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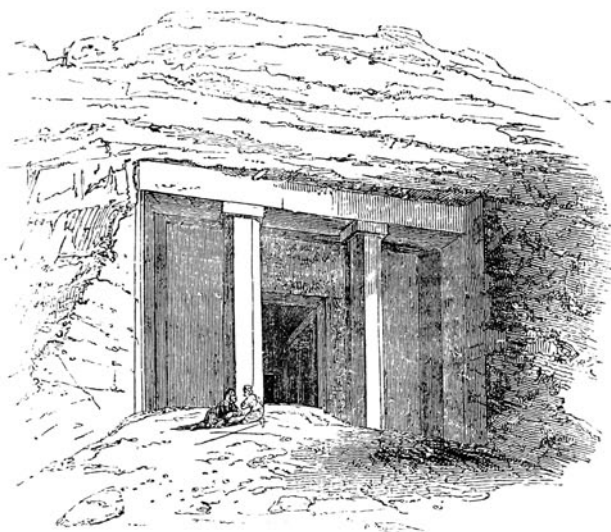
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MODERN EGYPT AND THEBES.



Exterior of a Tomb cut in the rock at Beni Hassan.

SECTION V.

THE SĀEED (SĀĪD), OR UPPER EGYPT; AND ITS DIVISIONS.

ACCORDING to Aboolfeda, the Sāeed begins at Fostát, or Old Cairo; all to the south of that city having this name, and the northern part of the country being called Reef. I may, however, observe, that the latter word, at the present day, is applied to all “the cultivated land,” in contra-distinction to “the desert.”

The whole of Egypt is styled in Arabic *Ard-Musr*, or simply *Musr* (*Misr*), a name given also to Cairo itself; which recalls the old Hebrew Mizraim מִצְרַיִם (*Mizrim*), “the two Mizrs.” In the ancient Egyptian language it was called *Khemi*, or “the land of Khem,” answering to the land of “Ham” or Khem (כּח), mentioned in the Bible; and in Coptic Ⲭⲉⲙ or Ⲭⲉⲙⲓ. According to Arab tradition,

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Mizraim*, the son of Ham, had four sons, Oshmoon, Athreeb, Sa, and Copt. The last of these peopled the country between Asouan and Coptos; Oshmoon that to the north, as far as Menoof† (Memphis); Athreeb the Delta; and Sa the province of Baháyreh, as well as the land of Barbary. Copt, however, having conquered the rest of Egypt, became sovereign of the whole country, and gave it his name.‡

The two sides of the valley seem at all times to have been distinguished, generally with reference to their position E. and W. of the river. By the ancient Egyptians, the desert on each side was merely styled “the eastern and western mountain;” and, at a later period, “the Arabian and Libyan shore;” parts of the mountain ranges having always had certain names attached to them, as at the present day. They are now called “the eastern and western shore;” and it is remarkable, that the Arabs of the eastern desert have substituted the term *Bur-Agem* “the *Persian*,” for the old name “*Arabian*, shore,” applying it to the space between the Nile and the Red Sea.

Egypt, under the Moslems, has been divided into provinces, or *bey-liks*§, each under the command of a bey; or, according to their new titles, *Mamoór*, or *Modeér*||; and in the time of the Memlooks, the whole country was governed by twenty-four beys, including the Delta; the divisions of which, in ancient and modern times, have been already mentioned.¶

In the time of the Pharaohs, Egypt consisted of two great regions, the upper and lower country, both of equal consequence; from which the kings derived the title “lord of the two regions.”** Each of these had its peculiar crown, both which, at his coronation, the monarch put on at the same time, showing the equal rank of the two states, while they seem to argue the existence of two distinct kingdoms at an early period. The precedence, too, always given to the upper crown, and to the expression “upper and lower country,” in the hieroglyphic legends, may also suggest the prior antiquity of the Thebaïd as a kingdom, — a name by which the upper country is frequently mentioned by Greek and Roman writers.

* Or Misraïm. † Me-nouf, Ma-nouf, or Menofre. See below, p. 4.

‡ Wansleb, from Macrizi.

§ Whence the word Beylik, “government,” pronounced Bayleég by the Cairenes.

|| See Vol. I. p. 438.

¶ See Vol. I. pp. 420. 422.

** Or, “lord of the two worlds.” See my *Ancient Egyptians*, vol. ii. p. 73.

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DIVISIONS OF EGYPT.

