

these marble halls, where their chant and invocation filled the air and incense smoked before the shrine of the false gods—all now is a desolation. Not a soul lives on the island, then the home of a sacred college which dominated the whole of Upper Egypt.



MILD-FACED HATHOR.

Seventy years after the decree of the Christian Emperor Theodosius had banished the worship of the old gods elsewhere, it still lingered in this retired spot. Then the Coptic Christians took possession of the heathen temple in the name of the true God. The great court was converted into a Christian church, as an inscription attests: "By the well-beloved of God, the Abbot-Bishop Theodore." The sign of salvation was inscribed on wall and column, and as a Coptic inscription records, "the Cross conquered and will conquer forever." There we behold the sacred symbol to-day—a promise and a prophecy of the conquest of the cross over the whole world.

At length the cross, in turn, gave place, for a time, to the crescent. The blight of Islam covered the land, and a squalid Arab village defaced the island—sacred successively to Osiris and to Christ. The moral degradation of Moslemism was illustrated to us in the naked savages who swam the cataract of the Nile and then wrangled for backsheesh like dogs for a bone.

No hope is there of the regeneration of this land but through its re-conquest by Christianity. Of that re-conquest we have signs in the missions and mission-schools of the American Presbyterian Church, which are found in every considerable town from Alexandria to Assouan. Many of these we visited, and saw the result of their influence in the native Christians who are shining as lights in a dark place, and by their blameless lives are living epistles read and known of all men.

The beautiful hypæthral temple, known as Pharaoh's Bed, is a rectangular structure of late date, surrounded by an intercolumnial screen of fourteen columns—one of the most picturesque objects of the Nile.

Many of the black syenite rocks near Assouan are covered with