

of great magnificence, for which they did not scruple to despoil more ancient edifices of some of their chiefest ornaments. While its commercial importance increased, it became a celebrated seat of learning, with the greatest library of antiquity, through the wise interest with which the Greek kings regarded science and letters. Under the Ptolemies, however, the inhabitants, who were chiefly Greeks, became very troublesome to their rulers, like most commercial populations, and their turbulence was ill restrained by the weakness of the later sovereigns of that line. From the time of the Roman conquest, B.C. 30, until it was taken by the Arabs, A.D. 641, Alexandria sensibly declined, partly in consequence of its being a provincial capital, instead of a royal residence, but chiefly because of the unruly disposition of its inhabitants, and their violent religious and political disputes, which at last resulted in the seat of government being transferred to the fortress of Egyptian Babylon, near the modern Cairo, which became in some sort the capital. During this period it had been distinguished for the learning of its ecclesiastics, and the strong part which they took in the theological differences of the early church. Under the Muslims Alexandria never regained the position of metropolis of Egypt, and its importance, with some fluctuations, waned until the discovery and consequent adoption of the route to India by the Cape of Good Hope almost withdrew the main cause of its prosperity. Recently, however, the resumption of the overland route has greatly benefited this city, and although it was not made the capital, it became the favourite residence of Mehemet Ali, which in like manner contributed to its welfare.

The older part of the town of Alexandria stands upon the Heptastadium, now much wider than it was anciently; but the recent part, where are the houses of the European merchants, occupies the site of a portion of the ancient city, which was nearest to the mole. The most striking edifice is the castle on the island of Pharos, containing a lighthouse, which has succeeded to the more famous Pharos of antiquity. Here also is the pasha's palace, as well as a lesser Pharos. The houses of the town are built of stone, or have their lowest story cased with that material, and the portion above built of brick plastered and whitewashed. The residences of the European merchants and consuls and the richer Turks and natives are spacious and well-built, somewhat in the modern Italian style, but have no claims to architectural beauty. The mosques are not remarkable, but the English church will, if ever completed, be a great ornament to the town. The population of the town is estimated at over 200,000. One of the favourite projects of Mehemet Ali was the fortification of Alexandria, which has been thus rendered so strong that if well garrisoned it could not be invested by a force of less than about 40,000 men.

The ancient remains are very scanty and of little interest, compared to those which are seen on the sites of other Egyptian towns. Two objects are conspicuous, one of the obelisks commonly called "Cleopatra's Needles," and the great column known as "Pompey's Pillar." The former is a fine obelisk of red granite nearly 70 feet in height, bearing hieroglyphic inscriptions with the names of Thothmes III., Ramses II., and a later king. Beside it was a fallen obelisk of the same dimensions, its fellow, now (Oct. 1877) on its way to England. They were brought here from some ancient temple during the Roman rule. Pompey's Pillar is in like manner of red granite, and its shaft is about 70 feet high, the whole column being nearly 100 feet in height. Its pedestal bears a Greek inscription in honour of the emperor Diocletian.

Proceeding to the east of Alexandria, the first place of importance is Er Rasheed, called by the Europeans Rosetta,

a considerable town on the west bank of the Rosetta branch of the Nile, anciently the Bolbitine. Before the cutting by Mehemet Ali of the Mahmoodseyeh Canal to connect Alexandria with this branch of the river, Rosetta was a place of greater importance than now, as in consequence of the decay of the old canal of Alexandria, the overland trade from India chiefly passed through it. It is a well-built town, having some gardens, and is in many respects more agreeable than Alexandria. Its population is stated to be 15,000. A little to the north of the town is the bogház, a bar of sand stretching across the mouth of the river, and rendering it often impassable; and between it and Rosetta is an old fort called Fort St Julien by the French, who repaired it during their occupation of Egypt, when one of their officers discovered the Rosetta Stone, the famous trilingual tablet which afforded the clue by which hieroglyphics were interpreted.

In ascending the Rosetta branch, the first place of interest is the site of Sais, SAÏ, on the eastern bank, marked by lofty mounds, and the remains of massive walls of crude brick, which were those of a great inclosure in which the chief temple and doubtless other sacred edifices stood. The goddess Nit or Neith was the divinity of the place, and a great festival was annually held here in her honour, to which pilgrims resorted from other parts of Egypt. Sais was remarkable for the learning of its priests, and was the royal residence of the Saitic kings (Dynasties XXIV., XXVI.) A modern village here is called "Sá-el-Hagar," or "Sais of the Stone," a name which perhaps alludes to the famous monolith described by Herodotus.

In the interior of the modern Delta no remains of importance have been discovered, though there are many ancient sites marked by mounds. The chief towns are El-Mahalleh el-Kebeereh, not far from the Damietta branch, about forty miles from the sea; Tantá, nearly in the middle of the Delta; and Manoof, farther south. Of these Tantá is best known as the birth-place of a Muslim saint, the seyyid Ahmad El-Bedawee, in whose honour three festivals are annually kept, the greatest of which attracts more pilgrims than any other in Egypt, and is in this respect second alone to the pilgrimage to Mecca. The festivals of Tantá are rather distinguished by riot than piety, and recall the revelries of Bubastis and Canopus.

Several places of interest are found on the course of the Damietta branch, the old Phatnitic or Pathmetic. First of these is the town whence it takes its name, Dimyát, called by the Europeans Damietta, which stands not far from the mouth of the branch, on its eastern side. In the time of the crusades it was a strong place, and regarded as the key of Egypt. It was taken and retaken by the contending forces, and formed the basis of the operations of St Louis in the unfortunate eighth crusade. Shortly afterwards the sultan Edh-Dháhir Beybars, in A.D. 1251, razed it and rebuilt it on the present site somewhat farther from the sea. It is a flourishing town, and has a population of 29,000 inhabitants. The next place of importance is the town of El-Mansoorah, founded by El-Melik El-Kámil, the nephew of Saladin, during the sixth crusade, to commemorate, as its name imports, his success over the invading army of Jean de Brienne. A little to the south of El-Mansoorah, on the opposite or western bank, at a short distance from the river, are the remains of a very remarkable temple of the goddess Isis, and the mounds of the town of Iseum. Although the temple is entirely thrown down, as though by a natural convulsion, but probably by human violence, its plan may be partly traced and its date ascertained, as the materials have not been removed. It was, unlike most Egyptian temples, built altogether of granite, and was about 600 feet in length and 200 in breadth. The materials must have been transported

from Syenè, a distance by the river, on which they were doubtless floated, of more than 600 miles. Bearing in mind this circumstance, and the difficulty of both working and sculpturing so hard a material, this temple must be considered to be one of the most costly in the country. The earliest name which has been found here is that of Nekht-har-heb (Dynasty XXX.), but the most common one is that of Ptolemy Philadelphus. A little to the south of this site, on the same bank, is the small town of Semennood, anciently Sebennytus; and a short distance farther, on the same side, is the village of Abou-Seer, the ancient Busiris, named after Osiris, who, with Isis, was here worshipped. Herodotus mentions among the great festivals that of Isis held at Busiris, but this was more probably kept at Iseum, which was not far. For a long distance there is nothing of interest until we reach Tel-Atreeb, where the site of the town of Athribis is marked by high mounds, with remains of ancient houses and some blocks of stone.