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Egypt was then divided into thirty-six nomes (departments or counties), from Syene to the sea.* In the time of the Ptolemies and early Cæsars, this number still continued the same; "ten," says Strabo †, "being assigned to the Thebaïd, ten to the Delta, and sixteen to the intermediate province." The geographer adds, "some say there were as many nomes as chambers in the labyrinth, which were under thirty. These were again subdivided into *toparchiæ* ‡, and these too into smaller portions." § The number of chambers in the labyrinth is not quite certain: Herodotus, Pliny, and Strabo, do not agree on this point; and it is probable, that as the number of the nomes increased, other places were added for their reception; the labyrinth being the building where the nomes met, and each having its own apartment. Pliny || gives forty-four nomes to all Egypt, some of them mentioned under other names; a change to which he himself alludes.

The triple partition of the country described by Strabo, varied at another time, and consisted of Upper and Lower Egypt, with an intermediate province, containing only *seven* nomes, and thence called Heptanomis. Upper Egypt or the Thebaïd then reached to the Thebaïca Phylace (Φυλακη) now Daroot e' Sheréef; Heptanomis thence to the fork of the Delta; and the rest was comprehended in Lower Egypt. In the time of the later Roman emperors ¶, the Delta or Lower Egypt was divided into four provinces or districts — Augustamnica Prima and Secunda, and Ægyptus Prima and Secunda; being still subdivided into the same nomes: and in the time of Arcadius, the son of Theodosius the Great, Heptanomis received the name of Arcadia.** The Thebaïd too was made into two parts, under the name of Upper and Lower, the line of separation passing between Panopolis and Ptolemaïs-Hermii. †† The nomes also increased in number, and amounted to fifty-seven ††, of which the Delta alone contained thirty-four, nearly equal to those of all Egypt in the time of the Pharaohs.

* A nome has been thus defined: "Νομος δε λεγεται . . . πολις και αι περιουκιδες αυτης και αι υπ' αυτη κωμαι." Clar. Cyrillus Alexandr. in Esa. c. 19. † Strabo, 17.

‡ "Local administrations," like the kâshef's or nâzer's district of the present day. § Strabo. 17. p. 541.

|| Plin. 5. 9.

¶ About the end of the fourth century.

** Arcadius succeeded his father, A. D. 395.

†† See my Ancient Egyptians, vol. ii. p. 80.

†† See D'Anville.

The nomes of Upper Egypt, or the Thebaid, and Heptanomis, beginning from the north, were: —

| Province. | Nome. | The Chief City. | Its Modern Name. | In Coptic Name. | Bank of Nile. | Division of Modern Egypt. |
|-------------------------------|--|----------------------------|-------------------------|---|---------------|---------------------------|
| Heptanomis. | 1. Memphites | Memphis* | Mitrahenny | { ρεϥϥ, ρεϥϥϥϥ, ρεϥ- ποϥρε, ρα.ποϥϥ, &c. | W. | } Sæed. |
| | 2. Aphroditopolites | Aphroditopolis | Artééh | { ΠΕΤΗϩΕ, ϩΕ ΤΗϩΕ | E. | |
| | 3. Arsinoïtes | Arsinoë, or Crocodilopolis | Medéénét el Fýóóm | ΠΙΟϩϩ | W. | |
| | 4. Heracleopolites | Heracleopolis | Anásiéh | ϩ.ΠΗϩ | W. | |
| | 5. Oxyrhynchites | Oxyrhynchus | Béhnesa | ΠΕϩϩϩΕ | W. | |
| | 6. Cynopolites | Cynopolis | El Kays | ΚΑ.Ιϩ, or ΚΟΕΙϩ | W. | |
| | 7. Hermopolites | Hermopolis Magna | Oshmoonayn | { ϣϩϩϩϩϩ, or ϣϩϩϩϩϩϩ | W. | |
| Thebais, or Egyptus Superior. | 8. Antinoïtes † (" In which are included the two Oases." †) | Antinoë | Shekh Abádeh, or Insiné | { ΔΗΝ.ΠΩϩϩ, or ϩΗϩϩ? | E. | |
| | 9. Lycopolites | Lycopolis | Osiot | { ΚΙΟϩϩϩ, or ΚΙΟϩϩϩϩ | W. | |
| Lower Thebais. | 10. Hypselites | Hypselis | Shodb. | ϣΩΤ.Π | W. | |
| | 11. Antæopolites | Antæopolis | Gow (or Kow) el Kebéer | ΤΚΩϩϩ | E. | |
| | 12. Aphroditopolites | Aphroditopolis | Itfoo | ΔΤ.ϩΩ | W. | |
| Thebais, or Egyptus Superior. | 13. Panopolites | Panopolis | Akhmim, or Ekhhim | { ϣϩϩϩϩ, ϩϩϩϩϩϩ, or ΠΑ.ΠΟϩ | E. | |

