

stands the largest of the Pyramids, that of Cheops, and also to make a tour of the whole, sphynx, tombs, excavations, temples, caves, and all the other interesting sights in this most interesting of all places. The guides are numerous, also interesting and dirty (in Egypt the two latter terms are synonymous). Mine spoke English fluently, and told me of the different persons to whom he had acted as guide, showing me splendid testimonials, which he could not read. But a younger scion of the fraternity afterwards informed me privately that Ali was too old, and that he himself was a much more efficient guide, also bidding me beware of taking coffee in Ali's house, as it would not be good. Ali had invited me to do so, but a glance at the hut in the Arab village close at hand was quite enough to make me refuse the invitation. He finally wound up by inviting me to his wedding, which was to take place the next week. I thanked my hospitable friend, who had an eye to backsheesh, but declined that tempting offer also.

Eastern Cairo is delightful with its bazaars, mosques, and other sights too numerous to mention. In the native quarters one finds Eastern life in full swing, with its inevitable accompaniments of flies and disease, especially of the eyes. It really seemed as if half the population were afflicted, cross-eyes, blind-eyes, red-eyes, blear-eyes, and in some cases no eyes at all, formed a distressing spectacle. This is attributable to the flies, with which the smallest infant is covered, for the mother never dreams of brushing them away, and the eyes are ruined before the unfortunate little mortal can look after itself. Nor is disease confined to the sight. I have seen creatures with

features nearly eaten away, and really in one case I could not help a feeling of amusement, for there was a man, com-



SPECIMEN OF CAMEL SADDLE.

pletely noseless, buying pocket handkerchiefs.

Certainly the most important factor in the spread of European manners and customs is the railway, and in the town of Upper Egypt the wealthier natives are beginning to feel the influence of Western tastes. A great deal of this is due to the American Mission, which has established schools in various places, carried on regardless of expense; and so the English language has taken root in Upper Egypt, as the French has in the Lower. The latter tongue, however, is being gradually superseded by that of the former, and where eighty per cent. formerly spoke French, and twenty, English, the case is now completely reversed. In Assiout, a