To the eastward of the Damietta branch, in the broad cultivated tract or the desert beyond, are some places worthy of note. The most eastern of these is the site of Pelusium, which was, in the times of the Pharaohs of Dynasty XXVI., the key of Egypt towards Palestine. No important remains have been discovered here. Between this site and the Damietta branch are the mounds of Tanis, or Zoan, ZAN, ZAR, where are considerable remains of the great temple, the most remarkable of which are several fallen obelisks, some of which are broken. From their inscriptions, and those of other blocks, it has been ascertained that the temple was as ancient as the time of Dynasty XII., and was much beautified by Ramses II. and other kings of that time and the subsequent period. Tanis was on the eastern bank of the Tanitic branch of the Nile, now called the Canal of the El-Mo'izz. On the same side of the same branch, but far to the south, was the city of Bubastis, PE-BAST, the site of which is indicated by very lofty mounds, in which may be traced the remains of its great temple, which was entirely of red granite. Here was held the festival of the goddess Bast, or Bubastis, which attracted great crowds of pilgrims, and is ranked by Herodotus first of the festivals of Egypt. Not far south, and on the borders of the desert, is Bilbeys, which was a place of some importance as a frontier-town in the time of the Eiyoohee princes. Still farther south are the mounds of Onion, the Jewish city founded by the high priest Onias, where was a temple closed by Vespasian not long after the overthrow of Jerusalem. The site is called Tell-el-Yahoodseyeh, or "The Mound of the Jewess."

At the point of the Delta is the unfinished barrage, which, by crossing both branches of the river, will regulate the inundation above and below this point. The river here becomes broader than in its divided state, and long continues so. A little south of the point of the Delta, on the eastern bank of the river, near the village of El-Matareyeh, not far north of Cairo, is the site of the ancient Heliopolis, or On, AN, the City of the Sun, marked by a solitary obelisk, and crude brick ridges formed by the ruins of a massive wall. The obelisk bears the name of Usurtesen I., the second king of Dynasty XII., in the simple inscription which runs down each of its sides. It is of red granite, and nearly 70 feet in height. The city was famous rather for the learning of its college than for its size, and the temple of the sun was held in high veneration. Many famous Greek philosophers studied here, and much of their earliest knowledge of natural science was no doubt derived from their Egyptian instructors.

Boolák, the port of Cairo, is a flourishing town, having two remarkable mosques. It was built A.H. 713, in the reign of the sultan Mohammad Ibn Kalá-oon. Here M.

Mariette has founded the national "Musée Boulaq," a splendid collection of Egyptian antiquities.

Cairo is the fourth Muslim capital of Egypt; the site of one of those that have preceded it is, for the most part, included within its walls, while the other two were a little to the south. 'Amr, the Muslim conqueror of the country, founded El-Fustát, the oldest of these, close to the fortress of Egyptian Babylon, the seat of government at that time. Its name signifies "the Tent," as it was built where 'Amr had pitched his tent. The new town speedily became a place of importance, and was the residence of the Náibs, or lieutenants, appointed by the orthodox and Ommiade caliphs. It received the name of Masr, properly Misr, which was also applied by the Arabs to Memphis and to Cairo. It declined after the foundation of El-Káhíreh, but never became altogether deserted, for a small town, called Masr El-'Ateekah, or "Old Masr," occupies, in the present day, part of what was its area in its time of prosperity. Shortly after the overthrow of the Ommiade Dynasty, and the establishment of the 'Abbásee, the city of El-'Askar was founded (A.H. 133) by Suleymán, the general who subjugated the country, and became the capital and the residence of the successive lieutenants of the 'Abbásee caliphs. El-'Askar was a small town adjacent to El-Fustát, of which it was a kind of suburb. Its site is now entirely desolate. The third capital, El-Katáé, or El-Katáyé, was founded about A.H. 260, by Ahmad Ibn-Tooloon, as his capital. It continued the royal residence of his successors; but not long after the fall of the dynasty, and the subsequent Ikhsheedees, the seat of government was transferred by the Fátímees to a new city, El-Káhíreh. El-Katáé, which had been sacked on the overthrow of the Tooloónees, rapidly decayed. A part of the present Cairo occupies its site, and contains its great mosque, that of Ahmad Ibn-Tooloon.

Góhar el-Káid, the conqueror of Egypt for the Fátímees caliph El-Mo'izz, founded a new capital, A.H. 358, which was named El-Káhíreh, that is, "the Victorious," a name corrupted into Cairo. This town occupied about a fourth part, the north-eastern, of the present metropolis. By degrees it became greater than El-Fustát, and took from it the name of Misr, or Masr, which is applied to it by the modern Egyptians. It continually increased, so as to include the site of El-Katáé to the south, and of the old town of El-Maks to the west. The famous Saladin built the Citadel on the lowest point of the mountain to the east, which immediately overlooked El-Katáé, and he partly walled round the towns and large gardens within the space now called Cairo. Under the prosperous rule of the Memlook sultans this great tract was filled with habitations; a large suburb to the north, the Hoseyneeyeh, was added; and the town of Boolák was founded. After the Turkish conquest (A.D. 1517) the metropolis decayed, but its limits were the same; with the present dynasty it has somewhat recovered.

