



PRINCES OF EGYPT.

BY CHARLES CHAILLÉ-LONG.

IN Rumelia, on a rock which juts into the sea of Contessa, stands the little town of Cavalla. In ancient days it bore the name of Bucephala, named because of its equine configuration by the great Macedonian in honor of his horse. In Cavalla was born in 1769—the son of Ibrahim Aga, an humble tobacco merchant—Mehemet Ali, the future Viceroy of Egypt.

A French maxim declares that "C'est le hasard qui est le Dieu des ignorants," which was most true in the case of Mehemet Ali. In an affair in his native village involving the manifestation of unusual courage, the son of the Aga attracted the attention of the governor, who appointed him a lieutenant in the military contingent which, in 1800, was about to embark for Egypt to resist the invasion of the French under Bonaparte.

The government of Egypt was at that time the military oligarchy established by the Sultan Selim after the conquest of the country in 1517. The reign of the Mamelukes had been, for a period of two hundred and sixty-seven years, a long series of internecine strifes, crimes, and revolutions of palace. Forty-seven princes had sat upon the ancient throne of the Pharaohs, and all of them had finished their careers by a violent death.

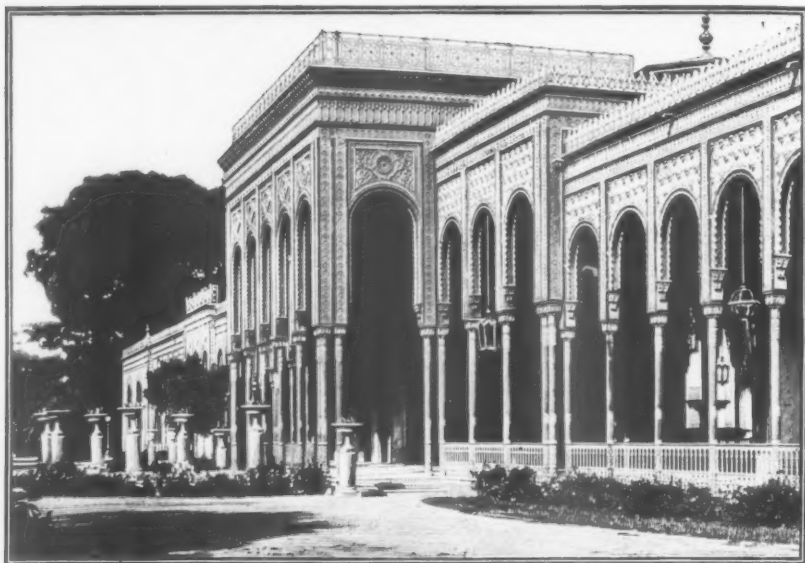
The memoir of Bonaparte concerning the Mamelukes is highly interesting: "Selim I. left forty thousand men to guard his conquest, and divided them into seven militia corps, six of which were composed of Ottomans, the seventh of Mamelukes who had survived their defeat. He confided their government to a pasha, twenty-four beys, a corps of effendis, and to two divans. Of these twenty-four beys one was a kiaya, or lieutenant of the pasha. The corps of Mamelukes, composed of the finest and bravest, became the most numerous. The first six corps weakened and died off, and in a little while did not number more than seven thousand men, while the Mamelukes numbered more than six thousand.

"In 1646, the revolution was completed. The remaining Turks were sent away, and the Mamelukes reigned supreme. Their chief took the name of Cheikh-el-Bilad (Chief of the Country). The pashalic was no longer of any consideration.

"In 1767, Ali Bey, Cheikh-el-Bilad, declared himself independent, issued coin, and took possession of Mecca. He made war against Syria, and allied himself with the Russians. At this moment all beys were Mamelukes.

"In 1798, each one of the twenty-four beys had his own home and a following more or less numerous. The least of them had two hundred Mamelukes. Mourad Bey had one thousand two hundred. These





PALACE OF GEZIREH.

twenty-four beys together formed a sort of republic which submitted to the most influential; they divided among themselves the lands and the places. . . . In 1798, the Mamelukes numbered fifty thousand men, women and children. They could mount twelve thousand men."

Ali Bey, Bonaparte and Mehemet Ali are names which in Oriental history are closely linked by the mysterious threads of destiny.

