

and he having come on board, we steamed into Port Said, where they paid their respects to Her Majesty, and the port authorities. Meantime the Emperor Francis Joseph of Austria and several other notables, including Frederick William, then Crown Prince of Prussia, arrived in their yachts, and entered the port. Arrangements having been completed for landing, at three p.m. promptly, the Empress disembarked, accompanied by her suite and as brilliant an escort as probably was ever seen except at Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee. Besides the Emperor Francis Joseph, there were Crown Prince Frederick William, and nobles and representatives of all the great and small nations, as well as all the officers of the several fleets in attendance.

From the landing, a beautifully decorated avenue of perhaps one hundred yards, carpeted the whole way, led us to three canopies of costly and beautiful construction, erected for the religious ceremony arranged as a preliminary to the occasion. One of these was the Mahommedan service which consisted of the reading of some document in Arabic or Egyptian, the substance of which was quite unintelligible to me. Another canopy contained the Bishop of Paris who delivered an oration in French, and wound up with prayer for the success of the undertaking. And the third canopy was for the Empress, the Viceroy of Egypt, the Emperor Francis Joseph and the representatives of all the other nations. Amongst them I noticed Abdul Kader, the celebrated Arab Chief.

An incident occurred during the ceremony which has impressed itself upon my memory, and I may as well relate it. The Empress was sitting on the left of the Viceroy of Egypt, I stood about ten feet in front of her on the ground amongst the officers of the fleet. The weather was very hot. The Viceroy, during the oration of the Bishop of Paris fell asleep, and was nodding and snoring. Her Majesty seeing this, pressed his toe with her parasol, and immediately he started, awoke, and smilingly bowed most respectfully to the Empress. Everybody smiled. This ceremony over, under the roaring of another royal salute from the fleets, the entire party re-embarked on board their several ships and yachts, and thus ended the day's proceedings.