

Next morning (Wednesday) very early, all was astir in Port Said and amongst the fleet. Our iron-clads being too large to enter the Canal at that time, all the officers from our fleet, who wished to witness the procession through the Canal came on board of us, our bulk-heads all being taken down to make room for them; our ward-room and Captain's cabin were thrown into one, and for a time we became a passenger ship, restricted of course to officers of the fleet. About eight o'clock the Empress in her yacht "L'Aigle," began to move slowly toward the entrance of the Canal. Each yacht and ship was allotted a *number* by which to take her place in the procession. After the French Royal Yacht, H. M. S. "Psyche," having on board the English Ambassador to Turkey who represented Great Britain, and Admiral Sir Alexander Milne, followed. The number given our ship was 21, and the "Rapid" 35, but by some mistake in the signal these figures were transposed, and we had to take the "Rapid's" place. It was nearly noon when we entered the Canal; all went well, and about nine o'clock we arrived at Ishmalia a town on the west bank of the Canal, and about forty miles from the entrance, and here all came to anchor for the night.

All the next day we lay at Ishmalia* where arrangements had been made for entertaining the visitors with camel races and Arab games, some of which were very amusing. At night the Viceroy Ishmail Pacha, the Khedive, who has a palace here, entertained all visitors as well as the officers of the fleets, and yachts, at a state ball, which as a function, owing to the picturesqueness and brilliancy of the assembly and many notables present, has rarely been equalled. Dancing commenced about ten o'clock, and the Empress Eugenie and the Emperor Francis Joseph led off in the first quadrille, and an exquisitely handsome couple they were. I may mention that during this day, thousands of visitors as well as the officers of the fleet, were entertained by the Viceroy in large, long sheds, with tables set from end to end, and covered with every delicacy that Egypt could produce—not omitting champagne and Bass' bottled beer.

The next morning the procession started in the same order as on leaving Port Said, and without special incident (except