History assigns to Mehemet Ali no unimportant place among the rulers of men. Poor, obscure and illiterate, he rose from the humblest station in life through his preëminent genius alone. His opportunity came with the abandonment of Egypt by the French in 1801, which brought back the Mameluke to the scene of his former struggles.

Mehemet Ali was promoted to the pashalic in 1806, and in the same year undertook the suppression of the Wahabite insurrection in Upper Egypt.

In 1811, having sought in vain to placate the Mamelukes, he resorted to a Draconian measure, which, though casting a shadow upon the name of the great Rumeliote, has been widely condoned upon the principle that the end justified the means. A French historian in referring to the tragic incident says, "If we must attribute to Mehemet Ali the massacre of the Mamelukes, it is just to accord to him the credit for the admirable results which have come therefrom."

The incident may be briefly recited: On the 1st of March, 1811, the implacable Mamelukes, whose presence in Cairo was a perpetual menace of revolution, were in-



vited to a great banquet at the citadel. In the early dawn, after a night of feasting, they mounted their steeds to regain their homes. In the narrow defiles a terrific fire was poured down upon them, under which horses and riders fell in an entangled, struggling mass. Only one of their number escaped—not, as fiction would have it, by leaping on horseback over the rampart wall sixty feet high—but because Emin Bey had failed to respond to the invitation, and when informed of the fate of his companions escaped into Syria.

Frenchman, Colonel Sèves, better known as Soliman Pasha.

The Sultan, unable to cope successfully with his ambitious vassal, accepted the intervention of Great Britain, Russia, Austria and Prussia. France, actuated by a desire to uphold Mehemet Ali, held aloof from a combination manifestly hostile to the Moslem reformer. Yielding to the amicable but timid counsels of France, Mehemet Ali reluctantly consented to cease hostilities, and on the 14th of May, 1833, signed the convention known as "the Peace of



YOUNGER CHILDREN OF ISMAIL PASHA.

In 1820-21, Mehemet Ali sent an expedition to the upper Nile, which resulted in the conquest of the Egyptian Soudan, and the founding of Khartoum, its capital, at the junction of the Bahr-el-Azrak (Blue Nile) and the Bahr-el-Abiad (White Nile).

In 1833, he rebelled against the authority of the Porte and sent his army into Syria and Asia Minor, commanded by his son, the illustrious Ibrahim Pasha, with whom was associated a distinguished

Kutaya"; but his restless spirit was not to be repressed for long, and in 1839 the Egyptian army advanced into Anatolia, and with a victory at Nezib, Ibrahim Pasha was master of the situation. But for the selfishness of the Powers interested in the Turk, the interminable Eastern question would perhaps have been there solved in the best interests of progress and humanity. The delays imposed upon Mehemet Ali by the friendly but vacillating ministry of Louis Philippe afforded



ample opportunity to the allies to weaken Ibrahim's position. The Porte and his friends by insidious proclamations and rumors, coupled with the abundant use of gold, succeeded in sowing disaffection among the Egyptians. Finally the British fleet bombarded Beyrout, and the allied troops debarked and Ibrahim Pasha was obliged to withdraw and return to Egypt.

On the 15th of July, 1840, the Powers met in convention in London and prescribed the unconditional submission of the Pasha of Egypt. Mehemet Ali, with no other alternative, submitted, and on the 1st of June, 1841, the Sultan issued the firman which, under the provisions of the convention, invested Mehemet Ali with the hereditary viceroyalty of Egypt and its dependencies forever. To each succeeding Viceroy the Sultan of Turkey has addressed a firman of investiture—thus to Ibrahim, who succeeded his father in 1848; thus to Abbas I., to Said, to Ismail, to Tewfik, and to Abbas II., the present Khedive.

The title of khedive, a word of Persian origin, was conferred upon Ismail in 1872, by a special firman from the Sultan.

Mehemet Ali possessed in a remarkable degree the genius for government. Whilst engaged in combating enemies from within and without, he proceeded to extend the lines of an empire which included the still unknown and distant sources of the great river, to possess which had been the dream of each and every one of Egypt's conquerors.

