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OUR FOREIGN LETTER.
 By A. M. STACK.
 No. 14.

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 The inhabitants of ancient Egypt—the ones who were so wise and skillful—have no pure-blooded descendants in the land today. Their descendants were scattered over the earth, many of whom were carried away into captivity by conquering armies. Those who remained intermingled with the Asiatic nomads, Ethiopians, Assyrians, Persians, Greeks, Romans, Arabs and Turks. Consequently, the strain of pure Egyptian blood has about run out. A little more than six per cent. of the present population are known as Copts, who proudly claim that they are true descendants of the Pharaohs. Their claim can not be wholly denied. A close observer can readily detect in their cast of features the resemblance to the pictures painted in the royal tombs and carved on the columns and pylons of ruined temples. The shape of the nose, head, and the receding forehead is strikingly similar. The Copts are Christians, Orthodox, Catholics or Protestants. I have seen numbers of them at the Sabbath services of the American Mission at Cairo, also at the Luxor Mission school. Most of them are in central and upper Egypt, and nearly all of them live in the cities and large towns. They are jewelers, watch makers, tailors, cabinet makers and very skillful in the use of their hands. Many of them are in banks, stores, offices, and in the public service. They make splendid accountants and bear the reputation of being honest. And to be honest, as things go in Egypt, is to be one man picked out of ten thousand. Very many of the Copts have been converted to Protestantism by the American missions.

Assuan said that only a few years back these people would have cut off the head of a white man and buried him in the sand if they knew he had money with him. Since the protectorate of England these savages know that they will be hanged if they kill any foreigner.

Since the Arabs conquered Egypt theirs is the language of the country, and they are by far the most numerous element of the present day population. They are all Mohammedans and will likely remain so for all time to come. Prejudice and fanaticism are a part of their very fiber. At the same time, the upper classes are much given to imitating Europeans. Here lies the main hope for breaking them away from Islamism. They now imitate Europeans in dress and in some of their social customs. They have already adopted the bad habits of the foreigners; they may yet fall in with some of their good ways. The wealthier ones have discarded the baggy pants, wear shoes, socks, collars and ties. But they stick to the red fez. They have broken away from the Koran so far as it prohibits drinking, and hundreds of them can be seen daily in front of the cafes drinking, smoking, gaming and talking. This custom they got from the Europeans. They try to keep up with the procession; carry canes, ride in carriages and have their shoes shined. A few of them imitate our people in wearing spectacles when there is nothing the matter with their eyes. None of them work if they can escape it. They lounge around the drink shops and on the streets all day and a good portion of the night. If they have families they pay but little attention to them. They seem to have money, but how do they get it—that is the question. They belong to that class seen nearly everywhere; people who have no property, work none and yet have a big time. Egypt has an enormous lot of idle people. The country is much more densely populated than Belgium or Great Britain, and for every job there are ten applicants—and ten more who want no job. These latter are the happy go-lucky gents whose means of support are past being out. And while there is a constant influx of foreigners, there is no emigration. The Arabs do not emigrate—but they certainly multiply. They have many curious and often ridiculous customs. They have really no social life. The men and women have separate apartments in the house. The woman must wear a veil and let no man except her husband see her face. She is disgraced if she permits a man to see her face, yet she will go barefooted or with slippers and no stockings. Her face must be covered even if it should be the last garment on her. A mark of respect for a man is to wear the hat or fez in the house but pull off the shoes. If a man visits a gentleman at his home, the woman and girls must get out. If a woman visits a man, the men and boys must hide out. If there be a social or wedding party, the men collect in one room to themselves and have a jolly time, while the ladies get off to themselves in another house or room and pass the evening by themselves. Young people contract marriage by proxy, and the man does not see the face of the woman he will marry until after the ceremony is performed. The dowry money which the man must pay is used in buying articles of furniture, dress, ornaments, silverware, etc., and the kind and quantity depend upon the wealth of the prospective bridegroom. These articles are sent to the house of the bridegroom, paraded through the principal streets led by a band of music to attract attention to them. Some of these parades, in the case of a wealthy man, are very striking. I witnessed one such in Cairo recently, and I have seen parades of the circus inferior to it.

see his nice things. Upon enquiry I learned that he was a hump and had practiced a fraud on me and the other spectators! He had sent around to the jewelry, furniture, dry goods and other stores and hired the articles for three or four hours and returned them after the parade.

