

## ARTICLE VIII.

## NEW STUDIES IN EGYPTOLOGY.

BY JOSEPH P. THOMPSON, D.D., LL.D.

It is a token of the progress of Egyptology as a science, that materials for the prosecution of this study are now selected and classified with almost the precision with which the geologist arranges his cabinet. Papyrus rolls no longer lie hidden in the archives of museums as mysterious treasures, but are grouped under titles and classes, according to the text, the period, or the subject-matter, so far as these can be deciphered or conjectured; monumental inscriptions are no longer copied at random, as curiosities of the past; but such as possess some intrinsic value, or promise some addition to our knowledge of Egyptian history and life, are transcribed with care, or even photographed, and thus laid before the learned world for a comparison of dates and references. Such materials have been greatly multiplied by the patient and judicious labors of Dr. Johannes Dümichen of Berlin, who spent the years from 1862-1865 in the study of monuments in Egypt, Nubia, and the Soudan, and again in 1866 took the lead of an archaeological and photographic expedition to Egypt, appointed and equipped by the king of Prussia. To him we owe the discovery and transcription of the important tablet of Sethos in the temple of Osiris, at Abydos, which gives an almost unbroken list of the legitimate kings of Egypt from Menes to Sethos I., the builder of the temple.<sup>1</sup>

Dümichen has already published the following works as contributions to Egyptian studies. *Bauurkunde der Tempelanlagen von Dendera*; these records of ancient architecture were found in an inner secluded corridor of the temple: they cover nineteen plates, large quarto. *Geographische Inschriften altägyptischer Denkmäler*, in two large volumes, each containing one hundred plates of hieroglyphic inscriptions, with an explanatory text. This forms a valuable supplement to Dr. H. Brugsch's great work on the Geography of the Ancient Egyptians. *Altägyptische Kalenderinschriften*, a folio of one hundred and twenty plates. *Historische Inschriften*, in two volumes, folio; the first containing the triumphal record of the contest in the fourteenth century B.C. between the Egyptians and the Libyans and their allies, the inhabitants of the coasts and islands of the Mediterranean; the triumphal gate of king Rameses III. in the temple of Medeenet Habou; king Rameses III. with the captive Amaru and Libyan princes, on the door of the treasury in the temple of Medeenet Habou; the treasury of Rampsinit in the same temple; the sacrificial offering for a deceased

<sup>1</sup> See *Bibliotheca Sacra* (1867), Vol. xxiv. p. 774.

Egyptian queen in the temple of *Der-al-bacheri*: part second contains eighty plates of pictures and inscriptions, partly historical, partly geographical and mythological. *Altägyptische Tempelinschriften*, one hundred and sixty plates, folio, from the temple of Horus at Edfu, and the temple of Hathor at Dendera. *Die Flotte einer ägyptischen Königin*, with thirty-seven folio plates, illustrating the naval marine of Egypt in the seventeenth century B.C. *Der ägyptische Felsentempel von Abu-Simbel und seine Bildwerke und Inschriften*. These works, it will readily be seen, lay before scholars a great variety of rich material, well classified for purposes of historical and archaeological study. And in addition to this library of monumental data, Dümichen has begun to publish the results of his last expedition in a series of elegant royal quarto volumes, under the title, *Resultate der auf Befehl Sr. Majestät des Königs Wilhelm I. von Preussen nach Aegypten entsendeten archäologisch-photographischen Expedition*.

The first volume of this work has appeared, and contains numerous plates, large quarto. Several of these exhibit scenes taken from the pyramid graves at Saqara, and like all the mural pictures and inscriptions in the tombs, they illustrate the manners and customs of Egyptian life by representations of the occupations and possessions of the deceased. In one is given a list of the various offerings of food and drink provided to accompany the deceased; another gives a graphic picture of boats propelled by oar and sail, and conveying live-stock, merchandise, and treasure; an inscription states that the deceased was a certain *Sexmer-ua*, superintendent of all the royal farming and fowling, and also of the sacrifices, and the adjudicator of complaints addressed from the whole land to the heart of his lord — apparently a prime minister having a vice-royalty like that of Joseph. Of his wife it is said, that she was loved and honored by her spouse, and was "sweet as the palm in her love to him." The deceased is further said to have superintended the erection of certain royal obelisks, to have been a member of the royal cabinet, present at all its sessions, and to have assisted as counsellor in framing and promulgating the royal decrees. This important and powerful functionary flourished under king Keka, whose name in Manetho's list occurs between Sahura and Neferkara of the fifth Dynasty.

Another tomb belonged evidently to a religious functionary, Ptahsepes by name, who is described as high in honor with the king, the director of the religious festivals, and prophet of Ptah, Horus, Tat, and other divinities.