Cairo is of an irregular oblong form. Its greatest length is about three miles, and its average breadth about a mile and a half, and its dimensions do not fall very much short of these in any part. M. Jacotin (*Description de l'Égypte*, xviii. p. 111) estimates the superficies of Cairo at 793 hectares, or about 3 square miles. This surface is not, however, entirely occupied by houses, for it contains the Citadel and various extensive gardens and open spaces, as well as lakes. Most of the streets are extremely narrow, and the markets generally crowded, so that the stranger usually acquires a delusive idea of the density of the population. Mr Lane states the population to have been 240,000 before the great plague of 1835, and adds that the deficiency, equal to not less than one-third of the inhabitants, caused by that terrible visitation, would be speedily supplied from the villages. (*Modern Egyptians*, Introduc.



tion.) Sir Gardner Wilkinson, in his *Modern Egypt and Thebes* (i. 256), published in 1843, gives the population at about 200,000; and Mrs Poole, writing in 1842, estimates it at about 240,000 (*Englishwoman in Egypt*, i. 136); but Clot-Bey (*Aperçu Général*, i. 204), whose work appeared in 1840, states the much higher amount of about 300,000 souls. The census of 1847-8 states the more moderate number of 253,541 inhabitants, and in this instance it is not likely to have been far wrong. We may fairly suppose that during the time of comparative prosperity that followed the great plague of 1835, the population gradually increased to about 250,000, and that the cholera in 1848, and the conscriptions occasioned by the Crimean War, somewhat diminished its amount, which in the subsequent time of peace rose to the present sum of about 350,000. Of the population of 240,000, in Mr Lane's estimate, about 190,000 were Muslim Egyptians, about 10,000 Copts, 3000 or 4000 Jews, and the rest, strangers from various countries. The adult male population was about one-third of the whole, or 80,000 persons, of whom 30,000 were merchants, petty shopkeepers, and artisans, 20,000 domestic servants, and 15,000 common labourers, porters, &c.; the remainder chiefly consisting of military and civil servants of the Government. (*Modern Egyptians*, l. c.)

Cairo is still the most remarkable and characteristic of Arab cities. The beauty of its religious and domestic architecture, before the recent innovations, is unexcelled elsewhere. The edifices raised by the Moorish kings of Spain and the Muslim rulers of India may have been more splendid in their materials, and more elaborate in their details; the houses of the great men of Damascus may be more costly than were those of the Memlook beys; but for purity of taste and elegance of design both are far excelled by many of the mosques and houses of Cairo. These mosques have suffered much in the beauty of their appearance from the effects of time and neglect; but their colour has been often thus softened, and their outlines rendered the more picturesque. What is most to be admired in their style of architecture is its extraordinary freedom from restraint, shown in the wonderful variety of its forms, and the skill in design which has made the most intricate details to harmonize with grand outlines. Here the student may best learn the history of Arab art. Like its contemporary Gothic, it has three great periods, those of growth, maturity, and decline. Of the first, the mosque of Ahmad Ibn-Tooloon in the southern part of Cairo, and the three great gates of El-Káhíreh (the old city), the Bab-en-Nasr, Bab-el-Futooh, and Bab-Zuweyleh, are splendid examples. The leading forms are simple and massive, with in the mosque horse-shoe arches. The decoration is in friezes, and its details of conventionalized foliage. The second period passes from the highest point to which this art attained to a luxuriance promising decay. The mosque of Sultan Hasan, below the Citadel, those of Mueiyad and Kalá-oon, with the Barkokeyeh, in the main street of the old city, and the mosque of Barkook in the Cemetery of Káit Bey, are instances of the earlier and best style of this period. The forms, though still massive, are less simple, and they are admirably adapted to the necessities of space. The decoration is in conventionalized foliage of the most free forms, balanced by exquisite geometrical patterns. Of the last style of this period, the Ghoreeyeh, in the main street of the old city, and the mosque of Káit Bey in his cemetery, are beautiful specimens. They show an elongation of forms and an excess of decoration in which the florid qualities predominate. Of the age of decline the finest monument is the mosque of Mohammad Bey Aboo-Dahab, in the old city. The forms are now poor, though not lacking in grandeur, and the details are not as well adjusted as before, with a want of mastery of the most suitable

decoration. The usual plan of a congregational mosque is a large, square, open court, surrounded by colonnades, of which the chief, often with more rows of columns, faces Mecca (eastward), and has inside its outer wall a decorated niche to mark the direction of prayer. In the centre is a fountain for ablutions, often surmounted by a dome, and in the eastern colonnade a pulpit and a desk for readers. When a mosque is also the founder's tomb, it has a richly ornamented sepulchral chamber. Of domestic architecture there are a few precious fragments before the age of decline; but most specimens are of the latest period of that age. These are marked by a singular fitness and great elegance in the interiors. The decoration, though inferior to that of the mosques of the best style, is charming for variety and beauty of pattern. See CAIRO, and also ARCHITECTURE, vol. ii. pp. 445-44.

To the east of Cairo is a bold spur of the mountains known as El-Gebel El-Mukattam. Beneath it, and to the north of the Citadel, is the Cemetery of Káit Bey, remarkable for the splendid tombs of the Memlook sultans. The most beautiful of these is that of Káit Bey, from which the cemetery takes its name, but those of the sultan Barkook and of El-Ghooree must not be passed by unmentioned. At a little distance to the north-east is the Gebel-el-Ahmár, or "Red Mountain," and southward of this, petrified wood in large quantities is seen strewn on the surface of the desert. The space between Cairo and the Nile, varying from a mile to a mile and a half in breadth, is occupied by plantations which were made by Ibrahim Pasha during his father's rule. Formerly this side of the city was, as the other three are still partially, bounded by lofty mounds of rubbish; these he caused to be removed, and by doing so conferred a great benefit upon the inhabitants, as well as by planting with trees the intervening space. By irrigating this tract very freely with a steam-engine he considerably lessened the good he had effected, rendering the western part of the city somewhat damp. To the south of Cairo is a great cemetery containing the tomb of the Imám Esh-Sháfe'ee, and also an aqueduct, built by the sultan El-Ghooree, which conducts water from the Nile to the Citadel; and further south, the Roman fortress of Egyptian Babylon, now called Kasr-esh-Shema, at present chiefly occupied by a Coptic convent, as well as the small town of Masr El-Ateekah, which is all that remains of the famous metropolis El-Fustát. It contains no remarkable edifices: in its immediate neighbourhood, however, is the oldest mosque in Egypt, that of 'Amr, the Muslim conqueror, but it has been so frequently repaired and almost rebuilt that it is impossible to form any idea of its original appearance. Opposite to Masr El-Ateekah, from which it is separated by a very narrow branch of the Nile, is the island of Er-Ródah, containing the famous Mikyás, or Nilometer.

