

HOME AND SCHOOL

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Jerusalem the Golden.

For thee, O dear, dear country,
Mine eyes their vigils keep;
For very love, beholding
Thy happy name, they weep.
The mention of thy glory
Is unction to the breast,
And medicine in sickness,
And love, and life, and rest.

O one, O only mansion,
O Paradise of joy,
Where tears are ever banished,
And smiles have no alloy;
The Lamb is all thy splendour,
The Crucified thy praise;
His laud and benediction
Thy ransomed people raise

As jasper glow thy bulwarks,
Thy streets with emerald blaze;
As sardius and the topaz
Glinte in thee their rays;
The ageless walls are bounded
With amethyst unpriced;
By saints build up its fabric,
And the corner stone is Christ.

O sweet and blessed country,
The home of God's elect!
O sweet and blessed country
That eager hearts expect
Thine, in mercy bring us
To that dear land of rest;
Thou art, with God the Father,
And Spirit, ever blest.
Bernard of Cluny. Tr. by
J. M. Neale.

A Visit to the Pyramids.

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A MEMORABLE excursion is that to the world-renowned Pyramids of Ghizeh. We cross the Nile by a magnificent bridge, and for some distance the road, shaded by acacias and tall palms, lies along the banks of that all-fertilizing river.

Along the old Nile stream we journey until we reach the mud village of Ghizeh, where the road runs straight from the river to the colossal Pyramids. There upon a rocky plateau, on the margin of the great ocean of desert land, stand these venerable monuments of antiquity. There they stand, with the solitude and silence of the desert brooding over them, their vastness and grandeur incomprehensible, their very immensity seeming to overwhelm us. And now for the ascent. I had an

idea that the Pyramids were great mountains of smooth, polished stones, and that by some artificial stairs we reached the summit. But the outer polished stones have been taken away to furnish materials for the edifices of a later epoch; and so the great corrugated sides run up for 750 feet, and up this formidable staircase of huge blocks of masonry, each block rising to your breast, you must mount.

The Sheik of the Pyramids must be paid a dollar for the privilege of ascending to the top and of entering the subterranean chambers. Then you are furnished with an Arab on each side to

assist you. "All right!" they said; and they kept their pledge. For, if there was the slightest allusion, I reminded them of the promise and of my vow. At length we reached the summit, and then how unrivalled the panorama which unrolled itself. The day was glorious, and I drank in to the full the amazing prospect. On one side was the great desert—wild, weird, solitary, a vast domain of desolation and death stretching away and away; eastward the Nile valley, green as an emerald, a rich Oriental landscape; in the distance Cairo, its minarets rising into the air like the ten thousand turrets

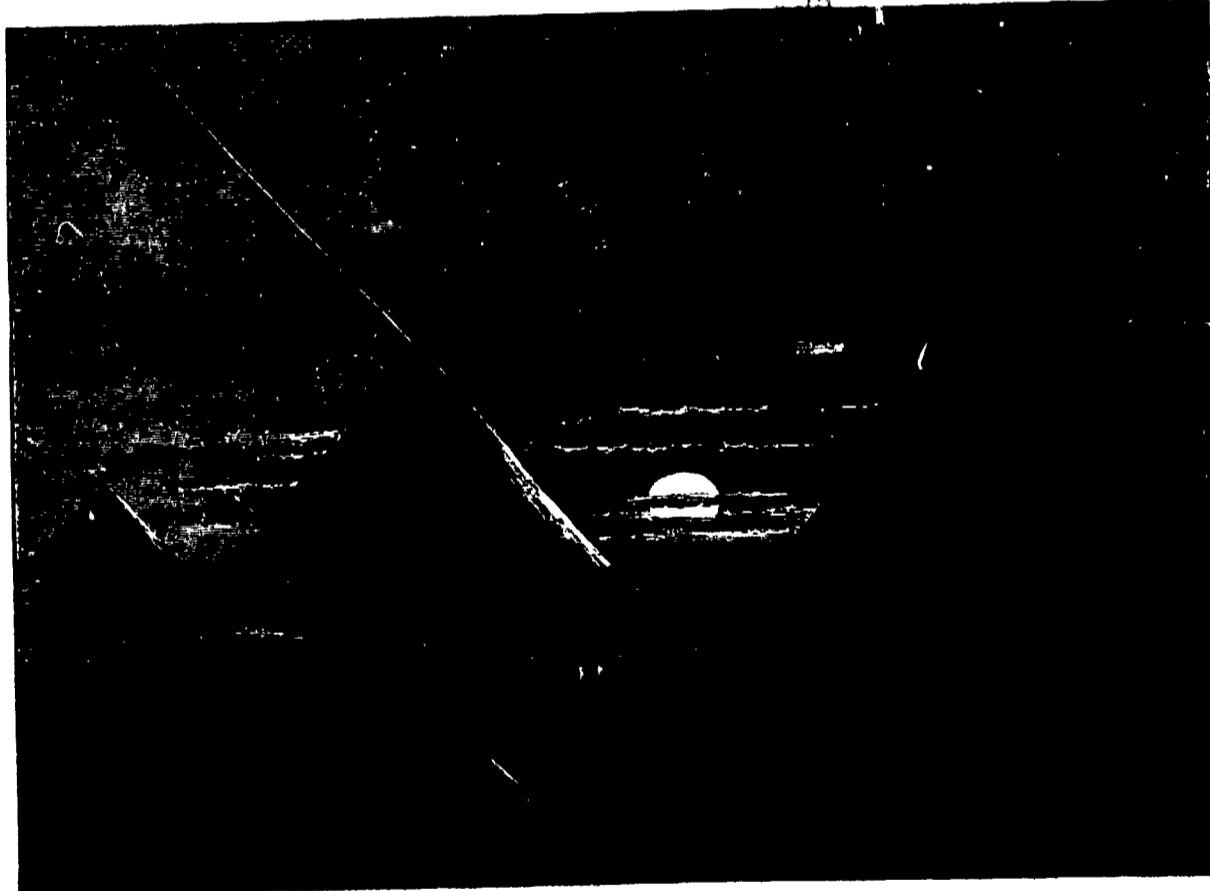
still telling its story of fifty centuries ago.

