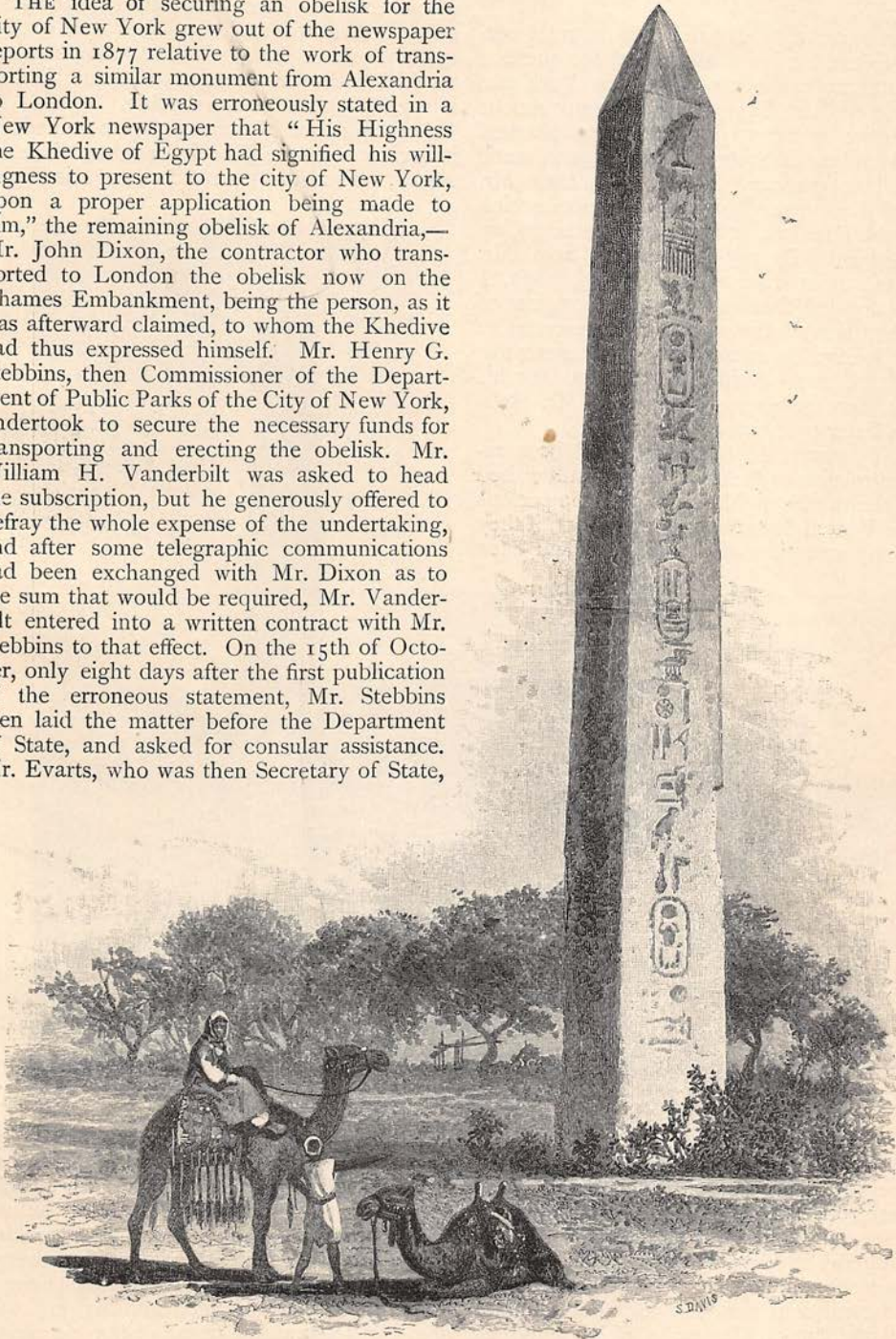


THE NEGOTIATIONS FOR THE OBELISK.

THE idea of securing an obelisk for the city of New York grew out of the newspaper reports in 1877 relative to the work of transporting a similar monument from Alexandria to London. It was erroneously stated in a New York newspaper that "His Highness the Khedive of Egypt had signified his willingness to present to the city of New York, upon a proper application being made to him," the remaining obelisk of Alexandria,—Mr. John Dixon, the contractor who transported to London the obelisk now on the Thames Embankment, being the person, as it was afterward claimed, to whom the Khedive had thus expressed himself. Mr. Henry G. Stebbins, then Commissioner of the Department of Public Parks of the City of New York, undertook to secure the necessary funds for transporting and erecting the obelisk. Mr. William H. Vanderbilt was asked to head the subscription, but he generously offered to defray the whole expense of the undertaking, and after some telegraphic communications had been exchanged with Mr. Dixon as to the sum that would be required, Mr. Vanderbilt entered into a written contract with Mr. Stebbins to that effect. On the 15th of October, only eight days after the first publication of the erroneous statement, Mr. Stebbins then laid the matter before the Department of State, and asked for consular assistance. Mr. Evarts, who was then Secretary of State,



THE OBELISK OF HELIOPOLIS.