The chief place on the western bank near Cairo is the small town of El-Geezeh, opposite Masr El-Ateekah. El-Geezeh is best known as having given its name to the most famous group of Pyramids, the chief monuments of Memphis, which stand on the slightly elevated border of the low Libyan range, not more than a quarter of a mile beyond the limit of the cultivated land. The city of Memphis, MEN-NOFER, "the good station," stood on the western bank of the Nile about ten miles above Cairo. It was founded by Menes, the first king of Egypt. The kings and people who dwelt there chose the nearest part of the desert as their burial-place, and built tombs on its rocky edge, or excavated them in its sides. The kings raised pyramids around which their subjects were buried in comparatively small sepulchres. The pyramids were grouped together, and often there is a long distance from one group to another. Although many pyramids had been nearly or wholly destroyed, yet, as the largest undoubt-

edly remain, the general features of the necropolis cannot be much changed. From the Citadel of Cairo we obtain a good view of the several groups. First, opposite to us, but a little to the south, are the three great Pyramids of El-Geezeh, two of which exceed all the others in magnitude; at some distance farther south we see those of Aboo-Seer, likewise three in number, of smaller dimensions, and, not so far beyond them, the great Pyramid of Sakkárah, called from its form that of Steps, with smaller pyramids in its neighbourhood. Farthest of all, after a wider interval, are the two large Pyramids of Dahshoor, which approach in size the two great structures of El-Geezeh. There are more to the south as far as the Feiyoom, the last being that of El-Láhoon, but none above the Pyramids of Dahshoor can be included within the Memphite necropolis. That great tract extended, if we measure from the ruined Pyramid of Aboo-Ruweysh, somewhat to the north of those of El-Geezeh, to the southernmost Pyramid of Dahshoor, throughout a space of nearly twenty miles, in almost every part of which some sepulchres have been discovered, while it cannot be doubted that many more await a fortunate explorer.

The road to the pyramids of El-Geezeh from the town is through cultivated fields diversified by villages in palm-groves. As we approach them, these structures do not give us that idea of size that we had expected from our first distant view; and until we stand at their feet we do not appreciate their vastness. But as we endeavour to scan the height of the Great Pyramid, when about to begin its ascent, we fully realize a result that human labour has not achieved elsewhere. The very dimensions (a height of about half a thousand feet, four sides each measuring the seventh of a mile) are in themselves gigantic; but when we know that this huge space is almost solid, containing a few chambers so small as not to be worthy of consideration in calculating its contents, we discover that no monuments of man's raising elsewhere afford any scale by which to estimate its greatness. The Pyramids, except one or more small ones, were tombs of kings. Each had its name and a priest attached to it, for whose functions there was a chapel at some distance in front of the entrance.

The Great Pyramid, "the Splendid," was the mausoleum of Khufu, or Cheops, of Dynasty IV. The present perpendicular height of the structure is, according to General Vyse, 450 feet 9 inches, and the side of its present base 746 feet. It is about 30 feet lower than it was originally, in consequence of the casing stones and much of the outer masonry having been torn off; and its base is likewise smaller. General Vyse gives the former height at 480 feet 9 inches, and the side of the former base at 764 feet. Like all the other pyramids, it faces the cardinal points. At the completion of the pyramid the faces were smooth and polished, but now they present a series of great steps formed by the courses of stone, and are in some places (particularly in the middle of each face, and at the angles, and about the entrance) much broken. The ascent is easy though fatiguing, and the traveller is amply rewarded by the view which he obtains from the platform, about 32 feet square, at the summit. The prospect of the fertile plain and valley on the one side, and of the undulating barren surface of the Great Desert on the other, as well as of the pyramids and tombs beneath, is alike remarkable from its character and the associations which it calls up. The examination of the interior is no less interesting. All other tombs but the Memphite pyramids, and those which were simply pits, were not closed, the upper chamber being intended for the performance of funeral rites when the family of the deceased visited his sepulchre. These pyramids, however, were most carefully closed. The chambers which contained the bodies of the king, and of those (doubtless of his family) who were sometimes buried

in the same structure, are without sculptures, and scarcely ornamented in any way, being usually wholly plain. The passages leading to them are only large enough to admit a sarcophagus, and after the king's burial were closed by the lowering of heavy stone portcullises, and the blocking up of the entrance. The desired object was security, and we must not, therefore, expect beauty or grandeur in chambers constructed for this purpose, although we cannot fail to admire their massive and gloomy aspect.

The entrance of the Great Pyramid is not far from the middle of the northern face, 49 feet in perpendicular height from the base. The fallen stones and rubbish have, however, raised a mound which reaches nearly to the entrance, the masonry about which having been torn down, we gain some idea of the construction of the pyramid. In this manner the passage has lost somewhat of its length. The passage itself is 3 feet 11 inches high, and 3 feet 5½ inches wide, and is lined with fine limestone. It descends at an angle of 26° 41'.<sup>1</sup> At a distance of 63 feet 2 inches from the beginning of the roof of the present entrance, a second passage commences from this, taking an ascending direction. The entrance of this new passage is obstructed by great blocks of granite which entirely fill it, and have been passed by means of an excavation around them. We thus enter the ascending passage, which is of the same breadth and height as the former, and inclines at an angle of 26° 18'. The stones which line its roof and sides are very rough, and it has evidently been left unfinished. After ascending this passage for a distance of 109 feet 7 inches, we reach the Grand Passage, which, from its greater dimensions, presents a comparatively imposing appearance. It ascends at the same angle as the last, while a horizontal passage runs beneath it to a chamber to be subsequently mentioned. Just within the Grand Passage is the mouth of the Well, an irregular pit, partly excavated in the rock, leading to the lower portion of the first passage. Its object was probably to afford an exit to the workmen who had been engaged in closing the ascending passage. The Grand Passage is 6 feet 10 inches in width at its base, 28 feet high, and 156 feet long. The blocks which compose its sides gradually approach, every course above the second projecting a little, and on each side is a stone bench. At the end of this passage a horizontal one begins, of much smaller but unequal dimensions, and 22 feet 1 inch in length, leading to the Grand Chamber, commonly called the King's Chamber, which it enters at the eastern end of its north side. This, which is the principal sepulchral chamber (unless, indeed, there be an undiscovered one of greater importance), is lined with red granite, and measures in length 34 feet 3 inches, in width 17 feet 1 inch, and in height 19 feet 1 inch. It is altogether plain, and contains only a sarcophagus of red granite, which is equally unadorned. Above this chamber are five small ones, which may be called entresols, evidently designed to lighten the pressure of the superincumbent masonry, particularly as the uppermost of them has a pointed roof. Four of these were discovered by the late General Howard Vyse, who found in them quarry-marks, bearing, in two varieties, the name of Khufu, the royal builder of the pyramid. These chambers are reached with difficulty, and chiefly by forced passages. The horizontal passage beneath the Grand Passage must now be described. This is but 3 feet 10 inches high, and

<sup>1</sup> See Sir John Herschel's "Observations on the Entrance Passages in the Pyramids of Gizeh," in Vyse's *Pyramids of Gizeh*, vol. ii. 107-109. The different angles of the entrance passages of other pyramids, and the circumstance that they were always closed at the completion of the buildings, show that the fact of this one's having pointed, at a supposed date of its erection, to a Draconis, which was then the pole-star, is not to be regarded as more than accidental. Nevertheless, as above mentioned, the pyramids face the cardinal points.



