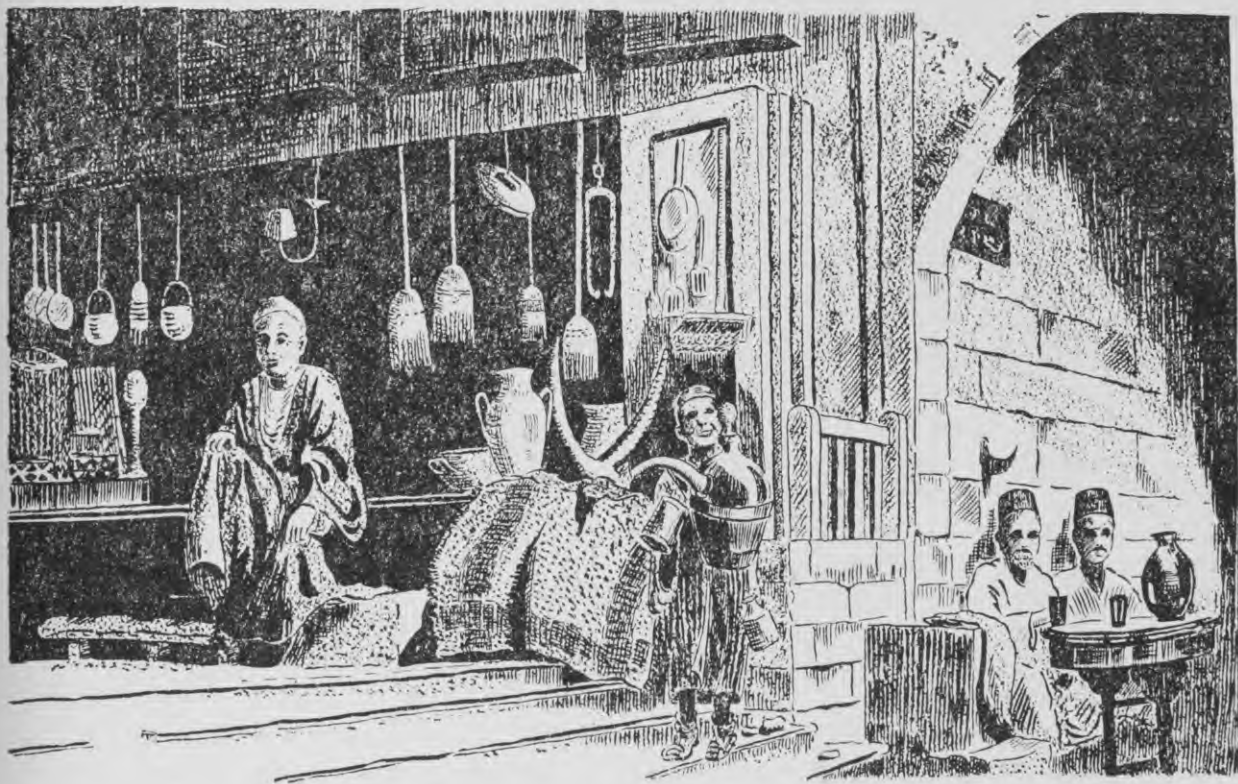


the south of the present Cairo and known today, with the remains of its old fortress, as "Old Cairo". The second is now entirely desolate, and the third founded by Ahmed Ibn Tulun is partly included in the present Cairo and contains the great mosque named after its founder. He also built a great aqueduct, remains of which are still to be seen. When Gohar el-Kaid conquered the country in 969 for the Fatimite Khalif, he founded a new capital, El-Kahirah, "the Victorious", a name that has been corrupted to Cairo. He also founded the mosque, el Azhar, which was converted into a university and still remains the chief theological seminary of the Islamic world.

New Zealanders have often looked across from Maadi at the Citadel, but not all know that it was Saladin who built it when he fortified Cairo against the Crusaders. The army of Saladin's day consisted mainly of mercenaries

who were given the name of Mamelukes. They became so powerful that one of their number actually became ruler of the land and Mamelukes held power for 270 years. During their time bridges were built, canals were cut and many beautiful mosques were erected. The tomb mosque of Kait Bey on Roda Island and the Sultan Bar-kuk, with its two domes and two minarets, were products of this period. Incidentally, it was on Roda Island that, according to Arab legend, Pharaoh's daughter found Moses in the bulrushes.

The Turks, who conquered Egypt in 1517, had little influence on its progress, but Cairo became headline news in 1798 when Napoleon fought and won the Battle of the Pyramids, only to have his fleet destroyed a few days later near Alexandria by Nelson. When an English force landed in 1801 the French gave up their dreams of an Eastern empire, and the Turks again took over. When Turkey's grip on



*A typical scene in the Mouski*