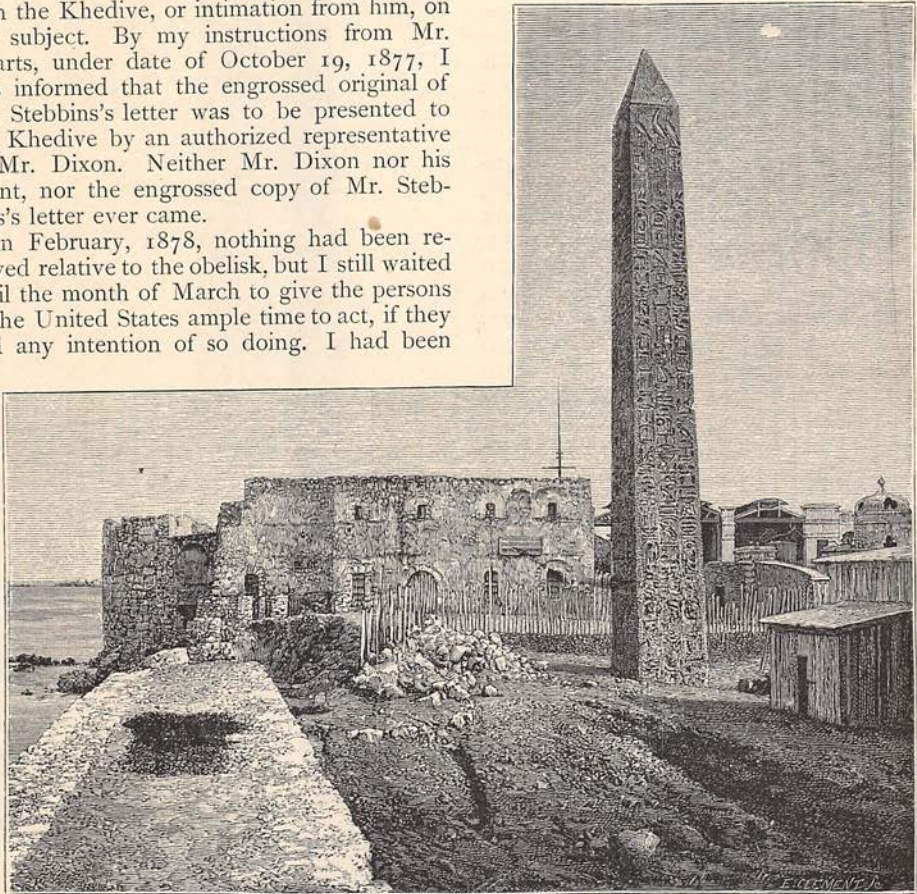
thereupon requested me, who, in virtue of my position as agent and consul-general at Cairo, was the diplomatic representative of the United States at the court of the Khedive, to "use all proper means of furthering the object."

The secretary's dispatch was a great surprise to me, for I was aware that the question of obtaining an obelisk for New York was entirely new in Egypt. I saw many serious difficulties in the way, and at once informed the Secretary of State of my fears, and made several suggestions. In the meantime Mr. Dixon had denied having any conversation with the Khedive, or intimation from him, on the subject. By my instructions from Mr. Evarts, under date of October 19, 1877, I was informed that the engrossed original of Mr. Stebbins's letter was to be presented to the Khedive by an authorized representative of Mr. Dixon. Neither Mr. Dixon nor his agent, nor the engrossed copy of Mr. Stebbins's letter ever came.

In February, 1878, nothing had been received relative to the obelisk, but I still waited until the month of March to give the persons in the United States ample time to act, if they had any intention of so doing. I had been

larger of the two at Karnak, the largest obelisk now known, still stands where it was placed 3400 years ago, and Egypt, I knew, would never consent to part with it. The smaller one standing near it—that of Thothmes I., whose mummy has lately been deposited in the Museum at Cairo—has one corner broken, and is cracked in a manner that would render its removal, without further injury, difficult, if not impossible.

On the 4th of March, 1878, I obtained an interview with the Khedive at the Palace of Abdin, the usual winter residence of His High-



CLEOPATRA'S NEEDLE AS IT STOOD IN ALEXANDRIA.

for some time thinking of making an effort to secure an obelisk, if they should abandon the enterprise. During the Nile journey made by General Grant, I had concluded that the only obelisk in Egypt that we should be at all likely to obtain, and that would be desirable, was the one at Luxor. No one would think of removing that of Heliopolis, which antedates Cleopatra's needle a thousand years. The

ness, for the purpose of laying the matter before him. I informed him that the people of the United States desired one of the ancient obelisks of Egypt, and that a wealthy gentleman of New York had offered to defray all the expenses of its transportation. I mentioned the obelisk of Paris and that of London, and the natural desire of our people to have one in their metropolis, and suggested

that the obelisk at Alexandria was most accessible for shipment. I found the subject entirely new to the Khedive. He seemed at first to be surprised at the proposal. However, after various questions and observations, he said that, while it would be a great pleasure for him to be able to accede to my wishes, or to do anything in his power to gratify the people of the United States, the matter would have to be seriously considered; and as to the obelisk at Alexandria, he did not think it best even to mention it, since the people of that city would make too much opposition to its removal.