3 feet 5½ inches wide, for the first 92 feet of its length, and then we descend a step and find the passage to be 5 feet 8 inches high for 17 feet 11 inches farther, until it enters the "Queen's Chamber," as it is usually called, at the eastern corner of its north side. This chamber is 18 feet 9 inches long, and 17 feet broad, and its extreme height is 20 feet 3 inches. It has a pointed roof, of great blocks of stone, inclined upwards and meeting in the middle. Within it is the entrance of a forced passage. The remainder of the first passage, beyond where the first ascending passage leads to the most interesting parts of the structure, is still to be noticed. It continues below the forced entrance to the ascending passage for a distance of 239 feet 10 inches, being cut through the rock on which the pyramid is built. For this space its inclination and proportions do not change, but it then becomes horizontal for 27 feet, terminating at the entrance of an excavated chamber 46 feet in length, and 27 feet 1 inch in breadth, but of irregular and inconsiderable height. There is no doubt that this chamber was left unfinished at the closing of the pyramid. Beyond it the passage continues, opposite to where it entered the chamber, and extends horizontally 52 feet 9 inches into the rock in the same direction.

The Second Pyramid, which bore the name of "the Great," and was the tomb of Khafra, or Chephren (Dynasty IV.), stands at a short distance to the south-west of the Great Pyramid, which does not very much exceed it in magnitude, though far superior in its construction. It has a base of 690 feet 9 inches square, and is 447 feet 6 inches in height, being more steep than its larger neighbour. A great part of its casing having been preserved, extending about a fourth of the distance from the summit, the ascent is very difficult, especially as when one has climbed on to the cased portion he can see nothing of the lower part of the building, and thus feels as if upon a pyramid in the air. There are two entrances, both in the north side, from which, and other peculiarities, it is possible that the building was originally much smaller than now, and that, after its first completion, it was enlarged, and a new entrance and sepulchral chamber added.

The Third Pyramid, "the Superior," the tomb of Menkaura, or Mycerinus, is almost in a line with the other two, and of much smaller dimensions, being only 203 feet in height, and 354 feet 6 inches square at the base. It is constructed beautifully, and in a costly manner, and in these respects is unexcelled, if equalled, by any other pyramid. The exterior was anciently cased altogether, or in part, with granite, but this has been generally torn off. General Vyse opened it, and found that it had been previously ransacked. In it he discovered a very beautiful sarcophagus (which was unfortunately lost at sea on its way to England), as well as part of a mummy-case, bearing the name of King Menkaura, and a mummy, not certainly the king's, both of which are now in the British Museum. This confirms the statement of Herodotus that it was the tomb of Mycerinus. Manetho says that it was built by Queen Nitocris (Dynasty VI.). This apparent inconsistency is explained, as Bunsen remarks (*Egypt's Place*, ii. 165, *seq.*, 210, *seq.*), by the construction of the pyramid, which has two principal chambers, and was evidently enlarged after its first completion, so that we may reasonably suppose that it is the sepulchre of both Mencheres and Queen Nitocris.

Near the three large pyramids are six smaller ones; three of these are near the east side of the Great Pyramid, and three on the south side of the Third Pyramid. They were probably the tombs of near relations of the kings who founded the great pyramids. The space around the pyramids is occupied by very numerous tombs, some built of stone, others excavated in the sides of the rock on which

the pyramids stand, while others are simply pits with sepulchral chambers leading from them. The most interesting of these occupy a square bounded on the east by the Great Pyramid and on the south by the Second, and are mostly the sepulchres of the subjects of Khufu and other kings of Dynasties IV. and V. These tombs, which are of inconsiderable dimensions in comparison with many at Thebes and elsewhere, are all built of stone, and have inclined walls, so as to resemble truncated pyramids. They usually contain a chapel, or more rarely chapels, the walls of which are decorated with most remarkable painted sculptures, portraying the everyday life of the Egyptians at that remote age, with short inscriptions of an explanatory character. The absence of representations of the gods and subjects clearly connected with religion is noteworthy. Other similar tombs stand to the east and south of the Great Pyramid; and in the former direction are the principal sepulchral grottoes hewn in the side of the elevated rocky tract on which the pyramids stand. Some of these excavations bear similar representations to those of the other tombs already mentioned. To the east of the Second Pyramid is the Great Sphinx, called in Egyptian "hu," emblem of Hor-em-akhu, "Horus in the horizon," one of the most characteristic monuments of this wonderful necropolis, of an earlier date than the Great Pyramid. It is a recumbent androsphinx, or man-headed lion, 188 feet 9½ inches in length, hewn out of a natural eminence in the solid rock, some defects of which are supplied by a partial stone-casing, the legs being likewise added. Steps lead down to its front, where are a sanctuary and tablets, but these are covered by the sand, which, after the hollow has been cleared, speedily fills it again. Not far to the westward of the Sphinx is the remarkable excavation known as Campbell's Tomb, discovered by General Vyse, chiefly consisting of a large pit surrounded by a trench. The causeways leading to the Great Pyramid and to the Third, the former of which greatly excited the admiration of Herodotus, are well worthy of a careful examination. The only pyramid which stands to the north of this group is that of Abou-Ruweysh, which is in so ruined a condition as scarcely to deserve a visit. It lies about five miles to the north of the Great Pyramid.

Southward of the Pyramids of El-Gezeh, the first objects of interest are those forming the similar group of Abou-Seer, of much smaller dimensions, the largest being about the size of the Third Pyramid. They are on the elevated edge of the Libyan chain, about seven miles from the Third Pyramid, and are four in number, three being large, and the fourth very small. The Northern Pyramid of Abou-Seer appears to have been the tomb of Sahura of Dynasty V., and the Middle Pyramid is the tomb of Ranuser of the same line.

