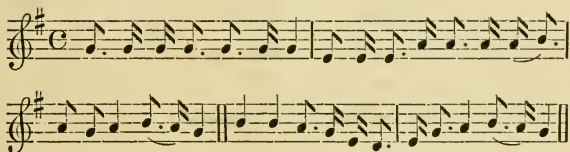




Campbell 2.e 3.
(1-17).

THE NILE LITANY.

(Gaelic Air—*Agus ho Mhòrag!*)



LISTEN, lords and ladies gay,
 While for your *bon voyage* I pray,
 Sailing up the Nile-stream;
 Ho ro! boats and Dahan-
 beahs on the Nile stream!

Have a kerchief on your head
 O'er a felt hat bravely spread,
 Sailing up the Nile-stream;
 Ho ro! hat and kerchief
 Jaunty on the Nile-stream!

A white umbrella in your hand,
 Bravely join the Tourist band
 Sailing up the Nile-stream;
 Ho ro! white umbrella
 Lined with green on Nile-stream!

Then to every God supreme,
 Guardian of the sacred stream,
 Pray as I direct you ;
 Ho ro! gods of Egypt,
 Save us on the Nile-stream!

AMOUN, RA, and good OSIRIS,
 ISIS, HORUS, CHEM, be near us,
 Sailing up the Nile-stream ;
 Ho ro! good OSIRIS,
 Save us on the Nile-stream!

When we come with sudden thud,
 On a bank of ugly mud
 Sticking in the Nile-stream ;¹
 Ho ro! gently, gently,
 Lift us o'er the mud bank!

RA that shines on desert strands,
 Barren rocks and burning sands,
 Save us on the Nile-stream ;
 RA, RA, mighty RA,²
 Save us on the Nile-stream!

From the power that smites the brain,
 With a stroke of sudden pain,
 Mighty RA, save us ;
 Ho ro! mighty RA,
 Save us from the sun-stroke!

TYPHON, brother of OSIRIS,
 When the hot simoom is near us,
 Save us on the Nile-stream ;
 Ho ro! god and ass,
 And devil on the Nile-stream!³

Save our blood from boiling, when
Of Fahrenheit a hundred and ten
Degrees of heat we number;

Ho ro! a hundred and ten,
All in the shade at Luxor!⁴

SEBAK, guardian of the Nile,
With head of huge-jawed crocodile,
Mighty SEBAK, save us;

Ho ro! Lord of OMBOS,
Save us on the Nile-stream!⁵

When the brute with greedy maw,
Opens wide his monstrous jaw,
Sitting on a sand-bank;

Then, then, mighty SEBAK,
Save us from the crocodile!

When a rain of drifted sand
Sweeps across from Libyan strand,
Mighty AMOUN, save us;

Ho ro! lord of Luxor,
Save us from the sand-rain!⁶

From sands that blind, and winds that flout us
Outside, inside, round about us,
Mighty AMOUN save us;

Ho ro! lord of Luxor,
From sand and dust deliver us!

From dust that soils, and sand that itches
In our gloves, and in our breeches,

At Luxor, when we dwell there,
Save us, mighty AMOUN,
In the good Hotel there!⁷

God that watches o'er the dead,
 With a true dog's heart and head,
 Watch us on the Nile-stream;
 Ho ro! dog ANUBIS,⁸
 Nightly when we sleep there!
 Save us from the yelping crew
 That howl and yowl the long night through
 At Luxor when we sleep there;
 Ho ro! good ANUBIS,
 Have your dogs in keep there!
 From the camel's surly groaning,
 From the water-wheel, dull moaning, x 'o
 Save us, good OSIRIS;
 Ho ro! dreary drone
 Of creaking crazy Nile-wheels!
 From the ancient plague of flies,
 In our noses, in our eyes,
 Good OSIRIS, save us!
 Ho ro! good OSIRIS,
 Lord of blest Abydus!⁹
 And from boys that cry *Baksheesh!*
 From morn to night *Baksheesh! Baksheesh!*
 Good OSIRIS, save us!
 Ho ro! *Baksheesh! Baksheesh!*
 The war-cry of the Nile-stream!
 From the host of grinning creatures,
 Naked boys with sooty features,
 Good OSIRIS save us!
 Ho ro! little naked
 Paunchy boys on Nile-stream!

And from all the haggling crew,
That buzz and fuss with much ado

About us on the Nile-stream,
Ho ro! good OSIRIS,
Save us on the Nile-stream!

Pushing their vile wares before
Our noses on the muddy shore

Of the yellow Nile-stream,
Ho ro! good OSIRIS,
Save us on the Nile-stream!

From ugly hags with wrinkled faces,
Showing oily-black necklaces,¹⁰

At Assouan and Asyoot,
Save us, good OSIRIS,
Toiling up the Nile-stream!

