

CHAPTER VI.

SUBURBS OF CAIRO—HELOUAN-LES-BAINS—
PYRAMIDS—MATARIYEH.

HELOUAN is an artificial oasis in the desert, three miles from the right bank of the Nile, and fifteen miles south of Cairo. The railway connecting it with the capital has in 1889 been brought into the centre of the town, and various other improvements have been made by the company to whom the railway now belongs. The trains run to and fro in forty minutes, and six times a day. The village consists of a palace built by the present Khedive, two hotels, about a hundred and fifty detached private houses, and two engines for pumping up Nile water. It is about 112 feet above the Nile level, on a firm plateau of sand, and is famous for a remarkably pure, dry, and dustless atmosphere. It is surrounded on all sides by the desert, and on the east by the continuation of the Mokattam range of hills. But the property which makes the