

CHAPTER III.

CAIRO.

THE capital of Egypt and seat of government is six days by post from London, $2^{\text{h}} \cdot 5^{\text{m}} \cdot 9^{\text{s}}$ east of Greenwich, and in north latitude $30^{\circ} 4' 40''$.

Geology.—Every one knows that the Delta is an alluvial plain, literally the gift of the Nile, and that Cairo, succeeding to old Memphis, is at the apex of the Delta. The Mokattam hill of limestone rises about six hundred feet (above sea-level) behind the present town, and, as its fossils and nummulites show (*Echinolampas Crameri*, etc.), its age is that of the Eocene Tertiary, and its sides were washed by the Mediterranean waters in the days before the Delta was formed into a shallow bay with a sandy bottom. Near Mokattam is the Red Hill, 320 feet above the sea, of Miocene or Oligocene period, with sinter conglomerate containing silicified trees, probably deposited within the area of an inland lake. At Mokattam, towards the Red Hill, are purple and yellow sand and fine gravel, with a