

something more than love to keep him in Egypt; there was ambition, headlong aspiration, the intoxication of a conqueror turning his mind to new conquests, and the supreme interest of a would-be king constructing a throne which should be occupied not only by himself but by the descendants of his own flesh and blood for all time.¹

While waiting for the desired event Cæsar could not remain inactive in the Palace at Alexandria. He desired to ascertain for himself the resources of the land which was to be considered as his wife's dowry; and he therefore determined to conduct a peaceful expedition up the Nile with this subject in view. The royal *dahabiyeh* or house-boat was therefore made ready for himself and Cleopatra, whose condition might be expected to benefit by the idle and yet interesting life upon the river; and orders were given both to his own legionaries and to a considerable number of Cleopatra's troops to prepare themselves for embarkation upon a fleet of four hundred Nile vessels. The number of ships suggests that there were several thousand soldiers employed in the expedi-

¹ It has generally been stated that Cæsar left Egypt before the birth of Cæsarion, an opinion which, in view of the fact that Appian says he remained nine months in Egypt, has always seemed to me improbable; for it is surely more than a coincidence that he delayed his departure from Egypt until the very month in which Cleopatra's and his child was to be expected to arrive, he having met her in the previous October. Plutarch's statement may be interpreted as meaning that Cæsar departed to Syria after the birth of his son. I think that Cicero's remark, in a letter dated in June B.C. 47, that there was a serious hindrance to Cæsar's departure from Alexandria, refers to the event for which he was waiting. Those who suggest that Cæsar did *not* remain in Egypt so long are obliged to deny that the authors are correct in stating that he went up the Nile; and they have to disregard the positive statement of Appian that the Dictator's visit lasted nine months. Moreover, the date of the celebration of Cæsarion's seventeenth birthday (as recorded on p. 361) is a further indication that he was born no later than the beginning of July.



[British Museum.]

[Photograph by Nasheth.]

CLEOPATRA.