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THE SINAI EXPEDITION.

BY W. ST. CHAD BOSCAWEN.

The fact that under the auspices of the Egypt Exploration Fund Professor Flinders Petrie is undertaking a systematic exploration of the Egyptian remains in the Sinaitic peninsula will be noted with satisfaction by all Oriental scholars. Few districts in the ancient East have such rich historic and religious traditions as this rugged region of volcanic rocks, which forms, at the same time, the barrier and the connection between the Asiatic and African continents. There have been many explorations of this region, but archæological research has thrown such a light upon the importance of the district that a new and carefully conducted exploration will be sure to produce results of great importance. The expedition organised by the Russian Government under Professor Lepsius, more than half a century ago, visited the region and copied the rock inscriptions of the Egyptian kings in the neighbourhood of the ancient mines, and the Palestine Exploration Fund made a careful topographical survey of the region, the memoir upon which was edited by Professor Palmer, who was fated to meet his terrible death in the northern portion of the peninsula. The wonderful discoveries of the art remains and artistic records of the

EARLIEST DYNASTIES OF EGYPT

by Mr. de Morgan and Professor Petrie at Abydos and Nagada point to a connection between the early rulers of Nile land and the peninsula. It is clear that it was from the mines and quarries of this region that the copper and turquoise ornaments found in the graves of the first of the Pharaohs came. While by the time of the Fourth Egyptian dynasty, about B.C. 3800, the kings seem to have regarded the mines as among their most precious possessions, Senefru, the builder of the pyramid of Medum, records with pride the fact that he had "driven out the foreigners from the mines;" a statement we shall find of great historical importance. Khufer, or Cheops, has placed a long record of his possession of the mines upon the rocks of the Wady Magarah, and throughout all the dynasties of the early empire we find records of the working of the mines by bodies of convicts guarded by soldiers from Egypt. Even in the light of the Egyptian monuments, Sinai may be regarded as

THE OLDEST MINING FIELD

in the world; but is not alone in the annals of Egypt that we find this land rich in stones and minerals mentioned. The inscription of Senefru shows that prior to his time the mines were in the possession of foreigners, whom he expelled. In the ancient records of Chaldea, reaching back prior to B.C. 4500, we find the mention of a region which must certainly be identified with Sinai. The scarcity of stone—especially the hard stone suitable for royal memorials—in Babylonia caused the rulers of the primitive cities of that land to send expeditions to far distant lands to obtain the desired material. Among the regions especially mentioned as rich in stone and minerals was the land of Magan, a land which produced copper, diorite, and porphyry, and the precious blue stone or turquoise. In the same inscriptions this land was also associated with another region, Melukha, which produced gold. The inscriptions of the Assyrian King Assurbanipal, which record his invasion of Egypt, mention these regions as being near his line of march, and we may identify them on most certain grounds with the

GOLD-PRODUCING MIDIAN

and the peninsula of Sinai. From the inscriptions of the Chaldean Kings we know that the land of Magan was reached by sea; and some Assyrian scholars would look for it upon the shores of the Persian Gulf, but there is no region that complies with the description as to the products. Furthermore, the name itself appears to be preserved in the small port of Makana, on the Gulf of Akabah, which would be a very suitable place for the Chaldean ships to rest in while the miners were preparing the stone for shipment. Under the rule of the first Semitic dynasty of Chaldean Kings, that of Sargon of Akkad and his son Naram-Sin, about B.C. 3800, when the conquest of these energetic rulers spread the Chaldean rule over the whole of Western Asia, from Western Persia to the shores of the Mediterranean; we find the conquest of Magan especially recorded. We now see who the foreigners who Senefru drove out were. It is hardly to be expected that the peninsula of Sinai was the sole limit of the western spread of

BABYLONIAN INFLUENCE.