The base line of the Great Pyramid is, at present, after the waste and wear and vandalism of 4,000 years, 732 feet; the perpendicular height is about 480 feet. The gigantic structure consists of 206 layers of vast blocks of stone, rising above each other in the form of steps, and Herodotus tells us that after ten years had been spent in quarrying the stones and getting them to the place, it took 100,000 men twenty years to construct it. Its base covers over thirteen square acres, and the four sides face exactly the four cardinal points of the heavens. The cubic contents of this huge fabric are more than eighty millions of cubic feet, and the estimated weight six millions of tons.

Here it has stood in its stately grandeur while the great empires of the world have risen, and flourished, and fallen. It stood when Abram and Lot came "to sojourn in the land;" it saw the young Joseph brought a slave into Egypt. It saw the down-trodden Israelites rise up to go out of the land, and heard the rattle of the war chariots of Pharaoh in pursuit. It beheld the invading armies of Shishak and Pharaoh-Necho marching into the land of Israel. It saw the fugitives, Jeroboam and Urijah, seeking refuge in Egypt, and the infant Saviour escaping from the wrath of "Herod the King." It heard the tramp of the conquering hosts of Cambyses, Alex-

ander, Caesar, Amrou, and Omar, and the roar of the cannon of Napoleon. As long as the earth endures it will be the wonder of the world; and long generations coming after us will gaze upon it as the most marvellous work of man.

I was roused from my reverie by an old Arab proposing to descend, and climb the adjacent pyramid, which is smooth and polished to the apex, and return in ten minutes for two shillings. I said I did not want him to go. But, said he, "That is my business." I



THE PYRAMIDS.

pull, one behind to push, and a water carrier. The toilsome work begins, and the merry good-humoured scoundrels drag upward with a will. As you rise, the view becomes more and more grand. At every pause to rest, the Arabs squat at your feet, and begin their everlasting clatter for backsheesh. But I bought their silence. I said, "I don't want you to talk; I don't want to be disturbed. If you will take me up carefully, and not say 'backsheesh' to me anywhere, nor allow any others to speak to me till we get down, I will pay you well; if not, I'll not pay you

of some immense Gothic edifice, crowned with the towers and white battlements of the Citadel. Yonder sweeps the broad and glittering river. In the far distance, behind old Cairo, is the site of Heliopolis, "City of the Sun"—called *On* in Genesis, where Joseph married the beautiful Asenath, daughter of the Priest of the Temple of the Sun—its celebrated obelisk, old when Abraham came down with Sarai into Egypt—seen, no doubt, by Isaac and Joseph and the weary bondmen as they lifted their eyes from their grinding toil—the scarred veteran—