Not long after the first interview, the subject was again a topic of conversation between the Khedive and myself, and on this occasion I stated some of the reasons that occurred to me in favor of the removal of an obelisk to New York. I said that New York and the cities immediately adjoining already numbered two millions, and that their population was increasing rapidly; that the population of the United States was approaching fifty millions, and the time was not distant when it would be double that number; that a large portion of all these millions would at some time during their lives visit the city of New York; that, should an ancient Egyptian obelisk be erected there, it would be the one object, above all others, that every visitor would desire to see, and so, as the years and centuries passed, many millions who could never cross the Atlantic would see this monument, and, as they would be for the most part intelligent people, they would learn something of its ancient history, and that it was a gift of His Highness to the people of the United States; while, if the obelisk remained in Egypt, it would be seen by only a few hundred visitors annually, who would lose nothing by the removal of a single one of the remaining obelisks.

Soon after this conversation I was present at a dinner-party given by His Highness at the Palace of Abdin, and it was on this occasion that the first favorable intimation was given in regard to the obelisk. There were from thirty to forty persons present, and among the number M. Ferdinand de Lesseps. After dinner the company was standing in groups in the large parlors. The Khedive, who was constantly shifting his place, seemed in better spirits than was usual for him in those sad days of financial depression and embarrassment. We happened to meet near a settee, and he invited me to be seated. His first words were:

"Well, Mr. Farman, you would like an obelisk?"

I replied that we would like one very

much. Some one came to join us, and we separated. A few minutes later I was in conversation with M. de Lesseps. This was at the time the Khedive was about to establish a commission of inquiry to ascertain the amount of the net revenues of the country with reference to determining what rate of interest could be paid on the public debt. The Nile had not risen to its customary height the year before, and a considerable portion of the valley of Upper Egypt, instead of being green with its accustomed winter crops, was only a parched and dusty desert, and it seemed impossible to continue the payment of interest at the rate of seven per cent. on the nearly one hundred millions of pounds of Egypt's indebtedness. The Khedive had named, or was about to name, M. de Lesseps president of the commission. During our conversation the Khedive joined us. M. de Lesseps, turning toward him, repeated something I had just said about the best manner of ascertaining the revenues. Either His Highness did not hear, or, what is more likely, he did not wish to enter upon the discussion of that subject. Interrupting the conversation, he said:

"Mr. Farman wishes an obelisk."

M. de Lesseps, who is a fine conversationalist and always polite, agreeable and quick in his replies, immediately said:

"That would be an excellent thing for the people of the United States;" and after a moment's hesitation, during which time the Khedive seemed to await his further reply, he added: "and I do not see why we could not give them one. It would not injure us much, and would be a very valuable acquisition for them."

M. de Lesseps had been so long in Egypt that, in speaking of Egyptian matters, he was accustomed to say "we," "us," and "ours."

The Khedive simply said: "I am considering the matter," and turned to speak with another person who was approaching.

When I made my dinner call two or three days afterward, the obelisk was again mentioned, and the Khedive told me he had concluded to give us one, but not that at Alexandria. He at once called his private secretary and directed him to write a note to Brugsch Bey (now Brugsch Pasha) requesting a list and description of all the obelisks remaining in Egypt, and an opinion as to which could best be spared. I thanked His Highness warmly, and, as I was leaving, he said that within a short time his secretary would inform me which obelisk we could have.

It was not many days after this interview that a reception and ball occurred at the palace. Brugsch Bey and myself hap-

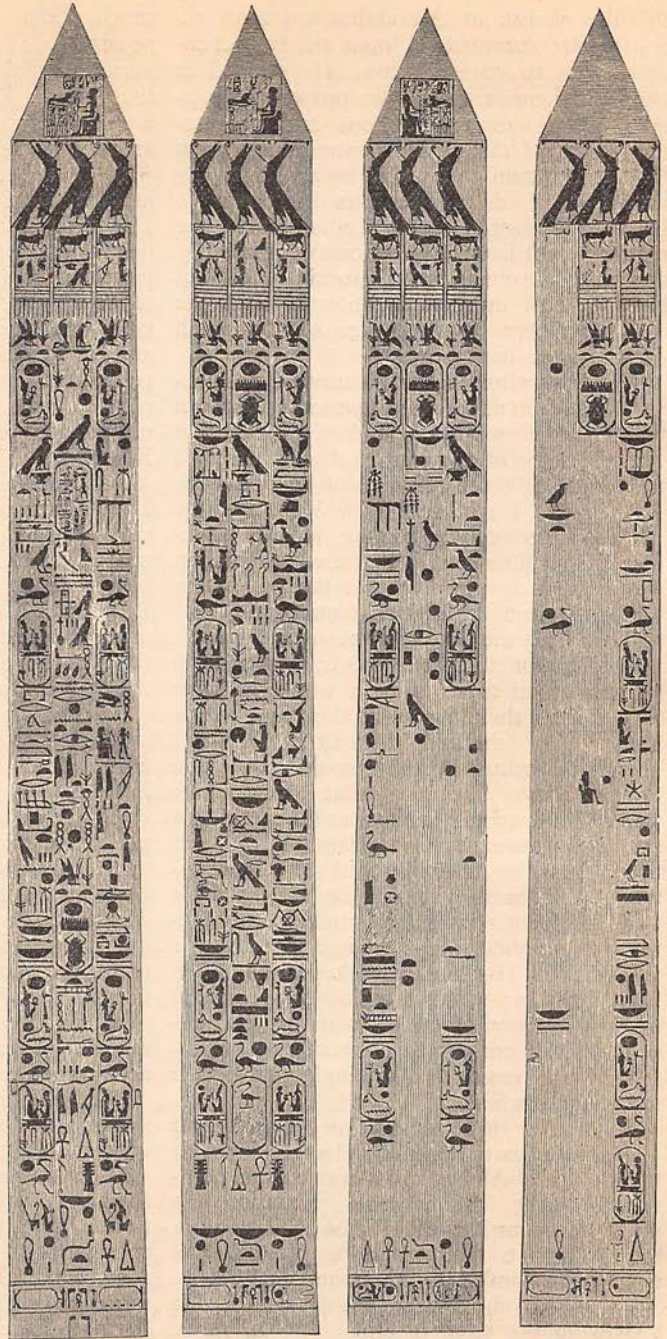
pened to meet, and after the exchange of a few words he said, in a rather reproachful tone :

