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ORIENTAL BAZAARS OF CAIRO and JERUSALEM.

Manners and Customs of Eastern People.

(Letter to a Toronto friend by the late FRED V. MASSEY, Esq.)

*Nearing Gibraltar, bound for London,
May 4th, 1888.*

LIFE would be dull on the sea were it not for the occupation of some pleasant task, so I will endeavor to utilize the time by giving you a description of the bazaars of Cairo and Jerusalem which I have visited, as well as those of Suez, Alexandria, Port Said, Jaffa and Bethlehem. Cairo possesses a great

variety of bazaars which are far superior in every respect to all the others mentioned.

There is much similarity in "Oriental Bazaars," so I will confine my efforts to Cairo, where there is a more numerous and better class of workmen and salesmen; and to Jerusalem, which well represents the inferior grade of artisans' shops and wares. Several times I took my dragoman along, who acted both as interpreter and guide, elucidating the various scenes and sights *en route*, and explaining the modes and manners of the people, of whom I first must recount some facts in order to make my description the more intelligible.

Cairo is indeed a large city, containing no fewer than 375,000 inhabitants, most of whom are native Egyptians. As Cairo has representatives from all over Egypt, Syria and Europe, I can best enumerate its different people by briefly delineating the in-

habitants in general of Egypt. The various elements of the motley population of Egypt may be divided into Egyptians, who may again be subdivided into the country population—Fellaheen,—(the most numerous and important, amounting to more than three-fourths of the entire population); the inhabitants of the towns—Oolad el-Arab (these differ in many respects from the peasantry, though the distinction is not chiefly noticeable as regards the Cairenes, who consider themselves, and with some justice, the superiors, mentally and physically, of the Fellaheen—no doubt they are a mixed race, showing signs both of European and African descent, the result of the constant introduction of white and black slaves, and the wandering tribes of Bedaween or Bedouins, who are the roving Arabs living in the desert on either side or the Nile, and in the Sinaitic Peninsula); Nubians—(inhabitants of the country between the First Cataract and Khartoum; Nubia being the title under which all that district is known to us, just as the Greeks called it Ethiopia); Abyssinians and negroes—(mostly slaves); Turks—(diverse occupations); Levantines—(Arabic-speaking Christians of European and Syrian origin; many are wealthy merchants—most of the subordinate employées at the Consulates are Levantines, their linguistic acquirements rendering them peculiarly fitted for such posts); Armenians—(these form a small but important community—they are chiefly engaged in commerce and trade, especially as goldsmiths and jewellers); the everywhere-present and indispensable Jews (who make good street money-changers); and lastly Europeans, some 9,000, one-half of whom are Greeks, one-quarter Italians, the remainder being made up of French, English (including Maltese), Germans, Swiss and various nationalities in the order named.

In order to understand how the poor workmen live on such small earnings one must remember that nature does half in its mild and equable climate. Little clothing is necessary—the Fellaheen of the very poor classes, for instance, wear only a cotton shirt and a felt cap; and when at work in the fields find the cap alone sufficient.

The common people of Cairo, and such as one sees in the bazaars dress very like the Fellaheen. The dress of the fellah needs little description, consisting at the most of a pair of loose drawers, a long full skirt or gown of blue cotton—sometimes of brown woolen stuff, a white or brown cap with a tarboosh and a turban of white, red or yellow muslin or cotton; shoes when worn are pointed and of red or yellow morocco; in winter a brown and white striped cloak is worn in addition. Of course I am now speaking how the great bulk of the people dress, as there are many different kinds of apparel worn by the various Cairenes, owing to the cosmopolitan elements of the city.

In my first perambulation through the bazaars of the Turkish and goldsmiths' departments I was very much impressed with the striking appearance of the exceedingly narrow streets, or rather lanes,



TINSMITH'S BAZAAR, JERUSALEM.