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Including the Information Required for Travellers in that Country: Volume 1

John Gardner Wilkinson

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Modern Egypt and Thebes

A pioneer of British Egyptology, Sir John Gardner Wilkinson (1797–1875) first travelled to Egypt in 1821, the year before Champollion published his breakthrough work on the Rosetta Stone. As public interest in Egypt grew, Wilkinson studied and sketched the country's major archaeological sites, most notably the tombs of Thebes. His celebrated *Topography of Thebes and General View of Egypt* (1835) and *Manners and Customs of the Ancient Egyptians* (1837) are also reissued in this series. A remodelled and enlarged version of the former work, this two-volume guide of 1843 not only gives practical advice for the contemporary traveller, but also provides modern readers with a vivid snapshot of Egypt in the middle of the nineteenth century. Volume 1 includes a host of recommendations, such as which ships to take and which hotels to stay in, as well as a long list of useful items, including fez caps and Turkish slippers.

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COUNTRY.

BY

SIR GARDNER WILKINSON, F.R.S.

M. R. S. L. F. R. G. S. &c. &c.

AUTHOR OF "MANNERS AND CUSTOMS OF THE ANCIENT EGYPTIANS."

WITH WOODCUTS AND A MAP.

IN TWO VOLUMES.

VOL. I.

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JOHN MURRAY, ALBEMARLE STREET.

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PREFACE.

IF, as early as the year 1827, the great interest that Egypt had called forth, induced me to write an account of that Country and of the monuments it contains, the increasing interest now felt, and the many travellers who visit it, show how indispensably necessary such a work has become ; and the more so since the establishment of the overland communication with India.

I have therefore remodelled and greatly enlarged my previous Work, “ Egypt and Thebes,” adding to it the most useful information I could collect about the overland transit, the Steam Packets in the Mediterranean, and those instructions which appear to me most necessary for travellers in the country.

I have also given a description of modern and ancient Alexandria ; of the ruins in many of the towns in the Delta, and of the Natron Lakes, the Oases, and other portions of the Western and Eastern Deserts. And after treating of the ancient remains in the country, I have introduced a brief History of Egypt under the Moslems to the present time ; a list of the Pharaohs, Ptolemies, and Cæsars, with their hieroglyphic names (which will serve as a guide to the dates of the monuments wherever they occur); and a brief explanation of the mode of reading Hieroglyphics. The Arabic Vocabulary, which was said to be of use, has also been increased to about double its former size.

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As some alterations have taken place, while this work was in the press, respecting the transit through Egypt, I have thought it advisable to introduce whatever new information I could obtain in the Appendix B. (p. 473.) Though Messrs. Hill have no longer the management of it, or of the hotels in Egypt, the arrangements made by them will serve as a general guide to the traveller. The mention, therefore, of their name in the early part of the work will not mislead in the arrangements themselves, which have only been altered by improvements.

I may here mention two things which I omitted in the body of the work. 1. That when Ladies are of the party, on the Nile, the boatmen should be supplied with drawers, and an order given that they never go into the water without them. 2. Regarding the flags on the Nile, a new custom has been introduced, which is very convenient. Every boat hoists its own private flag (which the traveller may devise and have made before he leaves Europe), all flags are registered at the British Consulate at Cairo, so that any one who will take a note of them before he leaves that place may recognize his friend's boat on the Nile, without the trouble of hailing as he passes.



I conclude by expressing my hopes that the following pages may induce many to visit Egypt, and that the information they contain may be serviceable to travellers, both on the Nile, and in the Desert ; and, begging them to forgive what may be found deficient, I wish them all the pleasure that Egypt is capable of giving them from its interesting remains, and its delicious winter climate.

LATEST CORRECTIONS AND ADDITIONS.

ERRATA IN VOL. I.

- Page 77., line 23., I have mentioned the ruins near Crendi, under the name of Hagar Khem, but I since find that the proper orthography of the latter word is Keam. This signifies “standing upright,” and has evidently been given to the ruins from the perpendicular blocks that were formerly the only part above ground ; and the notion of their having been called from Khem, or Egypt, is quite erroneous.
- I may also state that the ruins at the Coradino have been all destroyed, and few vestiges of them can now be traced.
225. line 24. for “ 1171 ” read “ 1169.”
298. line 13. note omitted, — “ It is remarkable that Belbays, formerly ‘ Bubastis agria,’ is called by the Arabs ‘ Bissay’s,’ or ‘ the Cat.’ ”
386. line 14. for “ Darfour ” read “ Dar-Foor.”