"I learn you are trying to obtain an obelisk to take to New York."

"Why not? They have one in Paris and one in London, and the people of New York wish one also."

"You will create a great amount of feeling; all the scholars of Europe will oppose it. The Khedive has asked me to give a description of the obelisks remaining in Egypt, and to state which one can best be spared; I have sent a description of the obelisks, but I shall not designate any to be taken away, for I am totally opposed to the removal of any of them."

Not desiring to enter into any discussion on the subject, I replied in a conciliatory manner, saying it was of no great importance; that there were a number of obelisks in Egypt, and that the removal of one would not make much difference. He added that I would find there would be great opposition. This was the beginning of opposition that was to delay for more than a year the completion of the gift, and the fulfillment of a purpose which His Highness had deliberately fixed upon, without pressure from any source, and without any undue persuasion. Had this opposition come from Egyptians of position, who would have had a right to be heard, I should, through delicacy, have desisted at once from all further efforts in the matter. It, however, came wholly from Europeans, temporarily residing in Egypt, and who, whatever might be their opinions, and however well founded their conclusions, had, as against the United States, no rights to protect, and consequently were not entitled to be heard. The question of the propriety of the removal of the obelisk is open to discussion,



HIEROGLYPHS ON THE FOUR SIDES OF CLEOPATRA'S NEEDLE.

and there will always be different views upon the subject. But it was not for Europeans, whose capitals are enriched with the treasures of Ancient Egypt, to say that not a single monument should be taken to the United States.

About this time I was informed by the

English consul-general that the obelisk at Luxor, the only one I then had hopes of getting, belonged to his people; that it was given to them at the same time that the one at Paris was given to France, and that they claimed it, and should object to its being removed by any one else. The consul-general said he did not know that they should ever take it, but they claimed a right to do so. The Khedive afterward said to me that it was true the obelisk at Luxor was offered to the English at the same time that its companion was given to the French; and although they did not take it, they now objected to its being given to any one else; and that under the circumstances it would not do to interfere with it. This was a new and unexpected complication. The obelisk had been offered to the English by Mohammed Ali, fifty years ago, because he did not wish to create any ill feelings on account of his gift to France. They did not accept it, or at least did not take it; and after having accepted and removed to London another they suddenly renewed their claim to this one. Weeks passed, and no note came from the Khedive. In the mean time his private secretary had informed me that no obelisk had been designated to be given to the United States, for the reason that Brugsch Bey had given no opinion as to the one that could best be spared. I knew that special objections were being made in the case of each obelisk; that all the European influence was combined against me, and that the English claim of the Luxor obelisk was only one of the results of this combination. Once afterward, during the spring of 1878, the matter was mentioned by the Khedive, who had not yet fixed upon one to be given, but said that he would do so at no very distant day.

Serious difficulties came upon Egypt about this time. The Khedive was harassed and vexed in many ways. Notwithstanding the lowness of the Nile and the consequent impoverished condition of the country, resulting in a famine by which ten thousand persons perished, the English and French governments gave His Highness notice, in the month of April, that they should insist on the payment, at their maturity, of the May coupons of the unified debt. Sufficient money could not be collected, however, to pay the coupons, and the deficiency was raised on the notes of the three princes—the present Khedive and his two brothers—secured by a pledge on the wheat crop then growing. If this wheat had been left in the country, and distributed among the needy, the famine of the next fall would have been averted. M. de Lesseps, well knowing that he could not do justice