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NOMES AND CHIEF TOWNS OF UPPER EGYPT. 5

| | | | | | |
|---|---------------------|---|------------------|-------------------------|--------|
| Thebais, or Ægyptus Superior. Upper Thebais. | 14. Thinites | Ptolemais Hermii ὄ | Menshéeh | Πρωι | W. |
| | 15. Diopolites | Diospolis Parva | How | Ωω, Ζοϛ, or Δπο | W. |
| | 16. Tentyrites | Tentyra, Tentyris | Dendera | { Τεντωρε, τηκεντωρε | W. |
| | 17. Coptites | Coptos | Koft, or Kobt | κεφτ, κεπτω | W. |
| | 18. Thebarum | { Thebæ, Diospolis Magna ("Egyptian Thebes") (The Libyan or western part of Thebes.) | Karnak and Luxor | { ΤΔπε, ΘΔΔΔΔΔΔΔ | E. |
| | 19. Pathyrites | Hermonthis | Koorna | ΤΔπε | W. |
| | 20. Hermonthites | Latopolis | Ermént | ερωοντ | W. |
| | 21. Latopolites | Apollinopolis Magna | Esné | ενε | W., E. |
| | 22. Apollinopolites | Ombos | Eufoo | Δτδω | W., E. |
| | 23. Ombites | | Kôm-Ombo | δδω | E., W. |
| | | | | | Sæed. |

* See above, Vol. I. p. 371.
 † A new nome added to the previous seven.
 ‡ Ptolem. Geog. 4. 5. He includes the Antinoite nome in Heptanomis.
 § According to Ptolemy; but *This* was the old capital of the nome. Abydus was also a celebrated city in the Thinite nome.
 || Ptolemy writes Tathyris, instead of Pathyris. See my Ancient Egyptians, vol. v. p. 367. Pathyris and Tathyris both mean "belonging to Athor (Athyra)." In the same manner Papa is put for Tapa, the name of Thebes; one with the masculine, the other with the feminine definite article.

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Ammianus Marcellinus says, "Egypt is reported to have had three provinces in former times, Egypt Proper, the Thebaïd, and Libya; to which posterity added two others, Augustamnica, an offset from Egypt, and Pentapolis separated from Libya." *

I have already had occasion to observe that the Thebaïd was from the earliest times the most important part of the country, from its wealth, its military power, and the glory it acquired abroad; and to such a point was the opinion of its superiority carried by strangers, that some, as Herodotus † and Aristotle ‡, have asserted that "the Thebaïd was formerly called Egypt," or that "Egypt was of old called Thebes." Hence it may be supposed that Lower Egypt was annexed to the Thebaïd, and hence the precedence of the upper country in the hieroglyphic legends.§ But though the inference derived from this is, that the Thebaïd was even in early times superior to any part of what was afterwards known under the general name of Egypt, it does not follow, nor indeed appear probable, that the Thebaïd was ever exclusively *called* Egypt. This name at first denoted only the Delta, of which it continued to be the provincial designation to the latest time; and the assertion of Herodotus would signify that the Thebaïd was *considered*, rather than *called*, Egypt, or the most important part of the country known at a later period under that general name. This too will accord with the idea that the Thebaïd was sometimes confounded with Ethiopia, and was mentioned under that name, in contradistinction to Ægyptus, or the lower parts about the Delta.||

The northern part of Ethiopia, or of what is now called Nubia, had the name of Dodeca-Schœnus, or "12 schœnes," and comprehended the district from Syene to Hierasyaminon, now Maharraka.

The schœne, according to Strabo, varied in different parts of Egypt. In the Delta it consisted of 30 stadia; between Memphis and the Thebaïd of 120; and from the Thebaïd to

* Amm. Marcell. 22. 16.

† Herodot. 2. 16.

‡ Aristot. Meteorol. 1. 14.

§ See my Ancient Egyptians, vol. i. p. 12.

|| Ibid. vol. i. p. 11.