The recent researches in the Nile Valley show that in the archaic period of Egyptian civilisation—that is, the age between the strictly neolithic, primitive, or prehistoric age, and the dynastic age commencing about B.C. 5000, many new elements were introduced in the civilisation of the Nile valley—the art of brick building, the use of the cylinder seal, and the working of copper—and it is to be hoped that the expedition now working in Sinai will be able to throw some light upon the important question of the way by which these Chaldean customs were transmitted to Egypt. The mines and quarries of Sinai have, as Professor Petrie has said, never been subjected to an archæological exploration, and it will be especially interesting to see if traces of a

CHALDEAN OCCUPATION

prior to their annexation by Egypt are to be found. Another point, the solution of which we may expect to find in Sinai, is the origin of the cave or rock-cut tombs of Egypt. Among primitive people, the last resting-place of the dead is usually a modification of the abode during life, a shallow hollow, like the primitive sleeping place, a grave covered with a hut, or, later, a brick-built chamber. The rock-cut tomb indicates an origin among a cave-dwelling population, hardly such as we should expect to find in the Nile valley. The Egyptian inscriptions speak of two classes of people who inhabited the Sinaitic region, the "stone-hewers," or miners, and the "cave dwellers." It will be interesting to have the primitive cave dwellings of this region properly explored, to see if in them we have the origin of the rock-cut tombs of Egypt. These are but a few of the great problems of history and civilisation, the solution of which is to be found amid the rugged valleys of Sinai. The region is associated with the most important event in Hebrew religious life, and the question of the site of the Mountain of the Law is still at from settled. Early Christianity also has associations with the region; so that all classes of scholars will anxiously await the results of this interesting expedition.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

We do not hold ourselves for the responsible opinions expressed by our correspondents, but we wish, in a spirit of fair play to all, to permit within certain necessary limits—free discussion.

EGYPTIAN INVESTMENT AND AGENCY.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE EGYPTIAN GAZETTE.

Sir,—The lecture given in your issue of yesterday to the dissatisfied applicants for shares in the Egyptian Investment and Agency for ventilating their opinion in the Cairo press, suggests the probability of the paragraph having either been inspired by some one of the directorate, or having been contributed by an injudicious friend: in the former case it lacks dignity, in the latter judgment.

Whether the outcry of the disappointed applicants in Cairo, which by the way is pretty general also in this city, is such "absolute nonsense" as the gratuitous suggestion by way of reply to their complaints which your contributor, with an air of superiority, offers them of starting new companies on the same lines, may fairly be questioned, and is beneath reply.

Were the English law which compels public companies to open their registry of shareholders to proprietors gratuitously, and on payment of 1s. to the public, voluntarily adopted by companies in this country, the result might satisfy the public that allotments were, having regard to the future business of the company promoted, impartially made.

And it is to be hoped that the managing director of the Egyptian Investment and Agency, who is to be congratulated on his successful début as a company promoter, and who is anxious to familiarise the Egyptian public with the English transfer system, may be induced to educate them still further in this and other procedure of English companies.

—Yours, etc.,

INVESTOR.

Alexandria, February 8.

INFANT MORTALITY.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE EGYPTIAN GAZETTE.

Sir,—"Paterfamilias" seems very wrath with "Humanity" for venturing to assert that the Egyptian climate is more favorable to infant life than that of England. Of course, it is clear that in making that allegation "Humanity" was referring to infants born of native, not of European, parents. It may therefore be that both are right. But as to the justice of the charges brought by "Humanity" against mothers of English children born and reared in their own country, there cannot be any possible doubt. Proof, not only ample but conclusive, may be found in the report and evidence of the recent Committee which inquired into the question of physical deterioration. There is, besides, other independent evidence. I was recently reading an article in the October number of the *Magazine of Commerce* by that well-known Conservative Member and King's Counsel, Mr. H. C. Richards, on Physical Deterioration and Overcrowding, where he talks of undergrown and unhealthy children as the "gin and fried-fish product." He goes on to tell us that "the present Bishop of London has discovered that domestic service is a term of reproach to the London girl. She prefers a wage of seven or eight shillings a week in a factory—a shilling or more of which is spent in travel—and her morning, afternoon, and probably every meal consists of tea, pickles, and jam. How can she become the mother of healthy children under such conditions and when one hundred thousand families live in single rooms?" Taking all this into account it is surprising that the infant death-rate of England should contrast most favorably with that of Egypt. I maintain that "Humanity has made out a clear case for enquiry.—I am, etc.,

PHILANTHROPIST.

