

**A VACATION ON THE  
NILE: A COLLECTION  
OF LETTERS WRITTEN  
TO FRIENDS AT HOME**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649069491

A Vacation on the Nile: A Collection of Letters Written to Friends at Home by Lewis Parkhurst

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**LEWIS PARKHURST**

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OF LETTERS WRITTEN  
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THE DAHABEAH "HAPPY DAYS," OUR HOME ON THE NILE

*Oliver K...*  
*1913*

# A VACATION ON THE NILE

A COLLECTION OF LETTERS  
WRITTEN TO FRIENDS AT HOME

BY

LEWIS PARKHURST

ILLUSTRATED FROM PHOTOGRAPHS BY  
T. W. GILSON AND RICHARD PARKHURST



PRIVATELY PRINTED

1913

TO  
MY PARTNERS  
IN THE FIRM OF  
GINN AND COMPANY

1894

GINN AND COMPANY  
PUBLISHERS

NEW YORK  
PUBLIC  
LIBRARY



## PREFACE

Having been twenty-five years in the publishing business, I determined to take a good long vacation. I had heard through friends and had read that there was very much of interest to be seen in the land of the Pharaohs, so on January 10, 1912, with Mrs. Parkhurst and my son Richard, I left New York on board the "Adriatic" of the White Star Line, bound for Alexandria, stopping at various Atlantic and Mediterranean ports en route. Leaving the ship, we went by rail to Cairo; thence up the Nile on a private dahabeah, "Happy Days."

We had invited to join our party, Mr. T. W. Gilson, a friend and business partner of many years' standing, Mrs. Gilson, and Mrs. Pond, an old friend of our family. Miss Irelene De Witt, a recent graduate of Wells College and daughter of a business associate, and John Gile, about to enter Dartmouth College with my son Richard, also accompanied us. At Alexandria we were met by Miss Watson, who was to act as our guide and teacher, and her friend,

## PREFACE

Fraulein Vogel, both from Dresden. Our party of ten was thus assured of that strength of purpose and breadth of view which come from age and experience, and did not lack that full measure of enthusiasm which properly belongs to youth.

Miss Watson had made the trip several times, and to her knowledge of the history of Egypt and the East, as well as her acquaintance with modern conditions and the preparations necessary to make the journey comfortably, our party are indebted for a most delightful as well as profitable winter's outing.

From time to time, as I had opportunity, I wrote of our experiences to my secretary, Miss Ayer, and she very kindly sent copies of these letters to various friends at home. At their suggestion I have concluded to print these letters for private distribution. They were not originally written for publication, but were the impressions which I jotted down from day to day as we journeyed along; and my only excuse for putting them in book form is that my friends have requested me so to do, and one ought always, if possible, to comply with the requests of friends.

The illustrations which accompany these letters have been selected from a large number of photographs taken along the way by Mr. Gilson or Richard.

## PREFACE

Although held responsible each year for properly manufacturing several millions of books, this is my first experience in attempting to publish one as an author. To Mr. Greeley and Mr. Robinson of the editorial staff of Ginn and Company I am much indebted for the form in which this volume appears.

LEWIS PARKHURST

OAK KNOLL  
WINCHESTER