

fact. They were a black-haired, black-eyed, red-lipped, sweetly laughing crew; and though they were greatly excited over some matter of their own, they called me gaily to go with them to the well, where the water was cold and the grass velvet-soft to burning feet. And there I slaked my thirst and found deep shade, though no elm cast it.

"There were trees strange to me, and some bore fair fruit. I knew the oak and guessed the palm, and on our way to the well I had seen in full rosy bloom a very thicket of wild oleander.

"We had found a girl already at the well, and before she went she took from her basket a handful of loose grain, pursed up her lips, swelled out her round, brown throat, and in imitation gave the cooing of the doves, then cast the grain abroad. I had not dreamed there was a pigeon near, but instantly, through sunshine and through shade, came the down-slanting gleam of their darting, silvery wings. Yet no one noticed the pretty, greedy things, with their rosy feet, their jeweled eyes, and