to Egypt and at the same time please the Paris bankers, had gone to France without entering upon the duties of the commission of inquiry. As early as the month of June the president of the commission demanded of the Khedive and the members of his family the surrender of their private estates. This demand was acceded to, and four hundred and twenty-five thousand acres of land were deeded to the Government and afterward mortgaged to secure the famous Rothschild loan of eight and a half millions of pounds. Measures of economy, demanded by the commission, also required the dismissal of many government employés, and the Americans in the military service of the Khedive were among the first to be discharged. Without any previous notice, they were informed that their term of service was ended. They all had due them considerable amounts of arrears of pay, and some of them had disputed claims and demands for indemnity, which complicated their affairs with the Government and rendered a settlement of their accounts difficult. I was called upon to aid my countrymen, and found myself suddenly thrown into an unpleasant contest. In this depressed state of Egyptian affairs, and among the embarrassments with which the Khedive found himself surrounded, there was no time for him to think of the obelisk. I therefore left Egypt about the middle of July, on a leave of absence, with permission to visit the United States.

On my return to Egypt, in November, I found a great change in governmental matters. What was called the Anglo-French ministry had been formed, with Nubar Pasha at its head. The ministry had been organized on the theory of its responsibility, and claimed to act independent of the Khedive. In Egypt there was no parliament, all the legislative as well as the executive power being vested in the Khedive. There was a Chamber of Notables, which was sometimes assembled to vote on questions of extraordinary taxation. This chamber was convoked in December, 1878, or in January following, but was utterly ignored by Mr. Wilson, the English representative in the ministry, who even refused to submit to it a report of his proceedings as Minister of Finance. The ministers, according to their theory, were independent of all restraint, and, as it seems, no one could rightfully remove them. At least this was claimed, and their subsequent removal by the Khedive cost him his throne. This was the ministry through which the obelisk was now to come, if at all—the Khedive, as they claimed, having no authority in the premises.

Mariette Bey, who had spent the summer at the Exposition in Paris, had arrived, and I knew he was making strenuous opposition to the gift; and as he was then really at the head of the Department of Antiquities, his opposition could not but embarrass and delay the negotiations, and at one time it seemed likely wholly to defeat the intentions of the Khedive.

On my arrival I paid the customary visit to the Khedive, but no mention was made of the obelisk for a number of weeks. He finally signified his willingness to complete the gift, but did not hesitate to intimate to me that the matter of the obelisk was then in the hands of the ministers. Though I had little faith in any long continuance of this state of things, I took occasion to bring the subject before Nubar Pasha, whom I had never seen until my return to Egypt, he having been in disfavor with the Khedive, and having resided in Europe since 1875. I found that he already understood the question, not from the Khedive, but from those who were opposed to the gift. He, however, took a fair view of the matter, and said that, if the Khedive had expressed his intention to give us an obelisk, it should be considered as a *fait accompli*, and that there was no reason why the ministry should oppose it. He promised to see the Khedive and learn exactly what had been done, and then carry out His Highness's wishes. He, however, added that, if it were a new and open question, he should oppose it. Not long afterward he informed me that he had seen the Khedive, and that he would take the necessary measures to have the promise fulfilled.

About this time Mariette Bey laid before the Council of Ministers a memorial on the subject, in which he made strenuous opposition to the removal of any of the obelisks of Egypt, and particularly set forth the sacredness of the obelisks at Karnak and that of Heliopolis. It was this memorial and the declarations of Mariette that afterward determined the question as to what obelisk should be given us. He undoubtedly thought that there would be sufficient opposition from other sources to prevent the removal of the one at Alexandria; that the English would take care of theirs at Luxor; and, if he could prevent the selection of either of those at Karnak or the one at Heliopolis, the project would be defeated.*

In February Nubar Pasha informed me that,

* Previous to the time of his being employed by the Egyptian Government, Marietta Bey himself took to Paris the finest collection of antiquities that has ever been removed from Egypt. This collection is still in the Museum of the Louvre.

as the English claimed the one at Luxor, and Mariette Bey was so strongly opposed to the removal of those of Karnak and that of Heliopolis, he had determined to give us the obelisk of Alexandria, Cleopatra's Needle. At the same time he prepared a memorandum of a dispatch to the Minister of Public Works, who represented France in the ministry, asking him to institute the necessary formalities. Two or three days afterward, events happened that threw Egypt into intense excitement, and compelled Nubar Pasha to retire from the ministry. A large number of officers and soldiers had been discharged without receiving their arrears of pay, and it was also just at that time that we were getting details of the famine that had existed in Upper Egypt in the previous months of November and December. Public feeling had become very hostile toward what was known as the European ministry. This state of excitement culminated on the 18th of February in a street attack, by the discharged officers and others, upon Mr. Rivers Wilson and Nubar Pasha, as they were leaving their departments to go to their noon-day meal. They were roughly handled, taken back to the Department of Finance, and held as prisoners for some hours, until the Khedive came personally to their relief. It was then only with great difficulty, and after some shots had been fired, that order was restored. Nubar Pasha resigned the next morning, but the English and French ministers, supported by their respective governments, retained their places, and after thirty days of diplomatic negotiations the ministry was reorganized, but under such conditions that the two European ministers could virtually control the Government. The suspense was not destined to be of long duration. Turns of the wheel of fortune are not only frequent in Egypt, but they generally happen when least expected. It is called a country of surprises, and there is an Oriental proverb according to which only provisional things are permanent. An Arab does not finish his house for fear of some accident befalling it or its occupants. To keep off misfortune the structure is left unfinished, or some part of it is only provisional, to be replaced by that which is permanent at a future day. But this is always to be done and never is done. Conditions were formulated and imposed that were designed to insure the immovability of the ministers. But the Arab proverb held good, and the structure which rested on laborious negotiations lasting thirty days endured only eighteen days. On the 7th of April occurred what has been called the *coup d'état* of the Khedive Ismail Pasha.



