

Then the swarming, buzzing hive of Cairo, with its thousands of minarets, drew near. Our faithful guide, Mahomet Ali, was waiting for us, and we felt again at home in this city of the Caliphs.

The few days left us were busily employed. We visited once more the wonderful museum, in which are gathered all the spoils of four thousand years, from the whole land of Egypt. With more intelligent interest we could study their history and enjoy the advantage of the skilful guidance of Dr. Demetrius Mosconas, the Greek Egyptologist, who threw a world of light upon these memorials of a banished past. We found that the commissioners of the Chicago World's Fair, with characteristic audacity, had endeavoured to create a "corner in Pharaohs," by buying up the mummies of these old sovereigns of Egypt. The idea, of course, was scouted by the Government; but permission was given to make accurate copies in wax. This was being done under the direction of Dr. Mosconas, and visitors to the World's Fair will have the privilege of seeing the exact fac-similes of Rameses the Great, his father, Seti, Rameses III., and many more of the ancient Lords of Cush.

I was introduced by the Dr. to the "sister-in-law of Solomon," the sister of that same Egyptian princess whom the wise King of Israel was foolish enough to marry—wise, except when his heart was beguiled by the multitude of his foreign wives. The most conspicuous feature about the lady was her extremely dark complexion, and her tremendous wig of false hair.

Among the most interesting finds in the tombs have been children's dolls and toys, an example of which is shown herewith, jointed figures somewhat like a jumping-jack. A sort of toy crocodile that can move its jaws has also been found, and balls in leather and porcelain, and dolls painted in brilliant colours. There are numerous pictures also of ball playing, sand-bag exercise, playing checkers and the like. Some of the statues have a strangely realistic look, from a kind of milky quartz inserted for the eye with a piece of rock crystal for the pupil, which gives a singularly sparkling appearance.

The Museum of Gizeh, says Mr. Weyman, contains an immense variety of objects of the period which closed in the eighth century before Christ. Though modern compared with the earliest relics, they are far older than any of the remains which Rome or Greece has to offer. Yet what most forcibly strikes the visitor is their modernness. There is a chair at Gizeh, of which the frame-work is made of wood, and the seat work of rushes, which so much resembles the chairs of our time, that it would attract no notice if placed in a London drawing-room. Yet it was placed in a tomb probably used when Rameses was king, or probably when the Israelites were in Goshen.