

relating to such interesting records must appear to have been, and calculated at once to engage the serious attention and invite the further investigation of the Christian Church, it is nevertheless true, that the original assertion of the facts now under consideration was made so far back as the sixth century; and after modern learning and research have brought their resources to bear on a critical examination of the subject, it is the boast of the latest and most profound investigator, that he is enabled fully to confirm the simple record of that early age.

—Cosmos, a merchant of Alexandria, (from his voyage to India surnamed Indico-pleustes,) visited the peninsula of Sinai in 522, and was the first to make known the existence of those mysterious inscriptions for which the rocks in that wilderness are remarkable. He travelled in company of some Jews, who professed to understand the meaning of the unknown characters, and they ascribed their origin to their own ancestors, during their forty years' wanderings in the desert. "The Christian Typography" of Cosmos, (published in 547, at Alexandria,) in which he records these facts, contains some very strange theories; but its testimony to the authenticity of the Scriptures is very considerable. It remained, however, buried in obscurity, until the year 1707, when it was published, with a Latin version and notes by Montfaucon, in his "Nova Collectio Patrum et Scriptorum Græcorum."

Since that time the Rocks of Sinai have been repeatedly examined, and the correctness of the information given by the Alexandrian merchant as to their locality and appearance, sufficiently confirmed. The numerical account and topographical extent of the inscriptions are thus stated, by one of those who have investigated the subject.

The inscriptions are found in the neighbourhood of Mount Sinai, or to speak more accurately, in the valley and hills which, branching out from its roots, run toward the north-west, to the vicinity of the eastern shore of the Gulf of Suez; inasmuch that travellers now-a-days from the monastery of Mount Sinai to the town of Suez, whatever route they take (for there are many,) will see these inscriptions upon the rocks of most of the valleys through which they pass, to within half a day's journey, or a little more, of the coast. Besides these localities, similar inscriptions are met with, and those in great numbers, on Mount Sinai, lying to the south of the above named routes, as also, but more rarely, in some valleys to the south of Mount Sinai itself.

But the valley which, beyond all the rest, claims special notice, is that which stretches from the neighbourhood of the eastern shore of the Gulf of Suez, for the space of three hours' journey, (from six to seven miles,) in a southern direction. There, to the left of the road, the traveller finds a chain of steep sandstone rocks, perpendicular as walls, which afford shelter at noon day and in the afternoon from the burning rays of the sun. These beyond all besides, contain a vast multitude of tolerably well preserved inscriptions; whence this valley has obtained the name of Wady Mokatteb, or "The Written Valley." Adjoining it is a hill, whose stones, in like manner, are covered with writing; and which bears the name of Djebel Mokotteb, or "The Written Mountain."

Intermingled with the inscriptions, images and figures are of very frequent occurrence; and all the work of art; if art it may be called; executed in the rudest style, and evidently with the same instrument as that employed in executing the inscriptions; which figures prove themselves the production of the authors, by their very juxtaposition to the writing. These drawings most frequently represent camels and men. But, for the sake of readers desiring more accurate information on the subject, we will comprise, in a bird's-eye view, those hitherto described, giving the precedence to the figures of most frequent occurrence.

Camels, standing, moving, running, laden. Mountain goats, lizards, serpents, horses and mules, dogs, ostriches, tortoises.

Men standing; in motion; lifting their hands to heaven; looking down; sitting on camels, on laden camels, on horses, on mules; standing on camels, on horses; leading camels; armed with spears, swords, shields; fighting; drawing the bow, (on foot, on horseback,) hunting; a man upon a cross, etc.

Which images those who copied the inscriptions describe as often difficult to distinguish from the letters. The truth is that the original writers sometimes employed images as part of letters, and vice versa, images for groups of letters. (Beer, *Introd.* p. xii)

We obtain some idea of the numbers, extent and positions of the inscriptions, from Mr Foster's work:

Their numbers, in the Wady Mokatteb alone, are computed by thousands; their extent by miles; and

their positions above the valleys as often measurable by fathoms as by feet. No difficulties of situation, no ruggedness of material, no remoteness of locality, has been security against the ravens of the one phalanx of mysterious scribes. The granite rocks of the almost inaccessible Mount Serbal, from its base to its summit, repeat the character and inscription of the sandstone of the Mokatteb. The wild recesses of the Waddy Arabah renew the phenomena in an opposite direction, and disclose them carried on to the extremity of the eastern head of the Red Sea; while countless multitudes more may possibly lie still undiscovered, in the numerous valleys branching out from the roots of Sinai, and as yet, it would appear, unexplored.—(pp. 22, 46)

Lord Lindsay, in his "Lectures on Egypt, Edom, and the Holy Land," says of these inscriptions: "There are thousands of them."

