

Egypt, whose remotest antiquity makes it a companion of the Hebron of Abraham's time. Its ruins lie on the extreme north-eastern border of the Delta of the Nile, looking out over the waters of Lake Tanis toward the Mediterranean, the center of a striking landscape which Mr. Petrie thus describes:

The flat expanse, as level as the sea, covered with slowly drying salt pools, may be crossed for miles, with only the dreary changes of dust, black mud, water, and black mud again, which it is impossible to define as more land than water or more water than land. The only objects which break the flatness of the barren horizon are the low mounds of the cities of the dead; these alone remain to show that this region was once a living land, whose people prospered on the earth. The reddened top of the highest of these mounds may be seen rising out of the flickering haze on the horizon, some hours before it is reached; that is the great city of San, the capital of Lower Egypt.

The present San is a huddled disorder of miserable Arab huts, framed in stagnant waters, and accented with dead animals, live babies, fowls, flies, and sickening smells. Behind all this corruption, vegetable and animal, rise in high mounds the remains of the Greek and Roman Tanis, "a city well built and well ordered, whose inhabitants show no small taste in their native pottery and their imported marbles, their statuettes, their delicate glass mosaics, and their fine metal work." Beneath this comparatively modern layer lie, as we understand, the ruins of the still older Ta'an, the city of Sheshonk, of Pisebkhenu, and of Ramessu II, centering in a splendid temple, which was a thousand feet from end to end, and stood up above the surrounding houses; and over whose flat roof towered the colossal statue of the second founder of the city, Ramessu the great, "with stony eyes gazing across the vast plain." Beneath this again "must lie the older town, the town of the bearded Hyksos," and beneath that still the town of the great kings who here first established a capital to hold in check the Semitic invaders of the basin of the Nile; and only under that the earliest Zoan of them all, the Zoan of Genesis and the Psalms, of which no trace probably remains.

To this rich spot came Mr. Petrie in February, 1884, and here he pitched his tent, built him a dwelling, and worked till June, employing about fifty diggers and carriers, — men, girls, and boys, cutting trenches, sinking shafts, cutting down to the pavement of the temple, and disclosing an immense store of tombs, wells, fallen blocks of masonry, statues, inscriptions, obelisks, sphinxes, potteries, amulets, utensils, scarabs, and other objects too numerous to mention. One important "find" was the house of Bakakhui, supposed to have been a lawyer of the 1st or 2d century, A. D., with a portrait statue of him in the cellar, a pretty and highly interesting image carved in limestone, 21 inches high.

Of all these excavations and discoveries

Mr. Petrie's 53 pages of text give the detailed description, while the frontispiece and other plates reproduce the curiosities to the eye — the quaint statue of the chubby-faced lawyer, his left hand gathering his tunic in front of him; fragments of slabs covered with hieroglyphics, translations of which are to be supplied in the succeeding Part; pieces of pottery, fragments of sculptures, stony heads, great temple blocks, one bust of a lovely woman in white marble, shrines, chambers, and ground plans.

Subscribers to the Fund have in this volume another ample return on their investment and a new pledge of valuable results in the future.

TANIS.*

"Now Hebron was built seven years before Zoan in Egypt." Numbers xiii: 22.

"Wonders in the field of Zoan." Psalms lxxviii: 43.

Contents: Frontispiece. 11 objects heliographed on a single plate.—Table of Contents, 1 p.—Preface, 2 pp.—Introduction, 3 pp.—Text, Chap. I. San before the Empire; II. San under the Empire; III. Greek and Roman Tanis, and Distribution of Finds; IV. Bakakhui, the Lawyer of San; V. Measurements and Tables.—Tables, 2 pp.—Indexes, to text and plates, 4 pp.—Plates, 1—XVIII.

THE first ripe literary fruit of the Egypt Exploration Fund was Mr. Naville's volume on *Pithon* of last year, see the *Literary World*, Vol. XVI, p. 151. The second is this companion volume on *Tanis*, by Mr. Petrie. The work is properly edited, as not all similar scientific publications are. In addition to the complete furniture described in the above note on the contents, there is a list of the Publications of the Fund, already accomplished or in preparation; from which it appears that a Part II of *Tanis* is to come.

San, Tanis, Ta'an, Zoan, these are different forms only of one and the same name, the name of that once splendid city of Lower

* Tanis, Part I, 1883-4. By W. M. Flinders Petrie. Second Memoir of the Egypt Exploration Fund. London: Trübner & Co.