

this point. It is a country which has length, but not breadth. It reaches a comparatively short distance on both sides of the Nile. Beyond this there are *cliff* at many points and only a short distance in either direction from the Nile, we find absolutely barren desert with not a blade of grass nor a tree to be seen. Egypt, especially Upper Egypt, is perhaps as dry a region as is to be found anywhere in the world. If it were not for the vegetation made possible by the Nile flowing through it, it would be nothing but absolute desert. The Nile comes from the heart of Africa. It is composed originally of two principal streams, the White Nile which preserves a fairly universal rate of flow throughout the year and the Blue Nile which comes from the highlands of Abyssinia. This part is called the Blue Nile because of its muddy color, brought about by the great amount of soil that it brings down with it. In the rainy season in Abyssinia, the Blue Nile becomes much larger than at other times of the year. The result is that the Nile as it flows through Egypt, is tremendously enlarged during about half of the year. This period is called the "inundation". The Nile overflows its banks and covers a great amount of the territory on both sides. A certain amount of soil is deposited there, and when the river recedes, this land is found to be very fertile and bears abundant crops.

The very dry nature of the country in Egypt makes possible the preservation of things that could not last in ~~scarcely~~ ^{almost} any other part of the world. Remains of ancient temples are standing in Upper Egypt as some of them have stood for more than four thousand years. At various places in the tombs, there have been found bits of papyrus which are over three thousand years old. Papyrus would last comparatively few centuries in most climates, but the dry climate of Egypt has made possible this preservation of much more of the materials of its ancient civilization than would be the case almost anywhere else.