

short reigns followed that of Menepthah, and then the nineteenth dynasty fell in the midst of civil war, and the throne was seized by an adventurer from Syria.

The period was favorable for the escape of the Israelitish bondsmen. The excavations and researches of Dr. Naville have shown that the land of Goshen in which they dwelt was the district which extends along the Wadi Tumilat, from Ismailia westward to Zagazig. The settlers in Goshen were accordingly just beyond the boundary of the native Egyptian population, in close contact with the Bedouin tribes of the adjoining desert, and in a region suited for the pasturage of flocks. With the Delta overrun by an enemy, and the Pharaoh struggling for life and throne, the time seemed to have come when the enslaved "Shasu" or "Bedouin" of Canaan could demand their freedom. The plagues which ushered in the Exodus were all merely an intensification of the calamities to which the country was naturally subject. Once every year the Nile becomes of the color of blood, with its water foul and unwholesome; only this takes place when the river first begins to rise, not in the early spring. Every summer the frogs multiply, lice cover the persons of the uncleanly, and an infinitude of flies make life a burden; from time to time the cattle die of murrain, the breaking forth of boils is still a common disease, and the southeast wind brings a plague of locusts over the land. Only a year ago a storm of thunder and lightning descended upon Egypt in the spring which destroyed three thousand acres of cultivated land, and tho the valley of the Nile is no longer visited with a darkness which may be felt, the dust-storms which accompany the raging southern winds of the spring blot out the sunlight and fill the air with a thick gloom. The plagues of Egypt were all, as it were, indigenous in the soil.

No record of the plagues was likely to be preserved by the Egyptian historians. Indeed, as has already been said, there seemed little probability that the monuments would contain any reference to the Israelites at all. But the unexpected often happens, especially in Egyptian research, and last winter Prof. Flinders Petrie was so fortunate as to discover a monument on which the name actually occurs. In the course of his excavations on the western bank of Thebes he disinterred the remains of a temple, hitherto supposed to have been built by Amenophis III., of the eighteenth dynasty, but which turns out to have been erected by Menepthah of the nineteenth. The temple of Amenophis was already in ruins, and Menepthah carried away its sculptured and inscribed stones in order to construct his own sanctuary. Among them was a large stela of granite, more than ten feet in length, upon which the older monarch had engraved a record of his building operations. The stela was built by Menepthah into the new temple, with its inscribed face against the wall, while on the other face another inscription was cut commemorating the glories of Menepthah himself. The inscription is, in fact, a hymn of victory describing the overthrow