With this purpose in view, in 1840-41 he dispatched two expeditions in quest of the Nile sources, one commanded by the eminent French engineer, M. Linant de Bellefond, the other by M. St. Arnaud. The latter succeeded in ascending the unknown river to a point beyond Gondokoro in 4° 42' north, fixing in transitu at the mouths of the Bahr-el-Ghazal and the Saubat, the limits reached by the centurions of Nero.

Mehemet Ali, following the example of Bonaparte, introduced into Egypt all the

arts and sciences of French civilization. Schools, military and civil, were formed in the cities and provinces, and professors and savants were invited from France to aid in the transformation of a people which the imperious and impatient will of the Viceroy expected to accomplish by a simple command.

The first attempt at military instruction was made in a camp formed at Assouan in 1820, command of which was confided to Colonel Sèves.

Col. Joseph Sèves, the son of Anthé-lôme Sèves, an humble laborer of the parish of St. Saturnin, near Lyons, France, was born on the 19th of May, 1788. As sublieutenant he served with marked valor under Bonaparte. When he was reported for some unusual act of courage on the

field of Wagram on the 6th of July, 1809, Bonaparte sent for him and with his own hand offered him the decoration of the Légion d'Honneur, remarking in a tone half affectionate, half reproof: "C'est toi, la tête brûlée, dont j'ai plus d'une fois entendu parler?" The young subaltern drew himself up proudly and glaring at the Emperor in anger, replied: "If this be all your Majesty has to say, it was scarcely necessary to send for me," and turning abruptly, leaped into his saddle and rode off, to the stupefaction of the staff and the astonishment of Bonaparte, who nevertheless gave him the decoration.

In 1820, Sèves was en route to Persia to enter the military service of its government, when,





MEHEMET ALI,
FIRST KHEDIVE.



IBRAHIM,
SECOND KHEDIVE.



MOHAMMED TEWFICK,
SIXTH KHEDIVE.



PRINCE HUSSEIN PASHA.

received in audience by Mehemet Ali at Alexandria, he accepted service in Egypt.

The Egyptian army at this period was a mere collection of undisciplined bashi-bazouks, composed mainly of Turks, Albanians and Mamelukes. Any attempt to subject these men to such discipline and control as are exercised in a European army,

the Pasha knew full well would be fraught with no little difficulty. Nevertheless, the arrival of Sèves determined him to make the attempt.

Sèves, on taking command at Assouan, placed himself in front of the troops and proceeded to instruct them in the manual. At the command, "Fire!" the Frenchman felt his horse tremble beneath him, while a veritable shower of bullets warned him of the attempt to kill him.



ISMAIL PASHA,
FIFTH KHEDIVE OF
EGYPT.

Furious, and standing straight in his stirrups, he dashed into the ranks, laying about him with a stout whip and crying, "Triples canailles! accursed pigs! sons of dogs!" maledictions with which they were familiar; then he added: "Is it at such a distance you miss your aim? Commence firing!" and returning to his post, he repeated again and again the order which the astonished and now cowed men understood to be an act of supreme defiance. They stood for a moment as if paralyzed with fear. A clamor arose, and throwing down their arms they rushed toward their commander in a transport of admiration, swearing eternal devotion.

Fanaticism, however, soon regained its ascendancy, and, exasperated by the insolent attitude of some of the troops in formation at Cairo, he rode to the citadel, where he offered his sword to Mehemet Ali, explaining that he would no longer submit to the gross insults to which he had been subjected.

Mehemet Ali, his eye blazing with anger, ordered out a battery of artillery. "Come with me, Sèves. We must put a stop to this." Arrived before the mutinous soldiery, the Pasha, without a word of explanation, himself gave the order to fire. The first shot killed a number of men. Another and another shot—six shots—went crashing into the torn and mutilated ranks. When he considered the lesson sufficient, he ordered the survivors to be marched to their barracks. Returning, he



PRINCE HASSAN PASHA.



said to the astonished colonel: "Now, one thing remains. You must do away with the religious pretext, and we may have an army."

The following day Colonel Sèves was announced as having become a Moslem under the name of Soliman Pasha, a name destined to become celebrated in the battles under Ibrahim, whose soldiers were proud to call themselves "Soliman's Tigers."