Cairo, February 8.

PROPOSED NEW CHURCH HOUSE.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE EGYPTIAN GAZETTE.

Sir,—In reference to the circulars issued to the voters of St. Mark's Church, re the church house for the chaplain, would not the difficulty be solved by restoring the £200, which was deducted from the chaplain's stipend before the appointment of Canon Ward, so as to enable the chaplain to rent a house within easy distance of the church? On what grounds, and by whose authority, the stipend was lowered, has never been clearly understood by St. Mark's congregation. It was an unfortunate combination of circumstances that at the time the cost of living in Egypt was raised considerably the chaplain's salary was as considerably lowered. A clear explanation of this matter would be valued by many voters of St. Mark's Church. Thanking you for allowing me this space in your valuable columns,—I am, etc.,

CHURCHMAN.

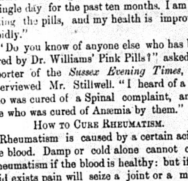
Alexandria, Feb. 8.

CRIPPLED BY RHEUMATISM.

CURED BY DR. WILLIAMS' PINK PILLS.

HENRY CHARLES STILLWELL, of 53, Conway-street, Hove, Sussex, in the employ of the local omnibus company, found himself, at 34, in the ranks of those thought "past work." Mr. Stillwell said:—

"I was attacked by Rheumatism. The pain began in my knees, and gradually spread all over my body. I tried rubbing, but this brought no relief and I took to my bed, helpless. The pains in my joints were terrible. After advice



A Hove Horsekeeper laid low by Rheumatism was cured by Dr. Williams' Pink Pills.

from two or three doctors, the verdict was that I was incurable, and would

NEVER DO ANOTHER DAY'S WORK.

One doctor added that I had not long to live. I gave up hope and took to my bed. About a year ago, however, I read a case similar to mine, where a person had been cured by Dr. Williams' Pink Pills, and I decided to try a box."

"Did you feel an improvement?"

"After taking the first box. The pains in my joints were less, and I began to eat better. After two or three boxes I found the improvement in my condition continued, and I put on flesh. In fact, in about eighteen weeks I increased by quite a stone in weight. I was able to commence work again, and I have not missed a single day for the past ten months. I am still taking the pills, and my health is improving rapidly."

"Do you know of anyone else who has been cured by Dr. Williams' Pink Pills?" asked the reporter of the *Sussex Evening Times*, who interviewed Mr. Stillwell. "I heard of a girl who was cured of a Spinal complaint, and of one who was cured of Anæmia by them."

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Rheumatism is caused by a certain acid in the blood. Damp or cold alone cannot cause Rheumatism if the blood is healthy: but if this acid exists pain will seize a joint or a muscle that has been exposed to chill. Embrocations and other outward application may relieve the pain, but the disease can only be prevented from returning by enriching the blood. Dr. WILLIAMS' PINK PILLS FOR PALE PEOPLE *make good blood*. That is how they cure Rheumatism and other Diseases, Anæmia (which is weakness arising from having too little blood), Consumption, Fits, Paralysis, and the frequent ailments which women endure in brave silence. Genuine pills cure: substitutes don't cure. Dr. Williams' Medicine Co., Holborn viaduct, London, will send a box post free 2s. 9d. (six for 13s 9d.); but Dr. Williams' Pink Pills can be had at all medicine shops if you take care to ask for, and to see in red on the pink package, the full name, Dr. Williams' Pink Pills for Pale People.

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