

shine. The sun is never too hot till the end of February for ladies, and men seldom require helmets till May. Indeed, some English officers have so little fear of the sun, that they wear all the year round no protection for their heads but the small red "fez." The maximum temperature in the sun at Cairo varies from 156° to 161° Fahr. in the summer. Twilight is, of course, almost absent from Cairo; but, on the other hand, in December, when the first chilly and cloudy days appear, the daylight is of three hours' longer duration than in England. The longest days are only fourteen hours with us, while the shortest are ten hours.

In nearly every village in Egypt there is a dance to the moon every month, dating from the days of Arab pagan moon-worship, but now incorporated into a dervish rite of the Mohammedan religion.

The moonlit nights at Cairo are very beautiful, and drives, rides, and dinner-parties at the Pyramids and elsewhere are very popular among the Europeans. The stillness and beauty of the desert at full moon are not easily forgotten. Owing to the clearness of the atmosphere, the moon has the appearance of being distinctly larger and nearer than in Europe; and the Gas Company of Cairo avails itself of a special clause in its contract, to the effect that at the time of full