

the stately halls where once swept the pageants and processions of white-robed 'priests, where incense burned and chant and invocation filled the air, a group of tourists from a country undiscovered over a thousand years after that old worship had passed away, mused and pondered on the evanescence of human institutions, the inevitable decay of false religions and the banishment of the worship of the false gods from the face of the earth.

Our Canadian party did not proceed further up the Nile than Philæ. I therefore abridge from Dr. Manning's admirable volume, "The Land of the Pharaohs," the following account of Nubia and Abu-Simbel:

The general aspect of Nubian scenery is similar to that of Egypt, but with some marked differences. The Nile flows on through a valley with mountain ranges on either hand. Its banks, fertilized by the river, are of a rich emerald green. Beyond this narrow strip of verdure all is bare rock and barren sand. The population is scanty. The soil indeed is wonderfully productive, but there is very little of it. The cottages are often mere walls of baked mud, covered with thatch, with only a single chamber in each. Some of the sheikhs' houses, however, are very picturesque, and are built in the curious fashion which we have seen in Upper Egypt. The upper parts are ornamented with bands of plaster cornices, and rows of earthen pots are let into the walls, to serve as pigeon-houses. (See page 322.)

The landscape has been gradually becoming more tropical in character, so that we actually enter the tropics a little way above Philæ without being conscious of any marked change. Fields of maize, millet, cotton and sugar-cane line the banks, and produce three harvests in the year. The men have either gone down into Egypt, or are working on the banks of the river, or are gossiping under the pleasant shade of the palms. The old women are at home minding the babies, or grinding corn, or baking bread. The young girls are busy in the fields picking cotton, or reaping, or sowing the seed for the next harvest. It is at the wayside well that the life of the people may be best seen.

Though Nubia did not form part of Egypt proper, yet, at the present day it more closely resembles the Egypt of the Pharaohs than does the region of the Lower Nile. Cut off from the rest of the world by the cataract on the north, and by the desert on the east and west, its manners and customs have remained almost unchanged. Faces are depicted on the monuments, which might pass for portraits of those whom we see around us. The contour of the features is precisely the same. The likeness is rendered more obvious by a similarity in the mode of dressing the hair, which is arranged in small corkscrew curls, kept close to the head by saturation with castor-oil. The necklaces, ear-rings, and bracelets are the same as those worn three or four thousand years ago. In any Nubian hut, wooden pillows or headrests may be found whose form is absolutely undistinguishable from those which may be seen in the British Museum, brought there from Theban tombs. (See page 325.)

The temples of Nubia are even more numerous than those of Egypt. But being placed there by foreign rulers as trophies of their victories, they