ERRATA IN VOL. II.

- Page 19. line 8. for “ Wady Býád ” read “ Wadee Býád.”
85. line 4. for “ thirty ” read “ thirty-one.”
270. line 9. for “ Koófa ” read “ Koola.”
582. 6th line from bottom for “  ” read “ .

BRITISH STEAM PACKETS FROM MARSEILLES TO MALTA.

A British Government Steamer leaves Marseilles once every month, direct for Malta. The day of departure is generally the 9th, two hours after the arrival of the English courier from London ; and it reaches Malta in from 70 to 77 hours. The fare is 9*l.* for first class passengers. Berths may be secured on board, or at the Agent’s, M. Mallet, wine merchant, No. 9. Rue de Haxo, at Marseilles.

Three packets are employed on this service, the “ Acheron,” “ Alecto,” and “ Polyphemus,” each of 200 horse power ; which also run between Gibraltar and Malta, and Malta and the Ionian Isles. The traveller must send his passport to the British Consulate and to the Board of Health at Marseilles, to be *visé*, before he can embark. This will be arranged by a commissioner of his Hotel, or by the Agent, M. Mallet ; and two charges of 5 and 2 francs are made for it.

The same Agent has published the following *Tarif* for the payment of boatmen and porters : —

“ On arriving by the English Steamers : —

| “1. <i>Going to the Custom House,</i> | | | | | fr. cent. | |
|---------------------------------------|---|---|---|---|-----------|----|
| Landing a passenger | - | - | - | - | 0 | 50 |
| For each box | - | - | - | - | 0 | 50 |
| Carpet bag, or lady's band-box | - | - | - | - | 0 | 25 |

“ 2. From the Custom House to the Hotel,

| | fr. | cent. |
|---|-----|-------|
| For a box - - - - - | 0 | 50 |
| Carpet bag, lady's band-box - - - - - | 0 | 25 |
| Four-wheeled carriage, including the pontoon, men, and custom-house - - - - - | 25 | 0 |
| Two-wheeled carriage - - - - - | 15 | 0 |
| For embarking a passenger and his luggage - - - - - | 1 | 50” |

The following is the Government Notification of the “ Movements of Her Britannic Majesty's steam packets in the Mediterranean ;” though it is probable, in consequence of the packets no longer touching at Falmouth, that some change will take place in the days of departures from Marseilles for Malta.

| Depart from Malta for Gibraltar, with Mails for England, to go on by P. and O. Company's Steamer. | Leave again for Malta with Mails from England brought to Gibraltar, by P. and O. Company's Steamer, which leaves Southampton on the Saturday nearest the 15th of every Month. | Depart from Malta with Mails for Ionian Islands and Greece, touching at Patras, Zante, Cephalonia, and Corfu. | Leave Corfu for Malta with return Mails, touching at Cephalonia, Patras and Zante. |
|---|---|--|---|
| 17th February. 17th March. 14th April. 12th May. 16th June. 14th July. 11th August. 15th September. 13th October. 17th November. 15th December. | 27th February. 27th March. 24th April. 22d May. 26th June. 24th July. 21st August. 25th September. 23d October. 27th November. 25th December. | Jan. 15. and 30. Feb. 15. March 6. and 15. April 3. and 15. May 1. 15. and 29. June 15. July 3. 15. and 31. August 15. and 28. September 15. Oct. 2. 15. and 30. Nov. 15. Dec. 4. and 15th. | Jan. 22. Feb. 6. and 22. March 13. and 22. April 10. and 22. May 8. and 22. June 4. and 22. July 10. and 22. Aug. 7. and 22. Sept. 4. and 22. Oct. 9. and 22. Nov. 6. and 22. Dec. 11. and 22. |

“ Her Majesty's Steamer with the Overland Indian Mails, conveyed through France, viâ Marseilles, Malta, and Alexandria,

Leaves Marseilles the 9th of every month, and arrives at Malta the morning of the 12th, in full time to meet the contract Steamers “ Oriental ” and “ Great Liverpool ” on their way to Alexandria.

Leaves Malta for Marseilles from the 26th to the 30th of every month, with Indian Mail brought by contract Steamer from Alexandria; arriving generally at Marseilles in three days.

By this Conveyance a long sea voyage, and crossing the Bay of Biscay, is avoided by passengers to or from India, the Levant, and other parts of the Mediterranean, and much expense is saved.”

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