

been winding through the streets and avenues of dead cities, once renowned for their schools of philosophy and belles-lettres; beautiful paintings and mosaics which challenge the approach of modern skill, and elegant forms of architecture whose fragments alone constitute the finest models of the world to-day. Yea, like curious visitors from a new-created realm, we have been invading the solemn stillness of dead cities once resonant with thousands of happy voices now hushed forever, and radiant with flashing eyes long since closed in the dreamless sleep that knows no waking.

It has been ingeniously and conclusively shown by geologists that the accretions of soil left by the waters of the Nile, in lower Egypt, during the annual inundations, amount to a little more than a foot in a hundred years. Hence, assuming that the final subjugation of Egypt and the overthrow of the Pharaonic dynasty took place twelve hundred years before the Christian era, it would seem that an accumulation of at least thirty feet of deposited soil now covers the ancient valley of the Nile. Consequently, many archaeologists and learned travelers have concluded that by far the greater, and perhaps richer portion of Egyptian ruins proper, still lie buried under this soil-growth of ages. This stratum of precipitated sediment rapidly decreases in depth, of course, as we ascend the river, and at a moderate distance up the valley, it would probably not exceed a foot in thickness. Much light might doubtless be thrown upon early Jewish history by an organized effort towards discovering and exhuming the remains of ancient handiwork in this, the richest field for archaeological research in the whole of the Nile country. The majority of modern travelers agree that the most fruitful results of a systematic excavation would be had at or near the little village of *Maturca*, now generally considered to be the true site of the magnificent Temple of the Sun, so glowingly described by early writers. This village, which consists only of a few miserable Arab huts, is situated immediately upon the bank of the Nile, a mile or so above the sculptured pillar already described. The material to be removed would be nothing more than the accumulated accretions brought down by the river from the hillside

washings of its head-waters during the lapse of many centuries. But we are exceeding our limits; a few reflections on the changes now going on in this land of the world's childhood, and we must close. The Suez canal is working wonders in the political and social condition of Egypt. The rude sons of the



SUSANNAH—FROM A STATUE BY LOMBARDI.

desert are daily brought in contact with the representatives of civilization and refinement, and, as a natural consequence, they are slowly but surely undergoing a transition state which must sooner or later result in much good to the whole world. It is not without the pale of science to do much towards restoring this land to its former fertility and fruitfulness. Artesian wells have already been sunk and groves of fruit-

bearing trees planted where once dread desolation reigned supreme, and water, the Bedouin's "gift of God," was known only as it existed in the water skins transported by the hardy camel. We believe it is yet in the power of the religion and science of the enlightened world to redeem this stricken land from the curse of Mohammedan superstition, and bring it back a long way towards its former paradisiacal loveliness.

Once the acknowledged granary of the world, its annually inundated bottom lands are yet capable of being reclaimed and made subservient to the comfort and luxury of a dense population of intelligent people. The artificial planting of fruit and forest trees throughout the whole extent of the valley of the Nile is clearly a possibility, and, we believe, the sequel would show it to be a glorious success. God grant that the present century may see this grand and noble enterprise hopefully inaugurated. ORIENT.

A TABLE

Showing the amount of rainfall at Walla Walla, Washington Territory, situated in Lat. 46 deg 3 min. 55 sec., Long. 41 deg. 17 min. 25 sec. west of Washington, for six years, ending Feb. 25, 1879.

MONTH	73-4	74-5	75-6	76-7	77-8	78-9	Mean.
	In.	In.	In.	In.	In.	In.	
March	1.47	.50	1.11	.73	4.45	1.53	1.65
April	1.75	1.80	.98	2.10	.50	.36	1.26
May	2.92	1.10	1.36	1.78	4.97	2.17	2.38
June	1.29	1.12	3.37	.63	.98	.59	1.25
July	.81			.27	1.19	.61	.49
August	.12	.54	1.10	.47	.18	.98	.40
Sept		.05	.19	.51	1.40	1.29	.67
Oct		.41	2.05	4.37	1.30	2.08	1.70
Nov	.56	2.09	1.80	4.12	2.72	.79	2.02
Dec	.65	.55	1.15	1.16	.73	1.31	.93
Jan'y	1.52	1.96	.35	.08	1.23	2.45	1.36
Feb'y	1.98	.78	.77	1.45	2.02	1.92	1.49

Compiled by I. STRAMONT, Walla Walla, for THE WEST SHORE.

SOMETHING ABOUT HEADS.

From Mr. Meussdorffer, the latter, who has, perhaps, measured more heads than any other man in Oregon, we learn that the largest head that has ever come under his observation is that of Capt. Marshall Bliin, of Olympia. It takes a  $7\frac{3}{4}$  hat to fit his head. There are three gentlemen in Portland who wear  $7\frac{3}{4}$  hats, three  $7\frac{1}{2}$ , whilst  $7\frac{3}{4}$  are more common. The latter is the largest size that can be bought ready made; the other sizes named have to be made to order. Mr. M. also informed us that the heads of men are continually undergoing changes, in size and shape, but so gradual as to be almost imperceptible. This has been ascertained since the "Hat Conformator" has come into general use, showing the exact shape to a hair line.