Several plates illustrate the tomb of Ptahhotep of the fifth Dynasty, with pictures of his flocks and herds; of fishing, fowling, and the chase; of music, dancing, wrestling, and other athletic sports; of whatever can suggest a life of wealth, ease, and pleasure. Animals both domestic and wild, are introduced in great numbers, and in every conceivable attitude — in the act of copulation, suckling their young, attacking their prey, or roughly sport-

ing together. From these delineations, some of which are made with evident skill and care, Professor Dr. Robert Hartmann, the learned African traveler, has prepared a valuable essay on the Zoölogy of ancient Egypt. Dümichen's plates furnish him specimens of the baboon of tropical Africa (*Cynocephalus Babuin Desm.*, and *Cyn. Hamadryas Desm.*); the gepard (*Felis jubata Schreb.*) depicted most accurately in its characteristic features, and enumerated among the treasures of the king, having a strong resemblance to the jaguar of Brazil; the leopard and the Sennar lion; several varieties of the hyena — one with a short bull-dog-like muzzle, broad, pricked-up ears, high chest, and low rump, a long bushy tail, reminding one of the prairie-dog, the lycaon of the Greeks (*Canis pictus Desm.*); another suggests the krokottas of Diodorus (*Hyaena crocuta Zimmern*). Prairie-dogs both tame and wild, and greyhounds abound in these pictures; in one vivid scene the herdsman is about to let loose his dogs upon a Sennar-lion that has attacked one of his cows. Of antelopes there is a great variety; from the fine large water-buck of the white Nile, to the delicate, tame gazelle. Neat cattle also abound; especially a small animal with short head, straight nose, short crescent horns, high withers, full upper thigh, normal joints, broad, flat knee, and stout shin-bone. Cattle with long, twisted horns are also common. In one scene a cow in the act of calving is deftly assisted by the herdsman. The stag, the jackall, the genet, the hedgehog, the ichneumon, are all represented in these wall-pictures. Among birds, the crane, the stork, the heron, the swan, geese, and ducks are conspicuous. Dr. Robert Hartmann has also furnished to the *Zeitschrift für Aegyptische Sprach-und-Alterthumskunde*, a valuable list of the fauna of ancient Egypt, as pictured upon the tombs, or described in the hieroglyphics.<sup>1</sup>

In one of Dümichen's volumes is a series of plates representing the whole process of slaying an animal for sacrifice — a duty distributed among several priests.

Dümichen's works are particularly rich in illustrations of the marine of ancient Egypt; there being in all upwards of two hundred representations of vessels of all kinds, pleasure-boats, freight-boats, ferry-boats, river-boats, with and without rigging, and sea-going craft of various descriptions — the whole covering the period from 3000 B.C. to 1400 B.C. Dr. Bernhard Graser, an expert in all matters of ancient marine, has worked up these materials in an elaborate and instructive essay.

While the monuments yet standing in Egypt are thus made to contribute to the elucidation of her ancient life and history, the treasures of Egyptian literature in the museums of Europe are in like manner spread before the learned world. The museum of Turin, which furnished the first copy of the "Book of the Dead," is rich in papyri that have not yet been deciphered. Messrs. F. Rossi of Turin and W. Pleyte of Leyden, have

<sup>1</sup> *Zeitschrift* for January and March, 1864.

undertaken jointly the publication of these in numbers; M. Rossi executing the fac-similies, and M. Pleyte furnishing a commentary upon the text. The Turin collection was made by Chevalier Drovetti, a native of Piedmont, who for twenty years was consul-general of France at Alexandria, and had opportunity to gather these treasures (in 1820) before the Nile valley was rifled for the museums of all Europe. It contains the famous papyrus of the kings, so valuable for the methodical arrangement of the dynasties of the old empire, and the judicial papyrus, an account of which was given in the *Bibliotheca Sacra* for July 1869.

The first number of M. Pleyte's republication contains an interesting papyrus of the time of Rameses II., being the report of a superintendent of public works upon the progress of the temple of Amun at Thebes. It describes the provisioning of the laborers, the transportation of stone by water, under guard, and the details of the building. Another papyrus contains a list of gods and goddesses, kings and princesses, useful for comparison upon points of chronology.

But the chief interest of the collection thus far is in a series of hymns of the nineteenth and twentieth dynasties. One of these is put into the mouth of a king, as an address to the divinity who has crowned him head of Egypt and prince over all the world; it recites the piety of the king, and his devotion to the service of the gods, but contrives to mingle with this the praises of the monarch himself in the splendor of his wealth and power. Another of these hymns is especially in honor of Rameses III. — a sort of deification of that sovereign. A third is a highly curious Litany in praise of Thot, as the queen of night, who averts the terrors and disasters that darkness would cause to heaven and earth. Fragmentary as are these papyri, and imperfect as is the reading of the text, they nevertheless promise a rich addition to the materials for the reconstruction of old Egyptian literature and history.

While perhaps the majority of Egyptologists devote themselves to deciphering hieroglyphics, a few are making the hieratic a specialty, and a third class direct their studies to the demotic. A new laborer in this last department is Dr. August Eisenlohr, of Heidelberg University, who has just published an analytical interpretation of the demotic portion of the Rosetta stone.

The popular language of ancient Egypt, through the affinities of the Coptic, will yet prove a valuable auxiliary in the interpretation of her monuments. Thus the science of Egyptology is expanding upon every side; but we await with impatience the appearance of Mariette-Bey's full report of his explorations and discoveries upon the site of ancient Memphis.