

eastwards into Algeria and Tunis, they branch into two ranges—the Tell Atlas bordering the Mediterranean, and the Saharan Atlas fronting the desert. These ranges divide the country into three well-marked sections. Fringing the Mediterranean is the Tell, a narrow region of undulating, cultivated ground, splendid forests, and fertile valleys. Between the two ranges are the High Plateaus, covered with alfalfa grass and sweet herbs, well suited for rearing sheep and goats. Beyond the Saharan Atlas are the Steppes of the Great Desert.

Algeria is renowned for its lovely winter climate, which attracts many European visitors. When northern days are cold and skies are dull, Algeria revels in unclouded sunshine and delicious heat. One may plan a picnic twelve months ahead in Algeria, and be certain of the weather. But though the visitor thinks the climate all that heart can desire, the farmer finds that the frost sometimes kills his tender crops in a night, or that the fiery breath of the sirocco destroys his vintage in a few hours.

The usual approach to Algiers from Europe is by steamer from Marseilles in France. In four-and-twenty hours we sight the Atlas Mountains. At length the city of Algiers comes into view, looking like a splash of whitewash on the side of a long green hill. Away to the left extend the solid dark buildings and the boulevards of the modern French town. We enter the fine harbour, and land amidst a crowd of tattered Arabs, who are barely kept in order by French *gendarmes*. In a short time we find ourselves in a broad, tree-fringed square surrounded by *cafés*. We take our seats at a little table, and watch the motley crowd passing.

Here is a swarthy "son of the desert." He stalks by, staff in hand, with a free, graceful stride, and we cannot but admire the dignity of his fine features and solemn, deep-set eyes. On his head is a white felt cap covered by a long strip of woollen cloth, which shades the eyes in front and hangs flat at the back of the head. On his body he wears a long white gown, bound at the waist with a broad silk sash, and over this a *burnouse* or cloak of fine cloth embroidered with