Other military officers and savants were sent by the French government to aid the work of transformation. M. Paulin de Tarle was made chief of a second camp of instruction. Besides this, there were estab-



lished a naval school at Alexandria, under MM. Cerize and Besson; a school of infantry, in charge of M. Bolignino, at Damietta; a polytechnic school, under Lambert Bey; an artillery school at Tourah, under Colonel Rey, who arrived from France in 1825 bringing with him various models of ordnance, presented by his Majesty Charles X. to the Pasha of Egypt. A staff school was founded by M. Planet; a school of medicine, by Clot Bey; an agricultural and veterinary school, by M. Hamont; a cavalry school, under M. Varin.

M. Gothard du Veneur devised a system of artillery applicable to the sands of Egypt. M. Mouriez, referring to M. Veneur, says: "The jealousies of his com-

patriots prevented the adoption of his invention, and he died of mortification and chagrin." Jealousy, it may be added, is a hydra-headed monster which held a large place among the Americans in Egypt as well as among the French. Colonel Beverley Kennon, an American officer in the Egyptian service in 1870, built a subterranean counterpoise battery at Alexandria, which was an entire success, but was not adopted purely because of the jealousy of some of his own compatriots.

In 1826 Mehemet Ali enlisted the services of the distinguished savant, M. Jomard, and subsequently committed to him the direction of the "Mission Egyptienne" at Paris, which still exists and which has furnished to Egypt many distinguished Egyptians.

Ibrahim Pasha in 1848 succeeded his illustrious father, who, afflicted with a mental affection, died in 1849. Ibrahim reigned but three months, when he died, and was succeeded by Abbas Pasha. On the death of Abbas Pasha in 1854, Said Pasha succeeded to the throne. The system of public instruction and enterprise looking to the relèvement of Egypt followed by Mehemet Ali lapsed under his successors—under Ibrahim because of his ill health and death, under Abbas because of his hostility to all forms of progress, and under Said because of the latter's indifference.

It is due, however, to the merit of the "Good Said" to say he accorded to the eminent French engineer, Count Ferdinand de Lesseps, the concession to construct the Suez canal—colossal enterprise, which, to the eternal honor of the French diplomatist, has realized the dream of the Pharaohs as well as of Omar Caliph. The latter, it may be recalled, desisted from the attempt because of the oracle which declared that "it should not be built because it would let into Egypt the corsairs of the Mediter-



THE KHEDIVAH,
MOTHER OF ABBAS II.

to his generous hospitality and witness the gorgeous fêtes which outrivaled the splendor and munificence of the caliphs.



PRINCESS AMINA,
SISTER OF THE
KHEDIVE.

entitled, "C'est le Viceroy qui paie." Ismail, though much amused, caused the play to be withdrawn after the first night.



PRINCESS TEWFIDA,
SISTER OF THE
KHEDIVE.

too happy to gratify the curiosity of his royal cousin, called an officer who had been attached to the suite of the Empress and bade him pre-



PRINCE MEHEMET
ALI, BROTHER OF
THE KHEDIVE.

pare to marry the next day, adding that he had already chosen his bride for him. A marriage under such conditions is generally considered a mark of special favor and secures for the elect both titles and fortune—a quick translation from comparative obscurity and poverty. The Empress attended the marriage, well pleased at the op-

ration. There are many Egyptians who hold that the warning of the oracle has been fulfilled. Ismail Pasha acceded to the throne of Egypt on the death of Said, in 1863. The year of the inauguration of the Suez canal, 1869, marked the apogee of his power. The crowned heads of Europe were convoked to do honor

The prodigality with which the Viceroy's bounty was dispensed may be illustrated by the fact that for many months after the fêtes had finished, the hotels still contained many guests whose bills were paid from the public treasury.

The director of the viceregal theaters prepared and placed on the bills an amusing farce entitled, "C'est le Viceroy qui paie." Ismail, though much amused, caused the play to be withdrawn after the first night. The Empress Eugénie, among other crowned heads, was a guest of the Viceroy. Sumptuous apartments in the palace of Ghezireh, tapestried in blue silk, had been prepared for her Majesty and suite. One day the Empress expressed to Ismail Pasha a desire to witness an Arab marriage ceremony. The Viceroy, only

too happy to gratify the curiosity of his royal cousin, called an officer who had been attached to the suite of the Empress and bade him prepare to marry the next day, adding that he had already chosen his bride for him. A marriage under such conditions is generally considered a mark of special favor and secures for the elect both titles and fortune—a quick translation from comparative obscurity and poverty. The Empress attended the marriage, well pleased at the op-



PALACE AND BARRACKS OF KASR-EL-NIL.



portunity of witnessing a wedding in Oriental high life.

