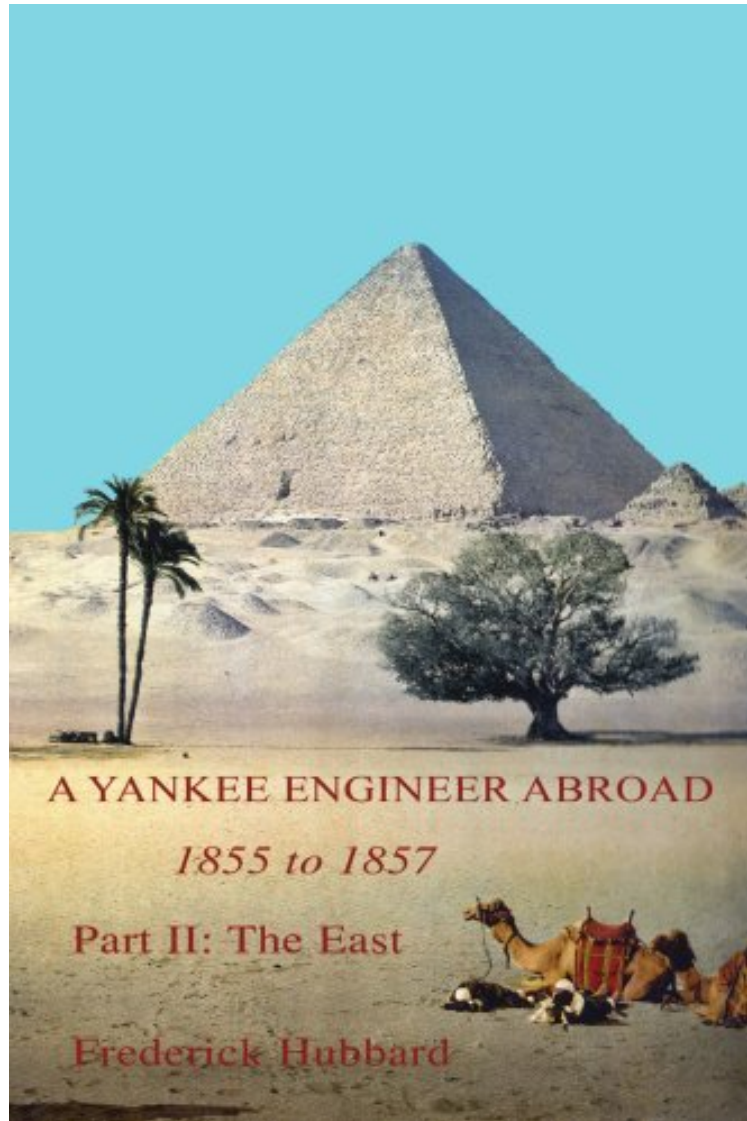


A Yankee Engineer Abroad: Part II: The East

Frederick Hubbard

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Frederick Hubbard : A Yankee Engineer Abroad: Part II: The East before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised A Yankee Engineer Abroad: Part II: The East:

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. A Fascinating 19th Century Perspective on the Middle East By RangeRover Given the current turmoil that has engulfed this part of the world, the last thing one might want to do is read a 19th century travelogue through the Middle East. And yet, this book provides an extremely interesting view of Egypt, the Holy Land and Syria during the ebbing rule of the Ottoman Turks and just a few years prior to the construction of the Suez Canal. The view is that of Frederick Hubbard, a well-to-do American engineer who undertook

the journey in the late 1850's, arriving at Alexandria by ship and then moving by boat along the Nile and across the desert by camel caravan. In this age a trip to the Middle East on this scale was a year's affair, and Hubbard took advantage of the time to adorn his journal of the trip with great versimilitude. He combines the engineer's eye for detail with a poet's turn of phrase, and the descriptions of cities like Alexandria, Hebron, Jerusalem, and Damascus are filled with memorable imagery. The following passage is typical: "The Orientals well understand, in their sultry climate, the luxury of cool, shady, marble-paved courts, rich with the fragrance of flowers and songs of birds, and dreamy with the ceaseless splash of fountains." (p. 363). But this work is of interest not only to those who seek a fresh view of the region from the perspective of someone of another time, it is also instructive as a roadmap to the views of the day among educated Americans. The book tells us as much about Hubbard and his culture as it does about the Arab lands of the 19th century. All of the prejudice -- and there is considerable disdain toward Islam -- is there, along with the informed, insightful and evocative prose. The editor has taken pains to elucidate where necessary and his notes -- clarifying elements of usage that are now archaic, explaining Hubbard's many Biblical references, and adding historical context -- greatly enhance Hubbard's account.

Recently discovered manuscript of a Grand Tour taken by a well-educated American engineer in the years 1855 - 1857 encompassing Europe, Egypt and the Holy Land. Part II (this book) begins in Egypt where the author travels up and down the Nile, visiting tombs, temples, and villages. He continues on the "long desert route" to the Holy Land, retracing the probable route taken during the Exodus. Extensive observations are recorded in the Holy Land with insightful information and Biblical and social commentary. The route terminates in Beyrout, Syria (today Lebanon). The book contains contemporary maps and the author's own weather charts, and is generously annotated and profusely illustrated with original drawings by the author and "grangerized" engravings of the period. A selection of albumin prints (circa 1894) collected by the author's brother is also included. These prints illustrate many of the scenes described in the book. A must-have for collectors of travel in Egypt.

About the Author CHAR(13) + CHAR(10) Obituary. FREDERICK HUBBARD. Entered into the rest of Paradise, at No. 20 Union Square, New York City, October 30, 1895, FREDERICK HUBBARD. In close of a completed life, he has left the memory of religion, pure and undefiled, to which his many friends may point with affectionate reverence. Born June 20, 1817, in Hamilton, Madison County, of Thomas H. and Phbe Hubbard, his boyhood days were passed in Utica. Graduating at Hamilton College in 1836, he adopted the profession of engineering and was for many years connected with the laying out of the early railroads of the country, especially the Hudson River, Erie, Michigan Southern and Northern Indiana. For two years he was engaged in the erection of Harlem Bridge. Retiring from business some twenty-five years ago, he travelled extensively and occupied himself with classical reading and scientific research. Of positive conviction in religion, he brought to bear his wide erudition especially on Biblical studies. He long ago identified himself with Trinity Church, New York, where he was a regular worshipper and devout communicant, and entered into the practical work of helping in her many activities. Through his liberal gifts he was practically identified with many parishes throughout the country. Especially sympathetic with the sick and needy, he endowed beds in St. Luke's Hospital and St. Mary's Home; but so unostentatious was he in his charities, almost to secrecy, that their extent can only be guessed at. Simple in his demeanor, yet choice in his tastes, his life moved quietly on without parade, content in the satisfaction of doing good. In that great day of reward many will rise up to call him blessed, and, though he has passed from the field of his rich activities here, his works do follow him. CHAR(13) + CHAR(10)