

## Young People's Department.



A LONG JOURNEY.

### A JOURNEY OF LOVE AND FAITH.

BY EVELYN MULLER, IN *The Young Christian Soldier*.

**T**HE Sheik Houssein dismounted from his camel and sat down on the sand to eat his supper, which consisted of dried figs, and some pieces of sugar cane, and some Arab bread, hard, and thin, and dry. In a sheepskin bag was some sour milk, the chief drink of the Arabs; but the Sheik was very sparing of it, for he hoped to make it last till he should reach the next Arab settlement, where he could get some more. There was no supper for the camel, for all around was nothing but sand, still hot from the burning sun, and no grass would be seen till the next days' journey was done.

The man and the camel had come from the borders of the Great Desert and had a long

journey before them, full of hardships and doubt, and this was the reason.

Sheik Houssein had a little daughter, only one, among his five big sons, and this little girl had become blind, a very unusual thing among Arab tribes, whose eyes are used to the fierce glare of the desert sunshine. It may have been caused by some childish disease, measles or scarlet fever, though these are rare among the healthy dwellers out-of-doors; but, whatever the cause, little Ayesha, her father's pet and darling, had become blind.

While the Sheik's family were mourning over this terrible misfortune, it chanced that an English traveller had passed through the oasis where the village stood, and he had told them that at Cairo there was a doctor who could make little Ayesha see again. This seemed to the ignorant Arabs impossible, but