

cathedral, we were met by the Patriarch of Alexandria, who welcomed us to Egypt. We then visited the Catholic institutions, which are well patronized by the native population. The Christian Brothers have a very large school containing over 1,000 scholars. The Sisters of Charity have likewise over 1,000 girls in their school. There is also a large orphan asylum here, and a college conducted by the Jesuit Fathers, who were driven from France. There are over three hundred students in this college.

After a day's stay in Alexandria we left for Cairo, which is also a large city. The Christian Brothers, the Sisters of Charity and the Jesuits do great work for the church here. The next day we walked about the city and then went to see the pyramids, one of the Wonders of the World, one of which covers twelve acres of land and is 650 feet in height. The next day there was an excursion to where once stood the great city of Heliopolis, but of which nothing more is left than a few ruins, the ground being under cultivation and bearing a crop of wheat. An old tree stands on the ruins.

The legend says that when the Holy Family arrived here from Bethlehem, the Mother of God being fatigued rested under this tree. As she did so, the idols in the city were overturned and voices heard to exclaim, "the true God has come!" This tree appears to be thousands of years old. It is propped up on all sides so that the storms cannot move it, and is richly loaded with large leaves. There were 171 priests in our party. We had nineteen portable altars, which we erected under the tree, and nearly all the priests celebrated Mass that morning, which was the Feast of the Patronage of St. Joseph, the third Sunday after Easter. The ground on which the tree stands belongs to the Khedive, who has great regard for the place, which he will not allow to be sold. Near by is a large and deep well from which Moses watered his flocks, About a hundred feet

away is a chapel belonging to the Jesuits. It has an open front, so that from the altar can be seen the well and the tree, which is called the Virgin Mary's tree.

About two o'clock we went back again to Cairo, and on the following day set out to visit *old* Cairo, which lies about eight miles up the river Nile. It was here where the Holy Family remained during their seven years' stay in Egypt. The house in which the Holy Family lived is still there. There is built over it a large church, which belongs to the non-united Greeks. The house consists of four rooms. We were first shown the room which was occupied by St. Joseph, the middle room in which the Blessed Virgin remained, and a third smaller room in which the Child Jesus slept. There is a large room at the side in which the Mother of God prepared the meals and did the washing for the Holy Family. Water was scarce in the neighborhood, but when the Blessed Virgin needed the same, a spring suddenly appeared at her side. The water reached to the mouth of the well, which was on a level with the floor of the house. It remains the same to-day. Our portable altars were brought here and we said Mass in the rooms of the holy house.

Old Cairo is about 300 miles from Bethlehem. Our stay in Egypt was soon at an end. We left for Alexandria in order to take the steamer for the Holy Land. Our landing place was not Jaffa, but Kaiffa, a city which lies at the foot of Mount Carmel, where we arrived after having been on the steamer for a day and a night. It was the last day of April when we sighted the grand and holy mountain, and all the pilgrims were filled with joy when they beheld the Holy Land.

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Devotion to the Blessed Virgin is actually necessary, because there is no better means of obtaining God's graces than through His most holy mother.—*St. Philip Neri.*