

Ismail Pasha, the first Khedive of Egypt, was a great palace-builder, and he had the palaces filled with wives and concubines of all grades. His son Tewfik lived a continent life with one wife. The present Khedive, Abbas II, had for years but one wife. He has recently taken another woman, a Christian, and made her a Moslem and his wife at the same time. Report has it that he has not, by doing so, increased either family happiness or his own peace.

Competent witnesses agree in asserting that polygamy is not so prevalent in the Levant as it has formerly been. Rev. George C. Doolittle writes me that he was surprised to hear on good authority that only one man in the large town of Sidon has more than one wife. It may be there are many more towns in Syria and other parts of this section in which the same would be true, but Sidon is perhaps much above the average in that respect. It would be interesting to know how many divorces there have been in Sidon in the last ten years. However it will naturally follow that when polygamy decreases, the number of divorces, as well as the chief cause for them, will naturally decrease.

Other customs of minor importance, as the screaming of women (*az zar*) in funeral and other such mournings have been forbidden in Cairo and in other large cities, and what is forbidden in the cities soon becomes unfashionable in the villages. The eating of meat slaughtered by infidels is no longer prohibited, so that meat shops kept by European and other Christians or by Jews are patronized by Mohammedans.

Dreams and their interpretation do not now have the importance once attached to them. Distinctively Oriental costumes for both men and women are being replaced by Western dress. A teacher in one of our schools for girls, when teaching an advanced class and