

TO ANGY LINE
I dearly love the sign of a bird
And little buzzin' B;
But dearer far than all the world
Is thy sweet voice to me.

Correspondence of the N. Y. Daily News.
NUBIA.
Wild birds are rare in Nubia. The geese and ducks, so abundant below, disappear; only a vulture or two, or a solitary heron, are to be seen south of the cataract. Gazelles are said to abound in the desert, but we did not see them. The ugly crocodiles were met with occasionally, sunning themselves on the bars in the river; they are huge, unworldly monsters, of incredible dimensions. Formerly they were much more abundant than at present. As the boat approaches they crawl slowly back into the water, or tumble in with a mighty splash when quickened by the report of a gun. They are very timid, notwithstanding their reputation for ferocity. It is difficult to get within good rifle shot of them.

I formed a favorable opinion of the inhabitants of this country from what I saw of them. They are said to be a better class of people than the negroes of the Egyptian Nile. Their houses though built of mud, show a little more attention to comfort. They are wretchedly poor, but have nevertheless a happy, contented look. I saw among them many pleasing, intelligent countenances; though very dark, their features are quite different from the negroes. The men wear simple white caps instead of turbans. There are all armed with the sharp Nubian knife, worn in a leather sheath attached to the left arm above the elbow. Some carry long spears and shields of tough hippopotamus hide. The little children run around quite free from the restraint of clothing for the first few years of their savage life.

The young girls are then provided with a leather fringe about the waist, frequently ornamented with cowrie shells. The more advanced add a rude piece of cloth, and finally the full dress; which is a loose robe of blue cotton cloth falling off from one shoulder. They are modest and diffident in their demeanor, and are to be seen industriously employed all day long in spinning cotton with the distaff, or grinding millet in the little scriptural handmills. As in some more civilized countries, the women are fond of ornaments, the plating of the hair and the putting on of trinkets. Their locks, braided in little thin strings, are well saturated with grease; heavy strings of beads round their necks; and large rings depend from the ears and nostrils. Bracelets of cow's horn, as many as they can get on, are favorite ornaments of these Ethiopian ladies. All together they have quite a dashing look, and would certainly make a sensation in any of our ball rooms.

I wish I could give you a picture of our life upon the Nile while gliding slowly along the wild scenery of this part of the noble river. I must leave it however to yourselves to imagine us sometimes taking against the swift current, sometimes dashing furiously under all canvas before a sudden gust, and sometimes drifting along with just breath sufficient to fill the sails under a glorious bright moon of a mild tropical evening. Sometimes the towers of old temples looked out at us from the bare sands of the desert, or we glided under the shadow of wild rocks, which started boldly from the water's edge, echoing majestically the heavy laugh and songs of our merry Arab crew.

I will leave it however, to give you some brief account of the remains of a former age, and a changed or vanished people, with which this whole land is filled. These are all religious edifices—temples to the glory of the gods. Some are constructed, others excavated in the living rock. Some are graceful little solitary shrines, others massive monuments encumbering vast areas with broken walls and columns. They are all stages of preservation or decay, and of ages varying from twenty to thirty-five centuries.

From the descriptions given by the writer of these remains of antiquity, we select the following relating to the excavated temples of Abo-Simbel.
They are found at a point about 180 miles above the first Cataract and 760 from Cairo. There are two temples not far asunder, excavated in the base of a cliff which dips abruptly into the waters of the Nile. Immense colossal figures remain on the face of the rock forming their facade. The front of the principal temple is partly obstructed by a drift of the desert which has poured over the top of the hill, and which until lately and Mangles retained its stood forty feet above the level of the doorway. It is now clear to about two feet below that point, leaving a narrow aperture for the visitor to dig himself through. The door is said to be twenty feet high.

The four colossal statues which guard the entrance to this singular temple are the largest undestroyed on the Nile. They, with all the ornamental parts of the temple, are carved out from the solid rock, a fine grained light yellow sandstone. One of the figures is broken by an accidental fall of a rock from above, but the other three are quite un injured. Their forms and features are perfect still, notwithstanding the long ages that they have sat here gazing calmly upon the restless waters of the river. The time has written no wrinkles upon the Eternal rock of these colossal figures. The old Egyptian certainly excelled in their representation of the human countenance. If they gave it no marked expression of passion, they had the art to impart to it a quiet serenity which better suited the eternity which was destined to endure. It is the repose of long ages that looks out from these massive features. Not thought, but rest; a rest that has outlasted countless generations; and is shared by the rising and falling of oases, while centuries revolved, and the world in whose youth they came into being, has become hoary and feeble with age. The temple of Abo-Simbel were carved in the reign of Rameses the Great. The heads that adorned, and the hands that wrought at them have ceased their labors for three thousand two hundred years.

The statues sit two on each side of the entrance doorway. The farthest to the right is buried to the top of the head in sand. That on the extreme left is almost entirely exposed. Their position is such that they are all in front of their knees. Their height, as they sit, is about sixty feet. I found the faces to measure nine feet from the chin to the top of the forehead, and seven feet across the temples. The ear is not over three feet. Smaller statues, but still colossal, stand against the pedestals and on each side of their knees. A statue of Osiris, a hawk-headed deity, carved in relief within a shallow niche, stands over the door.

We chose the hour of sunrise for our visit, for then his level rays shining through the

contracted entrance, partially illuminated the first great hall within. The general plan is similar to the temple of Gerf Hassan, but on a larger scale. Passing through a broad, open passage, we came into a noble hall forty-seven by fifty feet, whose ceiling, some thirty feet high, is supported by eight square pillars. Attached to each pier is a gigantic standing statue about twenty-five feet in height. The passage into the interior of the temple between these rocky geni is certainly very imposing. Each stands with his arms folded, holding the crook and scourge, emblems of Osiris, representing majesty and dominion.

The piers and walls of this apartment are all covered with hieroglyphic signs and sculptures, depicting the battles of Rameses. The conqueror is depicted in one place riding in his chariot discharging his arrows among the enemy, and in another attacking a fortress before which are kneeling groups begging for mercy. Again he is shown, seizing by the hair a score of his captives and raising his sword to slay them. The faces of the kneeling wretches are partly negroes and partly Assyrians, resembling those found at Nineveh. The intention is probably to show that the whole world was subdued by the sword of the conqueror.

Beyond the grand hall (from whose sides are several radiating chambers) is a second hall twenty-three by thirty-five feet, having four piers within its walls. Still further within the mountain is a transverse corridor conducting to the inner shrine, a small apartment eleven feet by twenty-one. There is an altar in the centre and four sitting statues of deities at the extreme end. The whole depth of the excavation is about one hundred and fifty feet. Hieroglyphics and carvings of gods and kings cover the whole interior. They were originally painted in bright colors.

Early on a very cold morning, a traveling party called at the house of a woman, and inquired if she wanted a profile taken. "Yes," was the reply, "I want yours taken from the door."

A generous man will place the benefits he confers beneath his feet—those he receives, nearest his heart.

Envy is an assassin, against which there is no defence.

You cannot buy reputation; you must earn it.

A virtuous man who has passed through the temptations of the world, may be compared to the fish which lives all the time in salt water, yet is still fresh.

The proprietor of the New York Ledger has commenced a suit for libel against the Chicago Tribune, on account of its severe criticism upon the Ledger.

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