

sufficient amount of labour in the country to develop its singular and unparalleled resources.

The population is composed of Turks, Copts, Greek, Armenians, Bedouins, Nabatae, Jews, Europeans generally, and the Musulman Egyptians—the latter comprising the enormous majority, and including the mass of negro cultivators and slaves in towns. It is unnecessary to remark that Egypt is no mainly a portion of the dominions of the Sultan, nor need I enter into any consideration of the position in which the almost independent ruler of Egypt stands in regard to the Porte. But it may be well to observe that the Turks in Egypt are the superior race, and look down with much contempt upon the others. It is also, of course generally known that the government of Egypt is perfectly despotic. The present Viceroy of Egypt, Abbas Pacha, is the grandson of Mohammed Ali, and son of Tossoun Pacha. He succeeded Ibrahim Pacha in 1819. He had formerly been governor of Cairo, and had served for a short time with the Egyptian army in Syria. His age is about 33. He speaks Turkish and Arabic, but, unlike several of his courtiers, he is acquainted with no European language, and unavailingly persists the society of Turks to that of Franks. His government has not been unmarked by efforts to improve the condition of the country subject to him; and his efforts are considered, by those who have the best opportunity of judging of their effects, as dictated by an enlightened policy. He has abolished several of the monopolies of trade, so cherished by Mohammed Ali, and has opened the trade of Egypt with the interior of Africa. He has abolished the poll-tax in Cairo, and reduced it in other parts of the country. And his highness has manifested willingness to be guided by advisers who lean him towards the adoption of a Free-trade policy generally. It has not appeared to me that the Egyptian fellah is worse than any other untaught or uncared for slave is likely to be. He certainly exhibits human nature under nearly the lowest phase I have ever witnessed; but as I am here to collect facts, and not to weave theories, I will not pause to consider how far the system which has made him little more than a brute is justified, by the result of its own work, in keeping him one. Meantime, I think it will be seen that, in the gradual depopulation of the country, nature is taking the solution of the problem out of less steady hands than her own.

The food of the humbler class of Egyptians is, I imagine, precisely what it was in the days of the Israelites. I made my own catalogue of every article of nutriment which I had seen or heard of as in use among the fellahs, and on comparing it with the lists given by the most trustworthy of authorities, I do not find that I have omitted any important particular. The bread of this class is made of maize, or of millet. Salt fish, of a small kind, eggs, cheese, melons, cucumbers, gourds, leeks, and peas are among the principal items in the cookery of the Egyptian cottage. I am perhaps wrong in using the word "cookery," for many of the vegetables are, I find, eaten raw. Meat they scarcely ever obtain, and rice is stated to bear too high a price for the humbler producer. To this list I must add the pigeon, which I met with everywhere upon the Nile. It is, I am aware, cherished by the peasant for the purpose of sale; but a bird assuredly finds its way frequently into the brass dish of the breeder. I saw the cooking of this bird—miserably poor and lean I thought him—proceeding in several huts. Poultry of all kinds, indeed, I found exceedingly cheap, but neither in the country nor the city did I once see a bird fairly comparable with what is considered of ordinary fatness and weight in England. The chief luxury of the lower classes in Egypt is tobacco. They smoke incessantly. The labourer retires from his work, perhaps at sundown, comes down to the river, tucks up his blue dress so as to give himself the full benefit of the cool breeze, and, regardless of passer-by or any other created thing, smokes for hours in a state of supreme indifference, almost amounting to stupefaction. I tried the tobacco smoked by these people, and found it very poor. I rather imagine that it is very unscientifically prepared. You can obtain excellent tobacco in Egypt if you choose to pay for it.

The lower class of Egyptians also recreate themselves by an indulgence in that species of intoxication which is produced by inhaling the fumes of hashish, or hemp. Of the effects of the preparation in question the strangest stories are told, French writers more especially delighting to dwell upon the eccentricities it produces. A French gentleman, whom I met on board the packet between Constantinople and Smyrna, solemnly declared to me that he had been present at a hashish orgy, got up by some young fellow-countrymen of his, who had requested him to attend, and keep himself sober, in order to prevent mischances to them. The pipes were brought in and the hashish duly mixed by the scientific dragoman, and all the party, except himself, proceeded to inhale the fumes. He asserted that a sort of transformation of character took place. An exceedingly modest and timid young artist, usually afraid to hear his own voice in society, became a blatant boaster, declared his own superiority to the whole world, and defied the company at large to mortal battle. A large black-bearded gentleman, on the contrary, who had cut down, and, for aught I know, eaten half-a-dozen Arabs in Algeria, became, after a brief smoke, an arrant poltroon, and actually wept in terror when the artist shook his fist at him. A third man, of a calm commonplace habit of mind, sternly insisted on leaping out at the window, and shrieked so fearfully at being restrained that the Turks in the street took him for a madman, and began to feel respect for him accordingly. It needed the aid of all the servants of the hotel to reduce the party to order, but after a sleep none of them would admit any recollections of the scene. This was my French companion's story, and whether it was only an humble effort to follow the author of "Monte-Christo," (who is great upon hashish), or whether it may have been a veracious narrative, I know not—

careful lector. But it is most certain that the Egyptians are exceedingly addicted to this drug, and find a wonderful pleasure in it. The effect is not like that of opium, but usually produces wild paroxysms of mirth. There are various other preparations of a similar character known in Egypt, but their use is more general among those of whom I am now writing. I should mention also an abominable mixture which my crew had with them on the river—it was liquor called *bozzer*, and said to be intoxicating. It is in such in vogue among the humbler orders in Egypt, and I find that it is made from a fermentation of bread in water. I thought it peculiarly filthy, but it is said to have been used in ancient Egypt, and to be the liquor mentioned by Herodotus.—From Letters of Morning Chronicle's Correspondent.

Of the 80,000 inhabitants of New Zealand, 65,070 may be considered Protestants, of whom 45,000 are under the care of the Church Missionary Society. The Wesleyans have under their care about 18,000; not more than 5,000 are Romanists, and 10,000, perhaps, are still Pagans.—Wars have almost entirely ceased.

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