LIEUTENANT-COMMANDER HENRY H. GORRINGE. (FROM ARTOTYPE, BY HARROUN & BIERSTADT.)

After the events of the 18th of February, the Khedive claimed that it was necessary for the safety of the country that he should again take the government into his own hands, and form a new ministry composed wholly of Egyptians. He requested Cherif Pasha to take the presidency of a new ministry, and Cherif accepted. Once more the Khedive was the real as well as the nominal chief and head of the government, but the diplomatic and political circles of Europe were thrown into a state of great excitement; and at Paris, where the

feeling against the Khedive was intense, his dethronement was loudly demanded. I had known Cherif Pasha since the time of my first arrival in Egypt. He was admitted by all persons to be a noble, honest, and just man, who never entered into intrigues or speculations. In his youth he had received a good European education, and had begun his career as an army officer and had risen to the rank of colonel. Always frank and sincere, he enjoyed more of the confidence of the people than any other person the Khedive

could call into his service. It was not many days before matters were again smoothly running so far as the local government of Egypt was concerned.

Cherif Pasha had been conversant for some time with the effort to procure an obelisk for New York. About a month after the so-called *coup d'état*, when it seemed for the moment as if the European Powers were to acquiesce in the new order of things, I suggested to Cherif Pasha that I would like to have the matter of the obelisk terminated. Some days afterward, when I was calling upon him for another reason, he told me he desired to speak to the Khedive once more on the subject, that he should see him that evening, and if I would call on the morrow at eleven o'clock he would give me a definite answer, and I was led to understand that it would be a favorable one. The next day I went to the ministry at the hour designated, but was informed that Cherif Pasha was at the palace, and probably with the Khedive. On my return to the consulate, I stopped to visit the Pasha, who held the position of keeper of the seal, and who had rooms in that part of the palace in which the Khedive resided. I found there two of the princes, brothers of the present Khedive. We entered into conversation, and coffee was served according to the universal oriental custom. In a few minutes Cherif Pasha came in and, after the usual salutations, had a few words with the keeper of the seal in their own language. Starting to leave, he gave me an intimation to accompany him, and, bidding good morning to the others, we went out together. On shaking hands with Cherif, I noticed that he was much agitated, and I suspected that there was important and perhaps alarming news from the cabinets of Paris and London. We had passed through a large hall and down a stair-way, and were just going out of a door-way near where both of our carriages were awaiting us, when the Pasha said :

"It is the obelisk at Alexandria that you prefer, is it not?"

I replied that that one was more conveniently situated for removal than the others.

"Well," said the Pasha, "we have concluded to give it to you."

I said that I ought to have something in writing, confirming the gift, to send to the Secretary of State at Washington, and that though we had always talked of it as a gift to the United States, it was understood that it was to be erected in New York; and that I had been thinking that perhaps it would be better to give it directly to that city, as otherwise there might be some complication,

and perhaps an act of Congress would be required.

Cherif replied :

"We give you the obelisk, do as you wish with it;" and after a moment's reflection, he added: "write me a note, indicating what you wish to have done. State that all the expenses of removal are to be paid by the United States, or by the city of New York, if you prefer. Hand the note to my secretary-general, and tell him to prepare an answer confirming the gift in accordance with the suggestions you give, and to bring it to me for my signature."

Two hours later I handed to the Secretary-General of the Department of Foreign Affairs a letter giving the information desired, and at the same time I repeated what the Pasha had said. The next day I received the following reply :

"CAIRO, May 18, 1879.

"TO MR. FARMAN, AGENT AND CONSUL-GENERAL OF THE UNITED STATES.

"MR. AGENT AND CONSUL-GENERAL: I have taken cognizance of the dispatch which you did me the honor of writing on the 17th of the current month of May. In reply I hasten to transmit the assurance that the Government of the Khedive, having taken into consideration your representations, and the desire which you have expressed in the name of the Government of the United States of America, consent, in fact, to make a gift to the city of New York of the obelisk known as Cleopatra's Needle, which is at Alexandria on the sea-shore. The local authorities will therefore be directed to deliver this obelisk to the representative of the American Government, and also to facilitate in every way possible the removal of this monument, which, according to the terms of your dispatch, is to be done at the exclusive cost and expense of the city of New York. I am happy to have to announce to you this decision, which, while giving to the great city an Egyptian monument, to which is attached, as you know, a real archæological interest, will also be, I am likewise convinced, another souvenir and another pledge of the friendship that has constantly existed between the Government of the United States and that of the Khedive. Be pleased to accept, Mr. Agent and Consul-General, the expression of my high consideration.