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ALEXANDRIA TO HIERASYCAMINON.

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Syene of 60. The Itinerary of Antoninus reckons 80 miles or 640 stadia from Syene to Hierasycaminon; the schœne was therefore (at 8 stadia to a Roman mile) of $53\frac{1}{3}$ stadia above Syene.*

Some of the towns on the two banks of the Nile are mentioned in the Itinerary of Antoninus.

1. *Alexandria to Hierasycaminon (in Nubia) on the west bank.*2. *On the east bank from Heliopolis to contrà Pselcis.*

| | M. P. | | M. P. |
|----------------------|-------|-----------------------|-------|
| Alexandria to Chereu | 24 | | |
| Hermupoli | 20 | | |
| Andro | 21 | | |
| Niciu | 31 | | |
| Létus | 28 | Heliopolis to Babylon | 12 |
| Memphi | 20 | Scenas Maudras | 12 |
| Peme | 20 | Aphrodito | 20 |
| Isiu | 20 | Thimonepsi | 24 |
| Cene | 20 | Alyi | 16 |
| Tacona | 20 | Hipponon | 16 |
| Oxyrhyncho | 24 | Musæ | 30 |
| Ibiu | 30 | Speos Artemidos | 34 |
| Hermupoli | 24 | Antinou | 8 |
| Chusis | 24 | Pesla | 24 |
| Lycu | 35 | Hieracon | 28 |
| Apollonos Minoris | 18 | Isiu | 20 |
| Hisoris | 28 | Muthi | 24 |
| Ptolemaida | 22 | Anteu | 8 |
| Abydo | 22 | Selino | 16 |
| Diospoli | 28 | Pano | 16 |
| Tentyra | 27 | Thomu | 4 |
| | | Chênoboscio | 50 |
| Contrà Copto | 12 | Copton | 40 |
| | | Vico Apollonos | 22 |
| Papa | 8 | Thebas | 22 |
| Hermunthi | 30 | | |
| Lato | 24 | Contrà Lato | 40 |
| Apollonos Superioris | 32 | Contrà Apollonos | 40 |
| Contrà Thmuis | 24 | | |
| Contrà Ombos | 24 | Ombos | 40 |
| Contrà Syene | 23 | Syene | 30 |
| Paremboli | 16 | Philas | 3 |
| Tzitzi | 2 | | |
| Taphis | 14 | Contrà Taphis | 10 |
| Talmis | 8 | Contra Talmis | 10 |
| Tutzis | 20 | | |
| Pselcis | 12 | Contra Pselcis | 24 |
| Corte | 4 | | |
| Hierasycamino | 4 | Hierasycamino | 11 |

* See Hamilton's *Ægyptiaca*, c. 3.

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CAIRO TO BENISOOÉF.

Between Cairo and Benisooéf, a distance of eighty-three miles, there is little to arrest the attention of the traveller. After passing the palaces of Kasr Dubarra, and Kasr el Aínee, the island of Rhoda, and Old Cairo to the left, and the towns of Embábeh and Geezeh on the right, he may be said to enter the Sæed. A short distance beyond the old capital and the mounds of the still older Babylon, is the picturesque mosk of Attar e' Nebbee, situated on a projecting point of the eastern bank, at the end of an avenue of fine trees.

Attar e' Nebbee, or "the prophet's footstep," is so called from the sacred relic it contains, an impression of the footstep of Mohammed, which is looked upon with great veneration. A large sand-bank has now been formed before it, so that boats only pass close to the mosk during the inundation. A long reach of the river extends thence to the village of e' Dayr, "the convent," inhabited by Copt Christians; and inland on the east is the village of Bussateen, once famed for its gardens, whence its name, but now scarcely known, except as the resort of a troublesome set of Arabs, the Næām, who encamp upon the plain in the vicinity. Near it on the south-east, in the sandy plain below the limestone hills of the Mokuttum, is the burial ground of the Jews.

The mountain range here appears rent asunder, and a broad valley called Bahr-bela-me, "the river * without water," comes down from the eastward, measuring from its head about eight miles. The name Bahr-bela-me (or -ma) is applied to several broad deep valleys, both in the eastern and western deserts, the most noted of which lies beyond the Natron lakes.† One of the Suez roads, called Derb e' Tarabéen, passes over this part of the Mokuttum, and comes down to the Nile by this valley to the village of Bussateen; and immediately above the brow of the cliff on its north side is the plain of petrified

* Bahr, properly "sea," is applied in Egypt to the "river." Nahr is properly "a river" in Arabic.

