

tufts on the banks, and we find *sycophyllum*, belladonna, and heather growing, while, if it chances to be February or May, we are in luck, and see many desert flowers. We can trace the former ravages of the Mediterranean Sea ; we find stray pieces of petrified wood, coprolites, and fossilized oyster-beds. The only live things we see are vultures, rabbits, martens, chameleons, lizards, locusts, and innumerable snails, till we come upon a gipsy Bedouin, with one cotton rag tied over his head and crossed round his neck, and a second tied round his waist. He has a lean donkey or two feeding on the stray tufts, a long pipe, a powder-horn, some shot, and a drink of water, which he willingly gives us. In the mountains, we stumble on a dry waterfall with a sheer precipice of several hundred feet, and boulders rounded by torrential waters ; and though we walk and explore nearly the whole day, we suffer very little fatigue, because the cool breeze of the desert is as invigorating as a sparkling wine.

#### THE PYRAMIDS.

Twenty-two years ago, visitors to the Pyramids at Ghizeh were obliged to rise very early in the morning, mount donkeys to the river's edge, whence they were ferried across, and had to be