The ruin of the Khedive came after several years of uninterrupted splendor. It was the result of the extravagant enterprises and usurious loans which placed him at the mercy of European bondholders. Of the scandalous fortunes thus created, General Gordon said: "Nubar has never been to Egypt more than a comparatively low-born Armenian who was clever enough to dispute with the consul-general, and who, when Minister of Foreign Affairs and in the Privy Council, was fully aware of all the loans, etc., of the Monffetich. In other countries one inquires how so-and-so becomes rich in the government service; might not the same question be asked in this case?"

For a fact, Nubar was the Mephisto who led the Khedive to his ruin, and in the light of subsequent events it appears that Ismail was more sinned against than sinning.

The limits of this paper will not permit a review, however summary, of the benefits conferred upon Egypt by the unfortunate Khedive.

It will be remembered that in 1864 France sent him at his request a number of officers for the instruction of his army.

In 1869 these officers were recalled to France by order of the French Minister of War.

In the same year, the writer, having learned of the retirement of the French, applied for service on the recommendation of the Hon. Montgomery Blair, his brother, General Blair, and General Schoepf. His application was favorably considered by the Khedive, and he was accepted, with the rank of lieutenant-colonel. General Mott, in the mean time, was appointed Chief of Staff to the Khedive, and immediately thereafter Generals Sibley and Loring and Col. Beverley Kennon.

Gen. C. P. Stone was appointed some months later, and was placed in command of the general staff of the army.

Thirty-seven additional American officers joined at various times from 1870 to 1879. They constituted what was generally known as the "American Mission," but which, in fact, was only an individual enterprise.

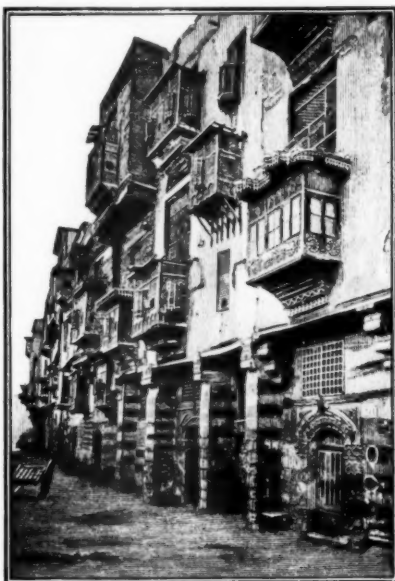
It is true. General Sherman, then Commander-in-Chief of the United States Army, granted several officers (Lieutenants Fecht, Rogers and Martin) a leave of absence, with permission to enter the Egyptian army, but with these exceptions the Mission was composed of ex-officers of the United States and Confederate armies, who entered the service on their individual responsibility.

The first Americans to



take service in Egypt were engaged by Ismail for the special and avowed purpose of striking a blow for Egyptian independence. A few months later the revolt was thwarted by the seizure of Egyptian war-vessels by Turkey, and the movement was thus strangled in its inception. Henceforth the American officers were attached in the various sections of the general staff under Gen. C. P. Stone, or were engaged in expeditions—the exploration of the country with the view of extending the frontiers of Egypt south to the Nile sources, east to the Indian ocean, west to Darfour and the Niam-Niam countries, and from points on the Nile to the ancient mines of gold and precious stones on the Red sea.

On the 19th of February, 1879, occurred the revolt of the three colonels. The army had been unpaid for thirty months, and officers and men were reduced to starvation. Nubar, the Armenian, and Rivers-Wilson, an Englishman, were the chiefs of the Egyptian ministry. Nubar proposed that the army of eighteen thousand men should be disbanded and sent to their homes unpaid—a proposal all the



