



Sketches of a missionary's travels in Egypt, Syria, Western Africa, &c., &c

R. Maxwell Macbrair

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CHAPTER VI. Second Voyage to Upper Egypt--Mahometan Crew--Effects of a Storm--The Copts of Manfalout--Unhappy Travelling--Inhabitants of Luxor--Personal Sufferings--Savage Conduct of the Crew--Assouan--Elephantina--Syene--PhitoH--Cataracts of the Nile--Turkish Justice--Edfou--Esne--The Plague--Mutinous Conduct of the Crew--State of Cairo--The Plague in Alexandria--Personal Difficulties connected with it. Upon my return to Grand Cairo, about the middle of December, I learned that the plague was prevailing in Alexandria; that all the Pranks were performing quarantine; and that my poor Greek school was scattered. I therefore resolved immediately to return to Upper Egypt, that I might see the towns above Thebes, and revisit those places where I had formerly been received with any marks of friendship. I therefore furnished myself with a new stock of books and tracts, and took with me a lad from the missionaries' school at Cairo; in order that he might read to the people, and interpret my bad Arabic to those with whom I conversed. For I have ever" found, that a few words spoken in a barely intelligible manner, are more to be depended upon than the honesty of an Arab interpreter, especially such as Ali, whom I therefore left behind. Multitudes of pilgrims were now ascending the Nile to Kene on their way to Mecca, as the month of Ehamadan was at hand. I therefore found some SKETCHES OF A MISSIONARY TRAVELS. 151 difficulty in procuring a cangier; but that which I eventually hired was larger and more commodious than my former boat. Yet it thus also required a larger crew, the inconvenience of which I soon experienced. Our company consisted of the rats and eight common men, chiefly natives of the Said, who are usually more wild and intractable than the inhabitants o...

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