

## CHAPTER II.

## SUEZ CANAL.

## PORT SAID.

THE visitor is not recommended to stay in any of the three towns on the Suez Canal, but he must pass through one of them unless he arrives from Europe by way of Alexandria. Port Said, with a population of about 10,500 natives and 6000 Europeans, is an impromptu insanitary town which originated in 1859 with the huts of the Canal workmen. It stands on a narrow strip of sand two hundred to three hundred yards wide, between Lake Meuzaleh and the sea, its site having been formed by dredgings from the harbour thrown into the shallow lake. The surface of the town is perfectly flat, and only about four feet above the sea-level, and the sandy soil is permeated by uncemented cesspools and underground reservoirs used by some of the inhabitants. It is dependent on Cairo for a water-supply *viâ* Ismailia.