Another point ought to be noticed as essential to the right appreciation of the matter in question. It is this: that very many of the inscriptions are found at heights which no chance voyagers could possibly reach. A traveller has informed us, respecting one locality, the Djebel Mokatteb:

The rocks are covered with inscriptions to the very summit; the lines are straight, except that their extremities are bent upward, so as to join the preceding line, and they thus form a series of curves. Coming from Tor, you perceive on the rock to the right 67 lines, and 41 on that to the left. The characters are one foot high, and one inch deep in the relief. Near the summit of the rock, on the left, is the inscription which is called "the title." It has received this appellation from the characters being six feet high, and three feet in relief. I have caused them to be copied with the greatest exactness. It would require six months of unceasing labor to copy all the inscriptions.—*Letter from the Comte d'Antraques to J. G. Von Muller.*

If we calculate the space required for an inscription like the lesser one of the two here described, it will appear that the altitude of the highest line cannot be less than 60 feet from the base, but may be much more, according to the space allowed for the intervals between the lines.

In dwelling on these remarkable facts, we must not leave out of sight the physical character of the peninsula of Sinai, which forms an important element in the consideration of the subject before us.

This "waste and howling wilderness," as it is expressly designated in the Old Testament, is described by all who have visited it in modern times, as, in most parts, utterly destitute of sustenance for man. For flocks and herds indeed, in the rainy seasons, its valleys, usually parched and withered, (an oasis here, and there like Wady Feiran excepted,) yield a sudden, abundant, and short-lived vegetation. But, with the exception of a few scattered date-groves, of food for the use of man, its produce is nothing. Even the wandering Bedouin, who seeks pasture for his camels or his sheep, during the rains, amidst these wilds, must carry with him, we learn, his own simple and scanty meals. But what Sinai is in our days, it has been through all preceding ages. From the Deluge, if not from the beginning, it has been, is, and must remain to the end of time, the same "waste and howling wilderness." However periodically traversed, it could never have been permanently occupied by mankind.—*Forster*, pp. 38, 40.

And yet it must be sufficiently clear, from what has been already stated, that for the execution of those multitudinous and mysterious inscriptions, the appliances of a fixed and settled population, such as ladders and platforms, or ropes and baskets, were indispensable.

There is an additional fact of importance to be noticed, viz.: that interspread among these Sinaiic monuments, there are a few Greek and Latin inscriptions, and that their style of execution marks comparative recency; unlike all the unknown characters these are cut, not dotted out. It is admitted by all critics, that the genuine Sinaiic inscriptions bear upon their face, in the sameness of characters in the hand-writing, and the whole style of their execution, the clearest internal evidence of the whole of them being the work of a single age or generation.

Thus far we have recorded generally admitted facts.—*Jewish Intel.*

"I AM THE RESURRECTION AND THE LIFE."—Behold our remedy for the misery of the grave! Though it be dark, a beam of light is let into it; here is comfort for a dying bed; not the lying comfort of the atheist, the moralist, or the philosopher, who tell us, "It is the debt of nature." What consolation does that thought yield? But here is the Prince of Life saying, "Though thou art dying, though there is a bottomless pit, infinitely more dreadful than the grave, yet come ye unto me; why will ye die?"—*Cecil.*

News Department.

From Papers by R. M. S. Canada, Sept. 26.

DEATH OF THE DUKE OF WELLINGTON.

On Tuesday, September 14th, his Grace the Duke of Wellington died at Walmer Castle. The telegraphic despatch which announced this startling and melancholy event describes it as having occurred about half-past three o'clock, "after a succession of fits." It appears that when the Duke was seized by the illness which has had this melancholy termination, an electric message was sent to summon Dr. Williams to Walmer Castle; but before the physician had time to reach the station at London-bridge another telegraphic despatch had arrived there, announcing the Duke's decease.