About two miles farther in the same direction are the Pyramids of Sakkarah, the greatest and most remarkable of which is called the Pyramid of Steps. The tract around them appears from the number of the tombs to have been the principal burialplace of Memphis, to which it is near. The Pyramid of Steps has a height of 196 feet 6 inches, and its base formerly measured on the north and south sides 351 feet 2 inches, and on the east and west 393 feet 11 inches. Within it are numerous passages and a gallery, which must, for the most part, have been made subsequently to the completion of the structure. In the centre is a very lofty and narrow chamber, and near it a small one, which was lined with blue tiles. In the latter was an inscription containing the title of the bulls Apis. Under the old monarchy those sacred animals were here entombed. It is thought that this pyramid was constructed by Uenephe of Dynasty I. If Manetho be correct in assigning the introduction of the worship of Apis to a later king, this

pyramid, if of Uenephe, was originally a royal sepulchre. In the tract between the Pyramids of Sakkarah and Abou-Seer are the remains of the Sarapeum, and the burialplace of the bulls Apis, both discovered by M. Mariette. They are inclosed by a great wall, having been connected, for the Sarapeum was the temple of the defunct Apis. The tombs are in subterranean galleries or in separate excavations which contain many sarcophagi, in which the bulls were entombed. Not the least important result of this discovery is the certainty that Sarapis was a form of Osiris, and that his name was Hesiri-hâpi, or Osiris-Apis (Brugsch, *Reiseberichte aus Aegypten*, 27, *seqq.*), as Sir Gardner Wilkinson had long previously suggested (*Materia Hieroglyphica*, 21, and *Vocab. MS.* addition). The other pyramids are of comparatively little interest. There are also some curious private tombs, among which may be particularized a large grotto excavated in the face of the rock overlooking the valley, which is remarkable for being vaulted on the principle of the true arch, but without a key-stone. It is of the time of Psammeticus I. of Dynasty XXVI., being, as Sir Gardner Wilkinson remarks, one of the two earliest known examples of the arch in stone, though, as he adds, there are brick arches at Thebes of the time of Amenophis I. of Dynasty XVIII. (*Modern Egypt and Thebes*, i. 368-9).

The site of Memphis is marked by mounds in the cultivated tract to the east of the Pyramids of Sakkarah, and near the village of Meet-Rabeeneh. Of the great temple of Ptah, its tutelary divinity, there are no remains above ground, except a few blocks of stone and some broken statues, one of which is a fine colossus of Ramses II., which most probably stood in ancient times before one of the principal entrances of the temple. It is of white chert, and beautifully executed, representing the king in a standing posture. It has fallen to the ground, and has lost part of its legs; nevertheless it has suffered considerable damage elsewhere, so as to be still one of the finest specimens of Egyptian art. The original height was more than 40 feet. This colossus is the property of the British nation, but no steps have been taken to remove it to this country. As Sir Gardner Wilkinson remarks, "when the Turks have burnt it for lime, it will be regretted" (*Modern Egypt and Thebes*, i. 373). The site of Memphis being in the cultivated tract, and near the modern capitals of Egypt, its monuments have alike suffered from the destructive power of nature, and from the barbarism of those who have used them as quarries or defaced them from motives of fanaticism. The Pyramids have not escaped man's violence, but their vastness has generally defied his attacks.

At a distance of about five miles to the south of the Pyramid of Steps is the northernmost of the Pyramids of Dahshoor, an interesting group, of the history of which nothing certain is known. To their north is a vast truncated pyramid, the sepulchre of Unas, last king of Dynasty V., anciently called "the Most Beautiful Place," now Mastabat Faraon, or "Pharaoh's Seat." Two of the Pyramids of Dahshoor are of stone, and three of crude brick. The former exceed in size all the other pyramids except the First and Second of El-Gezeh, and have remarkable chambers within them. The Northern Stone Pyramid has a base of 700 feet, and a height of 326 feet 6 inches, and has lost somewhat of its size, having originally measured 719 feet 5 inches, and 342 feet 7 inches. Some of the casing remains. It has an entrance in the northern face, leading to three chambers of similar construction to the Grand Passage in the Great Pyramid. The Southern Stone Pyramid is distinguished by the peculiarity of its form and by having two entrances, one in the eastern face and the other in the northern. The lower portion has an

angle of 54° 14' 46", but the inclination then changes to 42° 59' 26." It has been supposed that it was suddenly completed, having been originally planned to be much loftier, but the method in which the pyramids were built renders this unlikely; and it seems rather to have been given this form to gratify a whim of the founder, especially as the entrances in different faces afford another peculiarity. Its base is 615 feet 8 inches, and its height 319 feet 6 inches. At its southern side is a small brick pyramid. The Northern and Southern Brick Pyramids of Dahshoor are to the east of those already described. They are now in a very ruined state, being merely mounds of crude brick, one of them is probably the Pyramid of Asychis mentioned by Herodotus.

Among the earlier explorers of the necropolis of Memphis was Belzoni, by whom the Second Pyramid was opened. General Howard Vyse first undertook a complete examination of the series of pyramids, and having secured the assistance of Mr Perring, carried out this project with well-merited success. Professor Lepsius, the head of the Prussian expedition, opened many tombs in the Memphite necropolis, and has published in his magnificent work (*Denkmäler aus Aegypten und Aethiopien*) the most interesting sculptures which they contain. M. Mariette, aided by the French Government, discovered the Sarapeum and the tombs of the bulls Apis, and has since continued his researches under the authority of the khedive.

The voyage up the Nile from Cairo may now be described. Not far south of Masr El-Ateekah, the mountain and desert approach very near the river on that side, and soon after the wide opening of a valley is seen. Beyond it is a bold promontory of the eastern range, which first gradually recedes and then becomes parallel with the river for some distance, leaving but a narrow strip of cultivated land. Behind the village of Turâ, the ancient Troja, are the quarries named after it, and a little farther to the south are those of El-Maasarah. These quarries are great excavated chambers and passages, which are entered by large square apertures in the steep face of the mountain. Hence were taken the finer blocks of limestone employed in the construction of the Pyramids of El-Gezeh. Tablets in both quarries record the quarrying executed under different sovereigns. South of the quarries the character of the eastern bank continues unchanged, and presents no remarkable object until we reach the promontory of the Sheykh Abou-Noor, which will be subsequently mentioned. The western bank, on the contrary, is broad and fertile, abounding in villages, and above its palm-groves rise in the distance the massive forms of the long series of pyramids. Considerably beyond those of Dahshoor, which may be considered as the most southern in the Memphite necropolis, are the two Pyramids of El-Metaneeeyeh, which are too small to be seen from the river, and yet farther the solitary Pyramid of Meydoom, commonly called the False Pyramid. Dr Brugsch thinks it very probable that it was the tomb of Senoferu, last king of Dynasty III. It is a structure of great size, having a base of about 400 feet, and a height of about 310 feet. In consequence of blocks having been pulled off its sides for building purposes, it has the appearance of being built in two degrees, the lower of which is much greater than the upper, while the fallen stones around its base make it seem as if raised upon an eminence to increase its apparent size, and hence its name. The entrance has not been discovered. Its position, rising alone above the rich valley and desert beyond, without any object by which to measure its size, render this pyramid, especially when seen from some distance across a broad part of the river to the north, a very striking object. There is nothing else worthy of a visit on the western bank until



we reach the town of Benee-Suweyf, about seventy miles by the course of the river from Cairo.

