

with them an honourable peace, in which the king of Kheta treated with him on equal terms. The war had lasted fourteen years; Rameses was in the twenty-first year of his reign when the two rivals thought fit to put an end to their undecided and ruinous struggle. The original draft of the treaty was written in the language of the Khetas on a silver tablet; the Egyptian translation has been preserved on two walls of the temple of Karnak. From the Egyptian document we see that it was brought to Rameses by Hittite messengers; it recalls the peace which had been made before between the fathers of the two contracting parties, and renews it for ever; the conditions of alliance, as well as the clause of extradition, are very minute and circumstantial. As is often the case in eastern countries, the peace was sealed by a marriage; the daughter of the king of the Khetas, the beautiful *Matneferura*, entered the harem of Rameses.

It does not appear that the last forty years of the reign of Rameses were very much agitated. It is likely that they were passed in peace, and devoted by him to the innumerable constructions which bear his name, and which are seen all along the valley of the Nile from Abu Simbel to the Mediterranean. I should like to mention only two of the largest cities of the Delta, Tanis and Bubastis; and also the cities which Scripture especially attributes to the Hebrews, Raamses and Pithom.

The mounds of Sân (Tanis) are situate near the spot where the canal Muizz reaches Lake Menzaleh; all around extends a vast plain of marshland, which is all that remains of what Scripture calls the garden of Egypt. When, after a long and monotonous ride, the traveller reaches the miserable village of fishermen which is built at the foot of the mounds, and when he has ascended to the top of the first slope formed by the old enclosure wall, he has before his eyes one of the most striking sight of ruins which is to be found in Egypt. Everything is ruined and destroyed; there are hardly two stones one over the other; but the immense space covered with gigantic blocks of red granite, the numerous overthrown obelisks, the broken columns and statues, of which a great