

NOTES AND QUERIES.

*The Route of the Exodus.*¹ . . . Dr. Driver's commentary on *Exodus* certainly gives a complete résumé of the available evidence, but still leaves undetermined the identity of Baal-Zephon, which I attempted to establish, as I think that it is the key to the controversy. In my sketch plan I had no idea of definitely showing the exact ancient boundaries of the Gulf of Suez, but merely wished to prove that it did extend further north than it does at present. As to Mr. Crace's surmise that Lake Timsah was fed by the Pelusiac branch of the Nile, I may mention the very conspicuous deposits of Nile mud visible in a recent cutting immediately north of Lake Timsah. However, I do not think it can have been the Pelusiac branch itself, unless it was an off-shoot of that branch starting from the Pelusiac branch well to the westward: possibly as far west as Tell Basta. In a chart of the canal published by the Canal Company in the eighties, the Tanitic branch of the Nile is indicated as passing by San (ancient Tanis) going north-eastward, skirting the south of the Island of Tennis (ancient Hanes), crossing the present site of the canal at kilometer 6 (from Port Said), and emptying itself into the sea at Omm Fareg. The Pelusiac branch is given as passing by Sethrun, crossing the canal at about kilometer 28, and emptying into the sea near Mahendia, where there are considerable remains of *circa* A.D. 400. Crossing the canal at about kilometer 40, there is a line of sand dunes running roughly north-east and south-west which, it is my belief, marks the south-eastern limit of the Nile delta at least to very ancient times. All to the north of this is dark, being unmistakably Nile mud, while to the southward it appears pure sand, though I have not seen any borings which might reveal mud deposits.

Two or three years ago M. Clédat, the Archaeologist belonging to the Canal Company, discovered at Kantarah an ancient sarcophagus,

¹ From a communication. See *Quarterly Statement*, January, pp. 22 *sqq.*, and April, p. 64 *sqq.*

the title of the occupant of which was given as "Lord of the Two Ports." Possibly it indicates the existence of an artificial canal joining Lake Timsah with the Pelusiac branch near Kantarah.

A few days ago I heard that in the course of trench digging near Kantarah some ancient remains had been found—coins and an amphora—at a place called Tell el-Ahmar, two miles east of Kantarah. I obtained permission from the General to visit the place and found some walls (brick) which indicated a fairly substantial house, there being a row of bases for columns along the south side, and a well-made brick conduit leading to a depression a couple of hundred yards away. I had not time to give it more than a very cursory examination, but hope to go there again shortly. However, I dug out a brick face.¹ It is made of very rough red pottery—that is to say, red on the back and front surfaces, but bluish in the centre. The face is, I think, merely a conventional face—possibly an ornament above a doorway or at the corner of a roof, though the fact that it is smooth and rounded at the back may indicate that it is part of an amphora, though I do not remember to have ever seen one ornamented in that style. The material is of exactly the same description as the double jar coffins found in the early Christian cemetery about a mile further west, where M. Clédat made some trial excavations about eighteen months ago.

VICTOR L. TRUMPER.

PORT SAID,

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¹ [A photograph was sent and is at the offices of the Fund.—ED.]