† It is also called Bahr el Fargh. See Section IV. Vol. I. p. 398.

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THE TROÏCUS PAGUS.

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wood already mentioned*, as well as an ancient road that led from Heliopolis over the hills to this part of the country.

On the right, the majestic pyramids seem to watch the departure of the traveller when he quits the capital, as they welcomed his approach from the Delta; and those of Abooseer, Sak-kara, and Dashóor, in succession, present themselves to his view, and mark the progress of his journey. A little below Toora, on the east bank, are some low mounds of earth, probably ancient walls of decayed crude bricks, belonging to an enclosure, once square, but now partly carried away by the river; and to the east of it is another long mound, through which a passage led to the plain behind. The name of Toora signifies "a canal," but it is more likely to have been originally derived from that of the ancient village that once stood near this spot, called Troja, or Troïcus pagus; the conversion of an old name into one of similar sound † in Arabic being of common occurrence in modern Egypt.

The wall stretching across the plain to the hills, and the fort above, were built by Ismáel Bey, during the turbulent times of the Memlooks, which I shall have occasion to notice hereafter in the history of the country. ‡ A short distance to the south of the fort, on the top of the same range of hills, are the ruins of an old convent, called Dayr el Bughleh §, which is mentioned by Arab writers, and was discovered a few years ago by M. Linant.

El Māsarah ||, or Toora-Māsara, about 1¾ mile further to the south, and 9 miles from Cairo, claims, with Toora, the honour of marking the real site of the Troïcus pagus, which, according to Strabo, stood near to the river and the quarries. Strabo and Diodorus both report that it was built and named after the Trojan captives of Menelaus ¶, with what probability it is difficult now to decide; and some ancient Egyptian name of similar sound is as likely to have been changed by the Greeks and Romans into Troja, as by the

* See above, Vol. I. pp. 295. 300. 302.

† The name Troja having been also corrupted from the Egyptian name.

‡ See Section VII., on the History, and above, Vol. I. p. 288.

§ "Of the mule."

|| Properly el Māsarah مَعْصَرَة "the press.

¶ Strabo, 17. p. 556. Diodor. 1. 56.

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modern Arabs into Toora. The mountain to the eastward is evidently the Troici lapidis mons, or *Τρωικὸν ὄρος* of Ptolemy and Strabo; and from it was taken the stone with which the second pyramid was cased*, not built, as the latter geographer supposes. It is to the same mountain that Herodotus† and Diodorus allude, when they say the stone for building the great pyramid came “from Arabia,” or the eastern side of the Nile.

The quarries are of great extent; and that they were worked from a very remote period is evident from the hieroglyphic tablets and the names of kings inscribed within them. Those to the north, to which a railway has been laid down by the Pasha, are sometimes distinguished by the name of the quarries of Toora, those to the south, of Māsarah. At the former are tablets bearing the names of Amun-m̄-gori, of Amunoph II. and III., and of Neco: at the latter are those of Ames, Amyrtæus, Acoris (Hakori), and Ptolemy Philadelphus, with Arsinoë; and some have the figures of deities, as Athor and Thoth, and the triad of Thebes—Amun, Maut, and Khonso, without royal ovals. In one of the tablets at the quarries of Māsarah, sculptured in the 22d year of Ames or Amosis, the leader of the 18th dynasty, who ascended the throne in 1575 B. C., is the representation of a sledge bearing a block of stone, drawn by six oxen. The hieroglyphic inscription above this is much defaced; but in the legible portion, besides the titles of the king and queen “beloved of Pthah and Atmoo,” we read “in the 22d year of his beloved majesty the king, son of the Sun, Ames, to whom life is given, was opened the door . . . the chambers . . . freestone ‡, hard and good, to build the hall of assembly, which is . . . the temple of Pthah, the temple of the god (and) the temple of Amun in Thebes . . . he has caused . . . with oxen . . . of the good god the king, who lives . . .” In another quarry towards the south, is a larger tablet representing king Amyrtæus offering to the triad of the place, Thoth, the goddess Nehimeou, and Horus (Nofre-Hor, “the lord of the land of

* I use this conventional term for the outer tier of stones.

† Herodot. 2. 124.

‡ The same word is used for limestone and sandstone.