

TWO MUMMIES FROM THEBES, IN UPPER EGYPT.

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When my father opened the mummy before you, in November last, he protected himself from the ridicule which follows mistakes on such occasions, by stating the many sources of error which may falsify the most careful diagnosis of the mummy. It was well that he did so, for a more thorough examination than we could make that night revealed a man and not a woman, as he judged it to be from the lid of the case.

The examination disclosed some curious particulars. It is a mummy of a youth who had hardly attained the age of manhood, and who had struggled up to that period of life through suffering and fearful physical deformity. He was only five feet in height,—had a small head and a sharp, thin face—was hump-backed—and lame, through the left leg being shorter than the right. The foot of the deformed leg is furnished with six toes. So crooked was he, that his embalmers—for the purpose of straightening him—passed a stick through the pelvis, transfixing the body. But that means failing, they bound him down to a heavy piece of wood, which they concealed among the bandages. The vertebral column is very much distorted, and the sternum lies almost upon the back bone. In order, therefore, to make the figure shapely, the embalmers stuffed a quantity of cloth between the integument and the ribs.

It was not a mummy of the first quality, nor yet of the most inferior preparation. The extremities seem to have been dipped in liquid bitumen; and bitumen appears to have been laid evenly over