degree, between them and their Persian conquerors. But this was not the case under the Greeks, who were themselves a colony from Egypt.— The Ptolemies repaired their temples, presented their offerings on the same altars, and worshipped the same deities with them. The Egyptians adopted their alphabet, and probably much of their language: their own is now completely lost. They never appear to have amalgamated so well with the Romans, under whose government they made several efforts to recover their independence. After their conversion to Christianity, they appear to have formed one sect with the Greeks and Romans: and the national distinction must have been then greatly sunk; and the present Copts are probably a mixture of the ancient Egyptians with those inhabitants of the country, who embraced that religion at the same time with themselves."—*Boston Recorder*.

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SIBERIA.

ZEAL AND LIBERALITY OF HEATHENS IN SUPPORT OF SUPERSTITION.

Mr. Swan, who with Mr. Stallybrass, has taken a journey into the *Buriat* territory, beyond the *Nerchinsk* mountains, mentions, in a letter to the Secretary, the zeal of some