

and Suez, on the east of the Nile valley, and again on its west beyond the Pyramids; (2) a little calcareous sandstone (Miocene) containing trunks of petrified trees; (3) raised beaches of a more recent time, [made of gravel, sand, and seashells, near Cairo and Suez; (4) alluvial deposits forming the Nile valley and Delta; and (5) recent sandhills marking the old centre of the bay of Lower Egypt, in the days when the Mediterranean washed the Mokattam heights and the terrace on which the Pyramids now stand.

Near Cairo there are in the desert numerous dry river-beds, telling of the time when there was an abundant rainfall, and the wild elephant, which has now retreated south of the Soudan, could take his fill of water and green food. The existence of ravines and rounded pebbles must not be taken as evidence of a great rainfall in prehistoric times, for even to-day, although there is so little rain in Cairo, there are sometimes in the hills above Cairo very heavy torrential storms, which, although the quantity of rain is not great, sweep down the valleys and actually cover the neighbouring fields with a yellow mud and with small pebbles.

Enough has been written to show that the alluvial soil deposited by the Nile is an entirely foreign element in the geological formation of Egypt, and it may be easily studied in the per-