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THE LAND OF THE PHARAOHS.

BY THE EDITOR.

III.

THE best way to visit Upper Egypt is in one's own dahabeiah. These are large and elegant river boats, carrying immense spread of sail and fitted up with comfort and elegance. Before the steady north wind, which blows almost constantly on the Nile, these dahabeiahs are wafted up the river as far as the first cataract, and are even dragged up the rapids and on to the second cataract or further. On the return trip the sails are stowed away, rowing benches are rigged, and the sturdy Arab crew ply their oars, aided by the stream, for the down trip.

It is, however, only royal princes and wealthy persons who can indulge in this luxury. It requires, also, several months to satisfactorily make this luxurious voyage. For busy people, whose time is short and whose purse is light, the tourist firm of Thomas Cook & Son have made admirable arrangements for the Nile voyage. They almost entirely control the steam service on the Nile, having obtained important concessions from the Khedival Government in return for the valuable services rendered during the recent revolt of Arabi Bey and the Mahdists. They performed the whole of the transport work required for the British army, shipping troops, stores, arms, ammunition, and the thousand things required for a military expedition. They entered into a contract with the British Government to supply 12,000 tons of coal. They not only filled this contract but supplemented it with nearly 60,000 tons more. They had at one time between Tyne and Alexandria a steam collier fleet of fifty vessels.

Their tourist steamers are large, comfortable and admirably found. Twice or thrice a week, from November to April, they