On the next day the wife of the old fraud went to his home and she had a parade, led by a band of music. There were about a dozen camels in it, each wearing twenty bells and gaily decorated. The bride was in a carriage and could not be seen. Clowns were employed to go along and amuse the spectators in various ways. The religion of the Arabs permits a man to have four wives in this world—four at the same time—and promises him seventy-two virgins in the world to come. (Anyone can readily see why it is almost impossible to change one of them to a Christian). After an Arab sees his wife's face, if she does not come up to his expectations he may divorce her without any excuse. The only requirement is to live with her for at least one week, in order that she may not be disgraced by suspicion. But the coming of the pale face from the North, with his enlightened ways, has had its effect upon Arab life and manners. Things can not be seen now which could be seen when I was in Egypt six years ago. The snake charmer has disappeared. The "Howling Dervishes" can not be seen in the Mosque on Friday. The government has prohibited this religious service as unseemly and disgusting. However, for a little "backsheesh" you can still see it "on the sly." By quiet arrangement for the cash you can see the performance at the home of the Dervish in the night time. In other words, he will perform his religious services for you as an exhibition for money. The "dancing girl" has also been forbidden to perform on the public streets in some cities. I saw one of these street exhibitions in upper Egypt. Her indecent movements and contortions of body were vulgar in the extreme. Her occupation will soon be gone. She has long amused the Egyptians. Her pictures are in the tombs of the Pharaohs. The march of progress and civilization is working many changes. Another thing that is passing away in the cities of Egypt is the time-honored donkey. He, too, must go down before the new methods of a fast age. In Cairo, Port Said and Alexandria the tram and fine carriages have shoved Balaam aside. While the rural sections change but little, the cities are fast becoming modernized. The changes are due to a new element in the population. While the classes mentioned (Copts, Bedouins and Arabs) are by far the greater part of the present population, there are many Jews, Turks, Circassians, Berbers, Nubians, Sudanese, Syrians and Europeans. The adventurous American is also down here. But the changes and progress in Egypt are due to the immigration of the French, Germans, English and Americans. The greatest blessing that has visited the country in recent years was the coming of the English in the capacity of rulers. The most of the inhabitants are a hard lot and it will require ages to elevate them. They are just to get their eyes open. Compulsory labor has been abolished and every man is protected in his rights. England has brought law and order, and the English people are an example for the natives. The natives appreciate the beneficial changes. Other European powers may look on with jealous eyes and criticize the English policies in Egypt, but one thing is certain, so far as I could learn by observation and enquiry, and that is, the Egyptians are satisfied. The Khedive is the nominal and the legal ruler of the country, but Lord Cromer is the real ruler. He manages the Khedive all right. But he does it so cleverly that the Khedive does not know it. But just the same every important policy of the government is decided upon in London.

foreigners except one. Local prejudice cuts no figure in this court—certainly not in favor of a native. And the native Egyptians have found out that they must "toe the mark" in their conduct with foreigners. There was a hanging in lower Egypt a few months ago that has had a most wholesome effect. Some English soldiers were out hunting and shot some pigeons near a village. The villagers became enraged and a fight ensued, in which a British officer was killed. The murderers were promptly tried and as promptly convicted. Twelve were banished from Egypt and six hanged. An order was sent out for miles for the people to attend the hanging. On the day of execution the word was passed around unofficially that if a repetition of the murder ever occurred, then they would hang them whole villages at a time. Now you can't even get a native to strike another with his bare hand, much less kill with deadly weapon. But while England has accomplished a wonderful transformation in the affairs of Egypt, she is by no means entitled to all the credit. It does an American good to learn that Americans have been a great factor in the elevation of the people and the betterment of the country. Everywhere you go, in every section of the country, you not only hear of but actually see the good work of the American school teacher and preacher. At Luxor it seemed to me that more than one-half of the boys could talk English. When questioned, the answer was always that they learned it at the American Mission school. Many of the boys also said that they were Christians—Coptic Christians. They are many of these mission schools and they are doing splendid work among a people who greatly need the instruction and example of Christian people. The United Presbyterians have pretty well covered Egypt. But other denominations are doing good work especially in their schools. If the American missions can not convert the fanatical Mohammedans to the Christian religion, they can at least teach them Christian civilization. And that is a great step forward.

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DOUBLE WEDDING
 Brothers Wed Sisters.
 On last Monday evening April 1st, at 7:30 o'clock a number of friends and relatives gathered at Mr. S. S. Cox's to witness the marriage of his two daughters Misses Myrtle Artiller and Pearlie Lamb to Messrs. Stanley S. and James C. Allen. It was a most home wedding and every thing went on nicely. Rev. J. H. Stoves of Asheboro performing the ceremonies. The brides were beautifully attired in white silk and lace which was made in elegant style and gave to them a handsome appearance. The grooms were handsomely dressed in black. The parlor had been beautifully decorated for the occasion. Misses Etta Allen, Eliza Cox, Bessie Cox, Messrs. Bethel Cox, John Moffitt and Elmer Tow marched in front of the brides and grooms and served as waiters. After the ceremonies the party retired to the dining room where they found a beautiful repast spread for the occasion. The brides are the popular and accomplished daughters of Mr. and Mrs. S. S. Cox, of Brown, and will be missed in their neighborhood by their many friends. The grooms are two of Ramsey's highly esteemed young men who are engaged in the lumber business. On Tuesday a dinner was prepared for the bridal party at M. T. Allen's, the father of the grooms, which also was a very beautiful feast. We all enjoyed the occasion very much.

A FRIEND.
 (The Bulletin extends congratulations.)
 Robbins-Bros.
 The residence of Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Hill, of Gladesboro, Thursday evening, was the scene of a pretty wedding ceremony that joined Miss Carrie Bries and Martin V. Robbins in the bonds of holy wedlock. Only a few friends were in attendance. The room in which the ceremony was performed was decorated with white and red cut flowers. Mrs. Hill played the wedding music. The bride is a popular young lady, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Micajah Bries. Mr. Robbins is highly respected by all who know him. They were the recipients of a number of presents.
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