

was also Captain, first officer and all the other members of an officers' boat staff, yelled out two or three orders in Arabic and we turned and made for the bank, threw out a gang-plank and off we went ashore.

Here we were met by an advance guard of donkey owners, which we saw at once would not be sufficient for our party and which were very speedily engaged, but we had not gone far before we came across a band of about two hundred more with their boy and adult owners, better known as tail twisters. Our procession of sight-seeing then began. We followed an irrigation canal, evidently the work of the British Government, and then through an interesting old village with a population of natives living in mud huts and hovels, with the appearance of abject poverty and filth.

But what appeared to agitate our tail twisters and donkey beaters in drawing our attention to the most significant thing in the place was a brass plate at the door of the doctor of the village. Evidently, next to Mahommed, the medical practitioner must be held in some great respect. The doctor was evidently one of the Government appointees for eradicating the prevalent eye disease, which is responsible for so many blind people in Cairo and all over Egypt. It is almost impossible for any but the better class to escape at some time or other in their lives, the prevalent disease of sore eyes. In some cases the victims were sickening to behold. "Mahommed," they say, "did not tell us to wash our