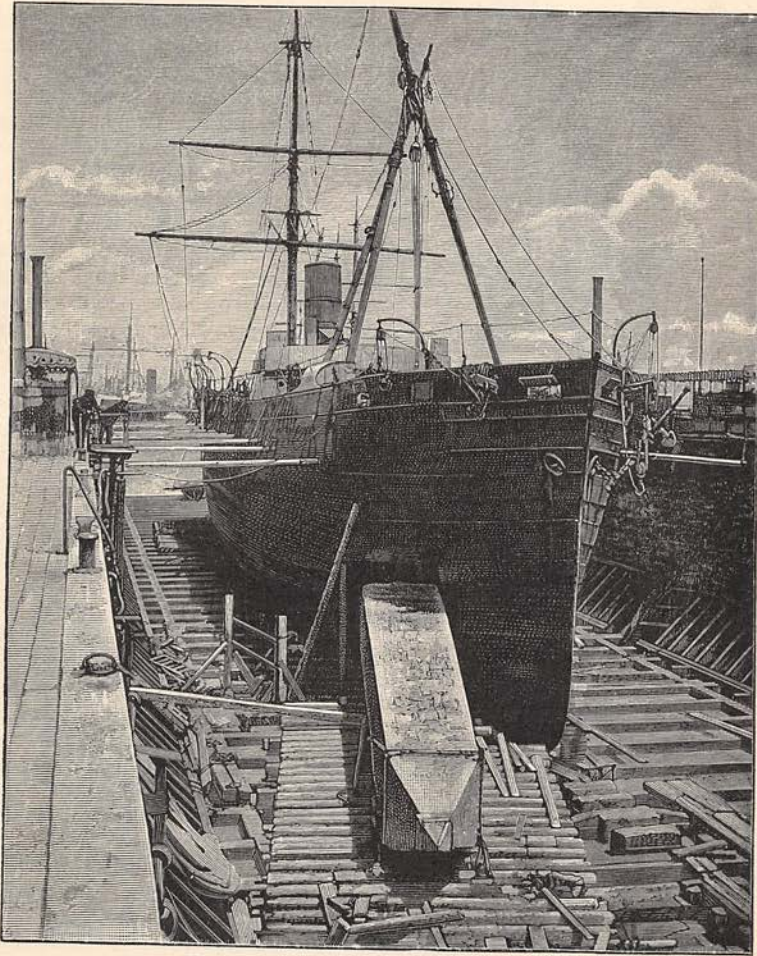
"CHERIF."

It will be seen from this note that the obelisk was given directly to the city of New York, and not, as is stated in the inscription on a claw of one of the crabs on which it now rests, to the United States.

The obelisk was secured, and the complications in the affairs of Egypt continued. From the time of the dismissal of the European ministers, on the 7th of April, France had not ceased to insist on the abdication of the Khedive, and had industriously labored with all the cabinets of Europe to obtain their support in effecting this purpose. The English Government gave its adhesion to this extreme measure with reluctance, acceding to the

wishes of France about the middle of June. Other powers soon followed, and on the 27th of the same month, the Khedive, in accordance with an order which France and England had induced the Sultan to give, abdicated in favor of his son Mehemet Tewfik Pasha, who, on the same day, was proclaimed Khedive of Egypt, at the citadel in Cairo, with the usual pomp and ceremony. Three days later the ex-Khedive went into exile. The

was secured were conducted so quietly that the first public information in Egypt that the gift had been made, came from New York through the medium of English newspapers. Very little was then said upon the subject by any of the local journals, but as soon as the Riaz ministry was organized, an attempt was made through the influence of certain Europeans to have the action of the late government reversed. The matter was two or three

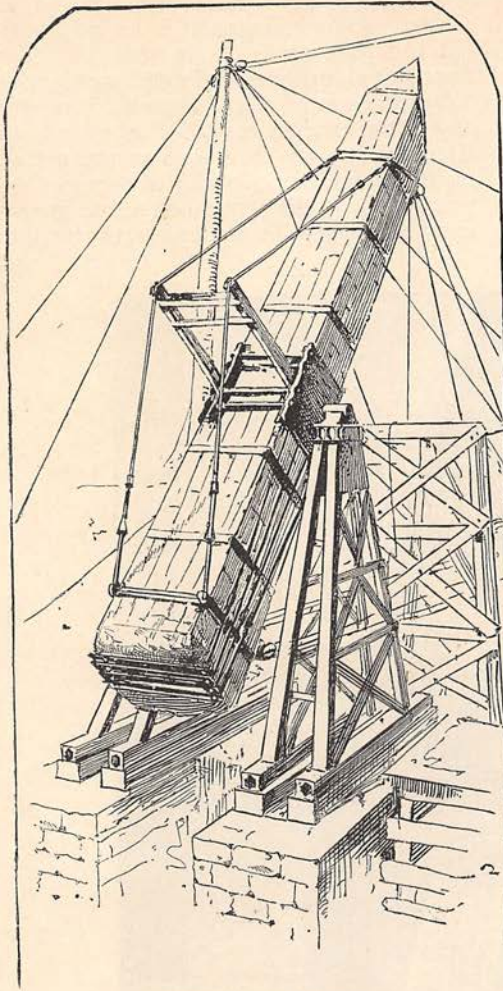


PUTTING THE OBELISK IN THE HOLD OF THE STEAMER.

experiment of European ministers was not again tried. Cherif Pasha was continued at the head of the administration during the summer, but early in the autumn, what was known as the Riaz ministry was formed, which remained in power until it was overthrown by a revolt of the Egyptian army in September, 1881, when Cherif was again called upon by the Khedive to form a new ministry.

