

start from Cairo for the trip to the first cataract and return, stopping at every point of interest on the river and furnishing ample opportunities of visiting its historic ruins. Their mail service also offers excellent opportunities, and with still less expenditure



ARAB WELL.

of money, for seeing the principal sights upon the river. The steamers tie up every night at some river landing, and the mail service stops at even more of the native villages than do the tourist steamers, thus giving one ample facilities for studying the costumes and customs of the eagerly vociferating and gesticulating crowds at the many landings on the river. It is a scene of unceasing interest to see the vendors of fruit, vegetables, and supplies of food for the deck passengers, also the sellers of variegated fans, horse-tail fly whisks, curios, trinkets, toys, crocodile-skin whips, weapons and other objects dear to the tourist

heart eagerly plying their most enthusiastic calling.

In our mail steamer we had very pleasant company: a German Geheimrath, a sort of Counsellor of State, with his bride, on their wedding trip, we judged; another German gentleman and his valet; a British colonel and his wife; an Irish major of ponderous form, who seemed always fated to get the smallest donkey on our