

On all sides of the Isthmus of Suez are countries and places mentioned in the Bible and in the early history of our race. On the west side is *Egypt*, where Joseph lived long ago, and a little to the north is the country where Christ was born. On all sides of the Mediterranean are countries famous in the story of the nations and full of interest to educated people. They contain many ruins and monuments that tell us much about the people who lived there thousands of years ago. In this picture



Pyramids and Sphinx, Egypt.

you see in the foreground an immense stone sphinx, represented with a human head, built in Egypt ages ago by a powerful king. There is also farther off on the plain a colossal stone pyramid still in good preservation although over 3,000 years old.

Well, here is the isthmus, and now you see that our ship can sail straight across it; for we find that men have dug out the sand and rock for nearly one hundred miles to make an immense ditch from sea to sea, and the water is deep enough to float our steamer along. A passage of this kind is called a *canal*, and we have quite a number at home in Canada. This is called the *Suez Canal*, and it partly belongs to Britain. We see that British soldiers also guard this canal under our own flag. Slowly and carefully we steam through and at the southern end we come to a narrow sea also famous in Bible history. On our right we still have Africa; but the continent of Asia is on our left, for we have left Europe far behind us. Notice the reddish tinge of the water in this shallow sea. This is the *Red Sea*, and at the southern end is the small island of Perim where another British naval station guards the strait at the south which opens into the *Indian Ocean*.

Now we leave Africa behind us and turn again eastward along the southern shores of Asia. Glance

at the map and observe our course. Notice also how the Mediterranean and the Red Sea divide Africa from the rest of the land in the Eastern Continent. The Suez Canal makes it really an island; but Europe and Asia are not thus separated. The two together form one great mass of land sometimes called *Eurasia*. Find the name on the map.

A few days' sail takes us half across the Indian Ocean, and brings us to *India*, which, like Canada, is under British rule. It contains a vast population, mostly dark skinned people, in fact, more than twice as many people as live in both the Americas. Notwithstanding their color they are considered to belong to the white race. At our port we see the British flag over hundreds of ships and notice many soldiers wearing the Queen's uniform. We also hear our own speech on all sides and see many British officers and merchants amid crowds of swarthy natives. By and by we shall return to India and visit its great cities and find out more about its vast wealth and resources. It has a long history indeed which we shall learn some day.

But now we continue our journey, and after a few days come to another strait. Look at the map and find that long finger of land that reaches to the very south of Asia. A long narrow strip of land like that stretching out into the sea is called a *Peninsula*. The name means "almost an island," and this one is the peninsula of *Malacca*. At the *Strait of Malacca* we find another island (Singapore), owned by the British, which serves to guard the passage. We have reached the end of Asia in this direction. Now we turn north and leave Australia a good way to the south, where we shall afterwards go and see the homes of many more subjects of our Queen, who, like ourselves, belong to the white race and speak the English tongue.

In a few days more we reach *Hong Kong*, another British naval station which guards these eastern seas. On the mainland close by we find many large towns and cities surrounded by rich and fertile plains and valleys. The very narrow streets are crowded with people. Their yellow skin, slanting almond-shaped eyes, queer shoes, and braided hair strike our attention at once. They are exactly like the laundrymen of our own Canadian cities. Yes, this is China, the chief home of the Mongolian race, and their level country is fairly alive with yellow people. They are busy, industrious workers, but most of them are wretchedly poor. Wages are very low indeed and men do the work performed by