

Fortunate as is the Egypt Exploration Fund in its scholars, like Poole, Sayce, Newton, Wilson, and Miss Amelia B. Edwards, in its support by continentalists like Brugsch, Maspero, Ebers, and Revillout, it is doubly fortunate in the agents who are doing its work of exploration. M. Naville's discovery of Pithom, recorded in the first memoir, revealed in this master of Egyptian text the practical capacities of the excavator. Mr. Petrie's book on the pyramids of Geezah, this record of his labors at the site of the Biblical Zoan,—the classical Tanis,—exemplify talent, training, achievement in practical archaeology of a rare and fruitful kind. The thoroughness and system of the man almost dispel the poetic charm which the views of the ruins of the monumental remains give, as we read his clear statements and precise deductions. He appropriates for history or art everything of value, from the inscribed fragment or scarab up to a lettered colossus, or the remarkable glass zodiac which he so fully describes in his monographic chapter on a lawyer's house opened in Pompeian fashion. This is scientific archaeology, of which Mr. Petrie is in the van. We must consider the long history of the site, perhaps from the pyramid epoch; as the home of the Shepherd Kings, those strange Semitic invaders; as where Sarah entered the palace of the Pharaoh, and audiences were held with Joseph and Moses; as for two thousand years or more the great northern capital of the Egyptian kings, magnificent in temples and monuments, and containing the greatest of all monolithic colossi, that of Rameses II.,—and the value of such a system of exploration by a thorough master is readily admitted. We are glad to note the announcement that *Harper's Magazine* is soon to publish the story of the place, with full illustrations, from Miss Edwards' graphic pen.

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\* *Tanis*. Part I. By W. M. Flinders Petrie. (With nineteen plates and plans.) Second Memoir of the Egypt Exploration Fund.

*Tanis*, Part I., is admirably sized and executed. The plates of monumental remains and hieroglyphic texts are spread out in a convenient and fitting way, that the narrow compass of an ordinary page would crowd or disconnect. The eye-glance here serves rather than the turning of many leaves. Yet the atlas-shaped memoir is no burden to hold. The print is large and clear, and mistakes in English and in the text appear to be rare. The crossed determinative of a city is once or twice omitted or blurred; ank is spelt auk; Ramessu. if not strictly an error, is not after the best usage, which is Rameses; t is sometimes used for signs which require, we think, th or at least t; and Hebron is stated as built seven years *later* than Zoan. The twenty-four photographic views are worth the price of the book (sent to donors of \$5), and those of the Hyksos monuments are particularly interesting. And here a word.

Were there nothing else but the Hyksos or Shepherd dynasties (a period of five hundred years) for Mr. Petrie to dig for, his labor would be historically important. Joseph's Pharaoh was probably the last of this regal usurpation by a foreign race, and this epoch preceding the Thothmaic age is an important void. It is in the midst of Egypt's historic periods. Semiticism, "the empire of the Hittites," is now under large discussion. Any light thrown by Mr. Petrie on this Egyptian contact with Hittite invaders and conquerors will add materially to the historical sequence of this people, now accepted as a nationality, and not a mythic race. So much for the spade in Syria as well as in the Delta. The *varied* usefulness of such an archæological labor as that at Tanis can hardly be given in a word.\* Our author's keen eye notices that "the Hyksos inscriptions are always in a line down the right shoulder, never on the left"; while the Egyptians inscribed either side. The right shoulder is particularly honored in the injunction of the Jewish law.

Mr. Petrie's scientific reputation as a metrologist will now be materially strengthened. His calculations of the size of the monster colossus of Rameses II. are masterly. Finding its fragments, he proceeded to take its dimensions, which show it to have been the greatest of all monolithic statues known to man,—from ninety to one hundred feet in height,—“the glory of the capital of the Delta, towering above all the surrounding buildings, a figure seen for miles across the plains.” His table of weights and measures and contexts fully illustrates his clear and deductive methods in metrology.

The historical and chronological sequence of Mr. Petrie's discussion of the monuments is the most remarkable feature of the book. His thoroughness leaves “no stone unturned,” but no stone is turned before

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\* Prof. Howard Osgood, the eminent scholar, has said, “The Egypt Exploration Fund has done, and is doing, a work of such momentous importance for education and enlightenment in many directions that it deserves, and should have, the hearty sympathy and support needful to carry on its wise projects.”

its time. Mariette, when in charge of the museum at Boolak, had done some irregular labor here, in order to enrich his collection. Petrie properly begins with his disclosures, which take up a large part of the narrative. For they need recording, and they belong to the history of the excavations at the site. And be it here said that even now these labors are quite preliminary.

*Tanis*, Part II., is to go on with the story. Our author's synthetic method is valuable; for, with the sequence, he introduces in order the important monumental remains in the museums, which are like examples or came from Tanis. How he brings "monumentals" together, historically and in fact, is illustrated by his discovery of the upper part (seven lines) of the famous tablet of Tirhaka, so that now we have the twenty-seven lines in full.

The merits of such a work need no declaration from us. The ablest scholars have spoken decisively of them and of the explorations, but what was true largely of *Pitkom* is true of the second memoir of the Egypt Exploration Fund: any intelligent reader can appreciate and comprehend its significant portions; antiquaries and collectors will be pleased with the many *curios* described; the photographic views will at least be as a lantern lecture to all who turn its interesting pages. It is a valuable reminder, a substantial proof, of the value of historical research by the spade. Buried monumental records are of more worth to history than tradition or "cunningly devised fables." Both science and true religion now accept such disclosures as the most conclusive of all evidence. Let such disclosures go on. And here we add that the Egypt Exploration Fund, unendowed, should be supported. The Rev. W. C. Winslow (429 Beacon Street, Boston) is vice-president and honorary treasurer. Mr. James Russell Lowell is honorary vice-president.

W. C. W.