Benee-Suweyf is a busy town, being the port of the Feiyoom. A road leads hence to that province, in a north-westerly direction. After crossing the great canal called the Bahr-Yoosuf, we pass through the opening in the Libyan range which leads to the Feiyoom, leaving on our right the ruined brick Pyramid of El-Láhoon, so called from an adjacent village.

The Feiyoom, including its lake, is a pear-shaped tract (its narrowest part being to the west), extending into the desert, and measuring in its greatest length about thirty miles, and in its greatest breadth about twenty. The part now cultivated is more than two-thirds of this extent from the east. At the north-western extremity is the great lake of El-Karn, which is long and narrow, and fills the northern portion of the valley. A branch of the Bahr-Yoosuf flows through the opening leading to the Feiyoom. This canal soon spreads into many streams, two of which, after joining into a single course, carry off the superabundant waters of the inundation into the lake of El-Karn, while they contribute with the others to irrigate the cultivable tracts.

The site of the famous Labyrinth first claims our notice after entering the Feiyoom. Its position may be known by a ruined crude brick pyramid, that of Hawárah, which is spoken of by both Herodotus and Strabo, and may be called the Pyramid of the Labyrinth. The remains of the Labyrinth itself, which had been previously known, were first carefully examined by the Prussian expedition headed by Professor Lepsius, in 1843. The structure was so ruined, however, that the results were not as decisive as might have been hoped. Yet the plan was to some extent made out, and the building shown to have contained a great number of very small chambers, as ancient writers had said; and the discovery of royal names of Dynasty XII., particularly of Amenemhat III., to whom Manetho ascribes the founding of the Labyrinth, leaves little doubt that this king was the Mœris who built the Labyrinth, according to the classic writers. The use of this building has not been distinctly ascertained. Manetho indeed makes it to have been the founder's tomb, but it is most probable that he was buried in the pyramid, which, however, the Egyptian historian may have regarded as part of the Labyrinth, as it is evidently connected with that structure.

Not far beyond the site of the Labyrinth is the capital of the province, usually called "El-Medeeneh," or "the City," and "Medeenet-el-Feiyoom," "the City" or "Capital of the Feiyoom," close to the mounds of the ancient Arsinoë, or Crocodilopolis. It is a small but flourishing town. The only monuments of antiquity in its neighbourhood are the remains at Beyáhmoo somewhat to the north, and the great broken tablet at Begeeg, at a smaller distance to the south. The former are two structures supposed by some to be pyramids, and the latter, which is a record of the time of Usurtesen I., is usually called an obelisk, but it must rather be regarded as a very tall and narrow stele or tablet, upwards of 40 feet in height.

In this part of the Feiyoom, to the north of El-Medeeneh, may be traced the remains of that remarkable hydraulic work the Lake Mœris. M. Linant, a French engineer, was the first to determine the position and character of this famous work of antiquity; and the results of his investigations are in accordance with the opinions of some who had previously noticed the subject in published works (*Mémoire sur le Lac Mœris*, Soc. Eg., 1843). The object of the Lake Mœris was to regulate the irrigation of the Feiyoom, anciently the Crocodilopolite Nome, and

afterwards the Arsinoite: and it was valuable on account of its fisheries. It seems rather to have deserved the name of a very large reservoir than that of a lake. Notwithstanding the drying up of the Lake Mœris, the Feiyoom is still an important and fertile province. It produces very large quantities of grapes; and the fields of roses, cultivated for the sake of rose-water, present a remarkable appearance.

The great Lake of El-Karn is perhaps the most interesting object in this part of Egypt. Its name, Birket-el-Karn, signifies "The Lake of the Horn," or "Projection," by which an island is intended, and not its general form, as has been supposed. It is, according to Sir Gardner Wilkinson, about 35 miles long and about 7 broad at its widest part and is not deep, as far as has been ascertained. The water is brackish and unwholesome, though derived from the Nile, which has at all seasons a much higher level. It is bounded on the south by tracts in a state of cultivation, or deserted for want of labourers, though anciently cultivated, and on the north by the Libyan desert, above which rises a bold range of mountains; and it has a strange and picturesque wildness. Its northern shore was anciently cultivated, at least in part, but is now entirely waste. Near the lake are several sites of ancient towns, and the temple called Kasr-Károon distinguishes the most important of these. That temple, however, being devoid of sculpture, and doubtless of the Roman period, could not attract attention except in a region barren of monuments. After this cursory view of the Feiyoom we may return to the Nile and continue our southward course.

Not far south of Benee-Suweyf the eastern chain is washed by the river at the picturesque promontory of the Sheykh Abou-Noor, whose tomb stands on its summit. From this point as far as the town of Manfaloot the mountains on the east are close to the Nile, leaving a narrow space of cultivable land, or none at all, while the western bank is far broader than before. For forty miles nothing remarkable attracts the eye except the lofty mounds of ancient towns, until one sees the well-proportioned minaret of a mosque in the large village of Semeloot, said to have been erected by the architect of the mosque of Sultan Hasan at Cairo. Not far beyond, the river washes the picturesque cliffs of Gebel-et-Teyr, or the Mountain of Birds, part of the eastern range. Upon its summit stands a Coptic convent, called the Convent of the Virgin, Deyr-el-'Adra. One of the monks of this convent usually climbs down the steep face of the mountain by a dizzy path, and swims to the traveller's boat to solicit alms as a fellow Christian. In this part of Egypt we first begin to notice the entrances of grottoes in the face of the eastern mountains, but none of these for some distance are known to be of any interest. Not far beyond Gebel-et-Teyr is the town of El-Minyeh, on the western bank, a place wearing a cheerful aspect. Opposite El-Minyeh are quarries and sepulchral grottoes, the most remarkable of the latter being at a site called El-Kóm-el-Ahmar, or "the Red Mound." These are of the age of Dynasties IV. and VI., but they have sustained so much damage in modern times that they do not repay a visit, except from one who is a student of hieroglyphics. A governor of El-Minyeh, an ignorant Turk, used these ancient tombs as quarries; and had it not been for the interference of Mr Harris of Alexandria, the more important grottoes of Benee-Hasan would have shared the same fate at his hands.

