

IV

THE WOMEN OF EGYPT ONCE MORE

“Hasten the redemption of woman . . . by restoring her to her mission of inspiration, prayer, and pity.”

—MAZZINI.

WHAT are the women like? Are they pretty? How do they bring up their children? How do they keep their homes? Do you like them? Are they lovable?

Such are a few of the many questions which are put to the traveller and resident in Egypt, by those interested, for various reasons, in the land and its people.

How differently these questions can be answered. The ordinary tourist sees the black-robed figures (with features invisible except for two eyes peering over a black crape veil) walking in the streets of the cities, or driving sitting huddled together on karros,* and he remarks on the discomfort of the costume and the cleverness with which they succeed in balancing themselves on the jolting springless carts. Or again he sees ladies of the upper class driving in their carriages and motor broughams,

* Long narrow carts, the sides of which are only very slightly raised.