The final negotiations by which the obelisk

times considered in the Council of Ministers, and commented upon by the European press of Egypt. The ministers, however, finding that the gift had been confirmed in writing by an exchange of official notes, decided that it was too late for them to take any action in the matter; and, on the arrival of Lieutenant-Commander Gorrige in October, 1879, the necessary orders were given to the local authorities of Alexandria for the delivery of the obelisk.



SWINGING INTO POSITION.

In the month of October, 1879, Lieutenant-Commander Gorringe, who had been granted a leave of absence to enable him to remove the obelisk to the United States, arrived in Egypt, accompanied by Lieutenant Shroeder. The heavy constructions, made on a new plan from designs by the Commander, to aid him in the accomplishment of his work, arrived soon afterward, and on the 6th day of December, the huge shaft, poised on its improvised trunnions like a mammoth cannon, was turned to a horizontal position.

The Cleopatra's Needle, as is well known, is a single shaft of red granite from the quarries of Syene, now called Assouan, at the first cataract of the Nile, seven hundred miles from the Mediterranean. It is sixty-eight feet ten inches high, seven feet ten inches by eight feet two inches at the base, and tapers gradually upward to six feet one inch by six

feet three inches, terminating in a pyramidion seven feet high. Its weight is about two hundred and twenty tons. It stood upon the sea-shore at Alexandria, fifty feet from the water line, with its base buried in sand and earth that had been accumulating for centuries. Mr. Gorringe has given it as his opinion that, had it occupied its former site, it would have been destroyed during the recent bombardment of Alexandria.

The base of the obelisk, when uncovered, was found to be considerably rounded. It rested on two copper crabs placed at opposite corners, and on a stone at a third corner, while the fourth corner was unsupported. The crabs weighed about four hundred pounds each, but when they were entire they could not have weighed less than five hundred pounds.*

Most of the obelisks that have been removed from Egypt were taken by the Romans as conquerors. In modern times only two have been removed besides Cleopatra's Needle,—those in Paris and London. The negotiations over the London obelisk were had more than sixty years ago, at a time when Egypt was in a condition entirely different from that of to-day. This obelisk had also been lying for centuries nearly buried in sand and rubbish; it was much injured and, in comparison with the standing obelisks, was little prized. Yet it was considered a gift worthy to be bestowed upon His Majesty George IV. in return for great favors and valuable presents received from him by Mohammed Ali Pasha, then Viceroy of Egypt. The obelisk at Paris was given to France ten years later, in 1830, on account, as is claimed, of services rendered to the viceroy. It stood at Luxor, a small village of mud huts, situated six hundred miles up the Nile, and inhabited by a few hundred natives. There were three other obelisks standing in its vicinity, and many colossal ruins, the most mag-

* On reaching New York, Mr. Gorringe dragged his ship up upon a "marine railway" at Staten Island and rolled the obelisk out upon staging. pontoons placed beneath rose with the tide and floated it. Towed to Manhattan Island, these pontoons, on sinking, deposited the monolith on a landing-stage. From the dock it made its journey on a cradle of rollers run on beams. A stationary engine fastened to the forward end of the cradle wound on its drum a rope which passed through a pulley-block stationed some distance ahead. The engine thus pulled itself and its burden up to the block, a process constantly repeated until the site in Central Park was reached. On January 22, 1881, the obelisk was erected on its pedestal by the same means employed in Alexandria to lay it on the ground.—EDITOR.

nificent and interesting in the world. The place was, however, at that period seldom visited by Europeans, and the removal of one of its obelisks was not an event to create any opposition. The European press of Egypt gave great importance to the fact that the London and Paris obelisks were both given on account of services and favors rendered by the governments of the countries to which they were presented, while there was no pretense of any such consideration for the gift of Cleopatra's Needle to the city of New York.

E. E. Farman.



THE OBELISK IN CENTRAL PARK.

DEAF.

As to a bird's song she were listening,
 Her beautiful head is ever sidewise bent;
 Her questioning eyes lift up their depths intent—
 She, who will never hear the wild-birds sing.
 My words within her ears' cold chambers ring
 Faint, with the city's murmurous sub-tones blent,
 Though with such sounds as suppliants may have sent
 To high-throned goddesses, my speech takes wing.

Not for the side-poised head's appealing grace
 I gaze, nor hair where fire in shadow lies—
 For her this world's unhallowed noises base
 Melt into silence; not our groans, our cries,
 Our curses reach that high-removed place
 Where dwells her spirit, innocently wise.

H. C. Bunner.