The first noteworthy objects above El-Minyeh are the sepulchral grottoes of Benee-Hasan, which are inferior to none in Egypt for beauty and interest. They are excavated in the face of the eastern mountains, which are here very low and sloping, and separated from the river by a small extent of debris and desert, and a very narrow strip of

cultivable land. The grottoes are almost in a line near the summit of the mountain, and at no great height above the river. The two northernmost are remarkable for having porticoes, each supported by two polygonal columns of an order which is believed to be the prototype of the Doric. Most of the grottoes are adorned with sculptures and paintings, which portray with eminent truthfulness and character the manners of the Egyptians of the remote period at which they were executed, for they are tombs of nomarchs and other governors of Dynasty XII. They generally consist of a chapel of large dimensions, having sometimes a portico before it, and a niche with seated figures of the chief persons buried in the tomb at the extremity, and have pits leading to sepulchral chambers. The principal apartment is sometimes supported by pillars cut out of the rock, and vaulted. Its walls bear representations of the diversions of the occupant during his lifetime, and of his varied occupations, in scenes depicting hunting, fishing, games, feasts, the processes of agriculture, and the like. The figures of beasts and birds, more especially the latter, are characterized by a remarkable fidelity and beauty, and there can be no doubt that Egyptian art had attained a greater excellence at this time than it possessed under Dynasty IV. A little to the south of these grottoes, in a ravine, is the Speos Artemidos, a small rock-temple of Sekhet or Pakht, the Egyptian Diana, and some sepulchres of little interest.

A few miles to the south of the Speos Artemidos are two sites, one on either side of the river, which were marked, in the present century, by most important monuments, which have since been destroyed by the Turks. That on the western side, near the large village of El-Ashmooneya, the ancient Hermopolis Magna, was part of a magnificent portico, bearing the names of Philip Aridaeus, Alexander Ægus, and Ptolemy I., all that stood of the temple of Thoth; and on the opposite side of the river were considerable remains of the edifices of the town of Antinoöpolis founded by Hadrian. While we regret the destruction of such interesting records, we must not charge either the Turks or the native Egyptians with all the mischief of this kind which is perpetrated, and our sorrow is increased by the reflection that to European travellers, principally Englishmen and Americans, must be assigned no small share in the destruction or mutilation of the monuments, which in the case of educated men is nothing less than a crime.

A short distance south of Antinoöpolis is the town of Mel-lawee, on the western bank, and a little farther, on the other side of the river, the promontory called Gebel-esh-Sheykh Sa'eed, which is honeycombed with grottoes, some of which are shown by their sculptures to be very ancient, but are so ill preserved as to require but a short examination. A little beyond, however, in the district of Tell-el-Amárineh, or the Mound of El-Amárineh, a small fertile tract where the eastern mountains recede, noted, like Benee-Hasan, for the turbulent and thievish propensities of its inhabitants, are most curious remains of a very ancient town. It was the capital of Khu-n-aten, the sun-worshipper of Dynasty XVIII., and was no doubt destroyed by Horus, and not subsequently rebuilt. In the mountain behind it are very interesting sepulchral grottoes, in which were buried the courtiers of this king, and from them we obtain much information respecting his religion, a very pure form of sun-worship. The representations are chiefly of the king, his queen, and their children, distributing presents to the soldiers and others, of acts of worship to the sun, and of the temple of the sun as well as gardens and villas.

On the western bank of the Nile, a little to the south of Tell-el-Amárineh, is the small town of Deroot-esh-Shereef, supposed to be on the site of the Thebæca Phylace, which guarded the northern boundary of the Thebais. About 20

miles to the south is the town of Manfaloot, on the same side of the river, which has a decayed appearance from the manner in which the stream has encroached upon and washed away part of it. Opposite to Manfaloot in the eastern range are extensive crocodile-mummy catacombs. There is nothing of note during the next 25 miles of the river's course, which is very winding, until we reach the village of El-Hamrà, the port of Asyoot. This town, the capital of Upper Egypt, or the Sa'eed, that is, of the whole country above Cairo, lies inland, about two miles from El-Hamrà, in a richly cultivated plain. Asyoot, with its beautiful mosques, two of which, one of the Memlook style, and the other of the Turkish, are not unworthy of comparison with those of the metropolis, and its Constantinopolitan palace, surrounded on three sides by verdant fields, and having behind it a fine rounded spur of the western chain, which here, for the first time, is near the river, presents a picturesque aspect as the traveller approaches it. On entering Asyoot he is not disappointed, for the excellence of the goods and provisions sold in the well-built chief market, and the solid look of the houses, indicate activity and prosperity. And it is not a little remarkable that this was an important town some 4000 years ago, and has thus outlived Thebes and Memphis, Tanis and Pelusium. The ancient Egyptian name was Ssut, or probably Ssiut, but the Greeks called it Lycopolis, on account of the worship of the wolf- or jackal-headed divinity of the place, a form of Anubis. In the mountain behind Asyoot are some ancient grottoes, one of which is of great size, but their sculptures have unfortunately suffered much. The view of the valley and the town beneath is an ample reward for the ascent.

Thirty miles farther by the river, on the eastern bank, is the village of Káw-el-Kebeereh, where was anciently Antæopolis. The interesting remains of the temple of Antæus, which stood here early in the present century, have entirely disappeared through the encroachment of the river, and also, it is believed, from having been used as a quarry by the Turks. A few miles beyond, the lofty part of the eastern range called the Gebel-esh-Sheykh-El-Hareedee from a famous Muslim saint, hems in the river on one side for a short distance. It soon, however, retires again, and the valley on that side becomes broader than usual. Here, a short way from the river, stands the small town of Akhmeem, the ancient Chemmis, or Panopolis. No remains of importance mark this site. About 22 miles farther by the course of the river, on the western bank, is the important town of Girgá, which was, until a comparatively recent period, the capital of the Sa'eed. The rise of Asyoot, however, and the agency of the river which is gradually washing it away, have contributed to its decline, and it wears a dilapidated aspect.

The city of Abydos was a few miles from Girgá, in a south-westerly direction on the border of the desert, here separated from the Nile by a broad cultivated tract. Close to it was Thinis or This, the town of Menes. Two interesting edifices render Abydos worthy of a visit. They are both dedicated to Osiris, the chief divinity of the place. The southernmost of these is a temple of Osiris, in which we find the names of Ramses II. and his father Setee I. The other structure is smaller, and in a worse state of preservation than the other temple, and among its sculptures are the same names, those of Setee I. and Ramses II. Hence was taken the famous list of Pharaohs known as the Tablet of Abydos, which is now one of the most valuable objects in the British Museum, and M. Mariette has since discovered a corresponding tablet in the other temple, happily complete. In the desert near by are many sepulchres, remarkable on account of the interesting antiquities which have been discovered by clearing them out. The sanctity