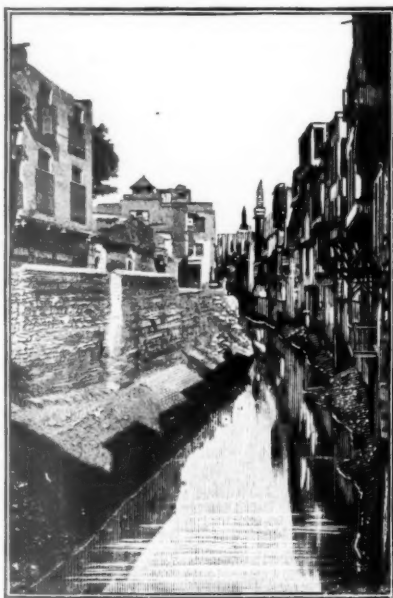
STREET IN THE TOULOUN QUARTER OF CAIRO.

more provoking when it was discovered that Englishmen were being imported to replace Arab officers in all the civil branches of the administration, and at such excessive salaries that the old residents among the English colony expressed their indignation.

Nubar and Rivers-Wilson were passing in a carriage through the streets of Cairo when they were met by the three colonels—a mob collected, Nubar and Rivers-Wilson were taken from their carriage, and the mob pulled their beards, kicked them roundly and spat in their faces, much to the satisfaction of the bystanding Europeans, who applauded the act.

It was nominally in the interest of the European bondholder that England, Germany and France submitted their demand for deposition of the Khedive, and on the 26th of June, 1879, the guns of the citadel proclaimed the accession to the throne of Ismail's eldest son—Mohammed Tewfik Pasha.

Tewfik Pasha was now Khedive, but Arabi in fact was dictator. The act of flagrant injustice to the army had created, at least in name, a national party. The kick which Arabi had given Nubar in the



THE CANAL EL MERAKAN.

streets of Cairo had designated him as the chief.

The doctors of Gama-el-Azhar with zealous interest seized the occasion to convert Arabi into a prophet. To this end, the proper precautions having been taken, Arabi, with his followers, was making the rounds of the city one day in 1882, when, suddenly halting, he exclaimed, while stamping upon the ground, "Here is the gun sent me from heaven!" The attendants quickly turned up the earth, and there they found a gun.

The promoters of this enterprise, however, were either short-sighted or indifferent, for they had neglected to erase from the lock-plate the name of the American inventor—Remington.

The massacre of Christians at Alexandria on the 11th of June, 1882, marked the acute phase of the insurrection of Arabi.

The European press aiding, Arabi became the accepted chief of a national party. In France, as well as in England, this idea had been widely circulated and accepted, and yet, as Mr. Gladstone truly said, no such party ever existed in Egypt.

The French Minister, M. Freycinet, and the Chamber of Deputies, to the surprise of all France, held differently. The declaration was made by the Minister that under no circumstances would that country intervene in Egypt with a military force. Thus were France's hands tied in an important political game.

On the 11th of July, Alexandria was bombarded and burnt, and the dynasty of Mehemet Ali narrowly escaped being replaced by a provisional government under Arabi with some such Anglo-Indian title as sirdar or rajah.

The battle of Tel-el-Kebir, however, terminated the inglorious insurrection of Arabi Pasha. Mohammed Tewfik kept his throne, with England as protector.

Tewfik died suddenly at his palace at Helouan on the 7th of January, 1892, and was succeeded by his eldest son Abbas, the present Khedive, then but eighteen years of age.

Abbas II. was born July 14, 1874. He received a liberal education, both from European tutors in Egypt and subsequently at the military Theresianum School at Vienna. Despite his youth, the Khedive has borne himself with marked dignity, and shown both honesty and patriotism in the difficult offices which he has inherited. His advent to the throne strengthened Great Britain's position in Egypt, nor has she since relaxed one particle. To-day her voice is supreme in the following Egyptian territory: Massowah (given to the Italians), Zeileh, Berbereh, Uganda, Wadlai, Lado, Suakim, Kassala and Khartoum.

Will she ever give this up? One has but to watch the steadily advancing picket lines from the north and from the south of Africa to understand what England's latest dream of imperialism is. But it may yet cost a bitter struggle. The other great powers are quite as ready to believe that the neutralization and autonomy of Egypt, under the control and protection of Europe, is the only satisfactory solution to the ever-recurring Egyptian question. Even Sir Charles Dilke in England has said that "Egypt is a country of transit. She is to a certain point the common property of the world. She can be defined as an international passage, indispensable to the commerce of all nations."

