

the great Aqueduct, built upon massive arches and reaching from our observatory to the Nile, a distance of about two miles. Here, as before, heaps of gray sand, Mosques and Minarets weary the eye with strange sameness of expression. A redeeming element in the picture, however, is the grand old Nile itself.

The ruins of Old Cairo, the Island of Rhonda and the beautiful groves thereon, present an agreeable contrast to the otherwise sterile appearance of the country. On the other side of the river, the little town of *Djiza* is seen nestling among smiling groves of sycamore, fig and palm trees; a little beyond still, loom up in the blue air the Pyramids of *Djiza* and *Saccara*. Fi-

panorama of the city and its environs. Cairo comprises, essentially, a net-work of narrow, dusty and crowded streets, running in every direction through a waste of gloomy walls and ill-appointed buildings. A respectable volume would not suffice to contain what might be said concerning the interesting details of this truly city.

To speak of the inhabitants of Cairo and their social condition, would only be to repeat what may be found in scores of volumes in every considerable library in our land. Many of the more intelligent people in the higher walks of society are wisely abandoning the ruts of ancient usage and adopting the American and European ways of conducting social amenities. One great

of *Almehs* would be sure to go to the full extent of their art. Scantly dressed, they disport themselves in a way that strongly brings to mind those practices among the Greeks and the Romans that prompted Cicero to exclaim: "Nemo sattut sobrius, nisi forte insanit!"

The *Almehs* wear upon their fingers little bells and carry in their hands tambours of various forms. With the bells and tambours, together with their voices, they rudely contrive to accompany their still more ungainly dancing. The most extreme abandonment of ballet dancers in our theatres would be adjudged the quintessence of female propriety and decorum when compared with the motions and attitudes affected



CAIRO, EGYPT, FROM THE CITADEL.

nally, and beyond all, the famous Libyan Desert is projected until it clearly cuts the azure of heaven. Looking towards the northwest and north, one sees the renowned and wide spreading Delta occupying a vast area, dotted with groves, gardens and white gleaming cottages. Romantic *djerms*, *cangas* and other forms of little craft are seen scudding along the dark surface of the river.

Lastly, and to complete our picture, we look towards the northeast and take in a view of the entire city of grand Cairo. Almost beneath our feet stands the grim old Mosque of *Sultan Hassan*.

Thus have we completed a living

stumbling block difficult of removal, sadly obstructs the march of improvement in this direction. We allude to the *Almehs*, or dancing women of Egypt; jealous of their profession and tenacious of its ancient celebrity, these women obtrude themselves into the best Turkish society to be found in the city of Cairo. Why they should be tolerated at all is the strangest part of the whole matter. Ladies of distinction invite these dancers to their houses on all occasions of festivity, and seem to look upon their grotesque and lascivious attitudes and motions as not in the least unseemly, or that may not be witnessed by all the members of their households. Should a foreigner be present, the bevy

by these women. We will close these strictures by quoting what a late traveler justly says concerning these dancing women of Cairo: "Egypt preserves its pristine attachment to a lascivious dance; and presents that dance as it was beheld above three thousand years ago, in the annual procession to *Bubastres*, when the female votaries distinguished themselves in the cities through which they passed by indecency and dancing." While we write, fruit harvest is going on; in fields and gardens of this locality, the inhabitants are beginning to gather the dates that grow almost spontaneously wherever young trees have been planted along the Nile. The canal and railroad