The *Morning Chronicle* of Wednesday says—The previous state of the noble Duke's health up to the morning of the day of his death had not been such as to give any warning of so serious a result, and none of his immediate circle entertained any apprehension of the painful event that was fast approaching. Yesterday morning his Grace rose, to all appearance, in his usual good health, and made no complaint of any indisposition. In the forenoon he walked out to take his customary exercise in the ground attached to the castle, but shortly after his return home he was seized with a rather violent epileptic fit. It was thought, however, that the attack arose from some temporary disorder in the system, which the system would soon throw off; and his Grace's medical attendants, Dr. MacArthur, of Walmer, and Mr. Hulke, surgeon, of Deal, having been immediately sent for, on their arrival they prescribed an emetic. This was, however, administered without producing the desired effect, and after suffering from a very rapid succession of convulsions of similar violence to the first, the noble Duke expired at a quarter-past three o'clock in the afternoon.

Before his death his Grace appeared to be insensible and was unable to articulate. About nine years ago his Grace experienced an attack of the same nature, but his system was then better able to contend successfully against the malady.

Lord Charles and Lady Charles Wellesley and family are now on a visit at Walmer Castle. Shortly after the noble Duke had breathed his last, a message was despatched to the Marquis and Marchioness of Down, who are now staying at Frankfurt for the benefit of the waters, to apprise them of the decease of their illustrious parent. The painful tidings were also immediately transmitted by telegraphic despatch to her Majesty and to the Earl of Derby, at Balmoral.

The *London Times* of Thursday gives the following particulars of the Duke's last hours:—Nothing had occurred in the usual state of his Grace's health to cause serious uneasiness, though of course his age, and the attacks to which of late years he had been more than once exposed, rendered what has taken place extremely probable. Preceding to the last those temperate habits and that bodily activity for which he was so remarkably distinguished, on Monday he took his customary walk in the grounds attached to the Castle, inspected the stables, made many minute inquiries there, and gave directions with reference to a journey to Dover on the following day, when Lady Westmoreland was expected to arrive on a visit to Walmer. His appetite had been observed to be keener than usual, and some remarked that he looked pale while attending Divine service on Sunday, but otherwise nothing had occurred to attract notice or to excite uneasiness, and after dining heartily on venison he retired to rest on Monday night, apparently quite well. Lord and Lady Charles Wellesley were the only visitors at the castle.

Early on Tuesday morning, when Mr. Kendall, the valet came to awake him, his Grace refused to get up, and desired that the "apothecary" should be sent for immediately. In obedience to his master's orders, Mr. Kendall dispatched a note to Mr. W. Hulke, surgeon at Deal, who has been attached to the family for many years, and whom he desired to repair at once to the castle, and to make a secret of the summons. So great had for many years past been the public interest in the Duke's health, that rumours and fears magnified his most trifling ailments, and the news of his desire for medical aid was consequently suppressed. Mr. Hulke hastened to the castle, where he arrived at about nine o'clock. He found the Duke, to all appearance, suffering from indigestion; and complaining of pains in the chest and stomach. He was in the full possession of his faculties, and described his ailment very clearly. This, his last conversation on earth, related entirely to his state of health, and so slight and seemingly harmless were the symptoms that Mr. Hulke confined himself to prescribing some dry toast and tea. He then just promising to call at about eleven o'clock, but at Lord Charles Wellesley's request he said he would come at 10. Mr. Hulke on leaving called upon Dr. MacArthur, and told him what he had done, which the latter approved of. Neither of the medical gentlemen appear to have been present when the fatal attack commenced—an attack to which the Duke's constitution has for years been liable, and which a year and a half ago had been conquered by their successful treatment. His Grace, when seized, lost the power of speech and of consciousness. On the arrival of the medical attendants, emetics were administered, which, however, produced no effect. Every effort was used to afford relief, but in vain. His Grace was removed from bed into an arm chair, where it was thought he would be more at ease; and the attendants of his dying moments stood in a group around him, watching the last efforts of expiring nature. On one side were Lord Charles Wellesley, and Dr. MacArthur, on the other Dr. Hulke