

side and bearing them with erect and easy carriage on their heads; fellaheen toiling in the fields or in the endless labour of the shadoof or sakeiah; ragged beggars importuning for back-sheesh, or crooning the Koran with swaying gesture on the river banks.

At Gebel-et-Tyar the cliffs rise abruptly from the river to the height of several hundred feet. On the flat summit stands the Coptic convent of Sitteh Mariam el Adra—"Our Lady Mary the Virgin." The Coptic monks had the habit till recently of swimming off, half-naked, to the passing boat with the cry, "*Ana Christian ya hawagha*"—"I am a Christian, O traveller;" and very disreputable-looking Christians some of them were.

The cliffs in many places are honey-combed with ancient temples and grottoes, many of them elaborately frescoed, and bearing hieroglyphic Coptic, Greek or Roman inscriptions, and often containing skulls and bones, broken sarcophagi and mummy coffins, and even portions of mummied relics of humanity. In one of these grottoes is an interesting fresco of a colossus on a sledge. One hundred and seventy-two men are dragging on ropes the huge statue. It is one of the few paintings which throw any light on the methods by which these huge masses were moved. In front of the sledge are men pouring a liquid, apparently water or grease, on the pedestal of the statue to secure its easier movement on the track on which it is moved. On one end of the statue stands a man who claps his hands to the cadence of a song to mark the time, in order that the whole force may be applied at the same instant.

Manfaloot is a busy market town where formerly stood a church in which it is pretended that the holy family lived till the death of Herod. Near this is a famous mummy pit, where thousands of mummied crocodiles have been found. Immense numbers of mummied cats, hawks, ibises, wolves, apes and other animals have also been found.

Assiout is the largest town in Upper Egypt, with a population of 25,000, of whom about 1,000 are Christian. Around it are fertile fields of wheat. It has quaint and curious bazaars, baths, and some handsome mosques, an elegant governor's palace surrounded by a beautiful palm garden, and extensive American mission schools. In the Lybian range behind the town are some very ancient temples, those of the old city of Lycopolis. Many wolf mummies have been found here. The wolf being the sacred animal of the place, it gave the town its name. An occasional wolf may still be found prowling among the tombs. The view from the hills of the town, engirdling fields of vivid green, and the Nile winding for many miles, is one of the most beautiful in Egypt.