From every wight that cries '*Antico!*
Good *antico!* very *antico!*'

Save us on the Nile-stream,
Ho ro! good OSIRIS,
On the honest Nile-stream!¹¹

And from every apish monkey
That cries out '*Donkey! very good donkey!*'

All along the Nile-stream,
Ho ro! good OSIRIS,
Save us on the Nile stream!¹²

And when with dusty moil and toil,
We're sated on the muddy Nile,

Bring us back, OSIRIS,
Ho ro! good OSIRIS,
Back to bonnie Scotland!

To the land of breezy weather,
Freshening showers, and purple heather,
 Bring us back, OSIRIS,
Ho ro! good OSIRIS,
Heather-bloom and breezes!
And I'll make a vow to all
The gods in Ramses' stately-hall,
 At Karnak on the Nile-stream,
Ho ro! good OSIRIS,
I'll vow and swear devoutly
Nevermore with sweaty toil
To frighten frog or crocodile,
 Up the yellow Nile-stream,
Ho ro! good OSIRIS,
Guardian of the Nile-stream,
Nevermore to stir the stones
For mummy rags, or blackened bones,
 At Memphis or Abydus,
Ho ro! mighty Memphis,
Rich in dust and dry bones,¹³
Far from Scotia's darling seat,
Nevermore with weary feet
 To dust it up the Nile-stream;
All this, good OSIRIS,
I swear it by the Nile-stream!

AT LUXOR,

18th March 1878.

NOTES.

¹ A very common occurrence, at least in the months of February and March, when the Nile is getting low. It is from the necessity of a sharp look out for this impediment that no dahabeeah is allowed to sail in the night-time, which is one circumstance among others that protracts the somewhat monotonous navigation of that singular stream.

² The Sun, the god of Heliopolis, one of the great original objects of Egyptian worship; hence his name is habitually added to Amoun, and appears frequently in the title of the Kings.

³ The Simoom, of which I had experience, is called *Khamseen*, and made itself felt most unpleasantly in Thebes about the end of March, and in Cairo in the beginning of April.

⁴ A literal fact, towards the end of March 1878.

⁵ Ombos, now called Kom-Ombo, on the right bank of the Nile about twenty-six miles below SYENE, where there are the ruins of a temple on the walls of which Sebak, the crocodile-headed god (Bunsen's *Egypt*, i. 405), frequently appears. See Murray's *Guide*, 1875, p. 460.

⁶ When I was sitting quietly in the hotel at Luxor, writing a letter, in came all in a moment a hurricane of sand, and blew away all my paper, and splashed the ink over the table; this was in February 1878.

⁷ I stayed ten days there, a most convenient and pleasant halting-place for those who can afford to stop.

⁸ The *latrator Anubis* of Virgil and the *ναὶ τὸν κύνα* of Socrates. As guardian of the dead in the tombs, his significance on the sarcophagi and lids of the mummy cases is obvious enough.

⁹ About one hundred miles below Thebes one of the principal seats of Osiris-worship, and a favourite burial-place of the Egyptians. It should be observed that Osiris represents the Divine Beneficence generally; and, though specially invoked in reference to the Elysian fields of which he is lord, may be appealed to as the general Saviour from all evils more fitly than any other god.

¹⁰ Up the Nile the castor-oil plant grows largely, and with it the young girls make glossy their strings of black curls; and their necklaces are redolent of the same.

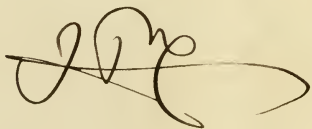
¹¹ See Miss Edwards' *A thousand miles up the Nile*, p. 602, for an admirable exposure of those false antiques.

¹² Of course not from donkeys *quâ* donkeys, for every man who travels in those regions must be grateful for their services; but from the oppressive and overwhelming importunities of those who hire them.

¹³ There is literally nothing remaining of Memphis but dust and dry bones, and a colossal torso of the great Ramses lying prostrate in a ditch, which belongs to John Bull, and which ought to follow Cleopatra's Needle to the banks of the Thames.

From Blackie
the worthy
Professor of Greek
whose gait
is powerful
& justly weak

Janney. 1879



1, Belgrave Place.
S.W.

June 13/81.

My Dear John

I read
the hymns -

E."

I promised Mr.
Campbell that
"something must
be done" - so please
let her have a

From
the
Proper
who
is
& he
I am

copy - That of
course is more
ironical chaff -
(but quite true)
& not ambitious
'high falutin' like
Pearce with Disunion.
Of the latter I have

JVC

given away about
1500 copies and
it was copied into
almost every county
paper in England
and even into a good
many in Scotland. E."

Yours ever
~~Wm. D.~~

From

the

Prop

wh

is

& /

Jan

~~JVC~~

