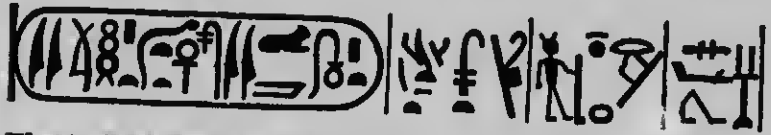
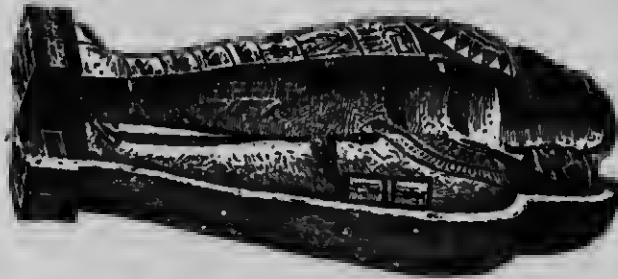


near one of the mouths of the Nile (1799) contained a royal decree written in three kinds of characters, the hieroglyphic, the demotic, and the Greek. With this key the French scholar Champollion deciphered the language (1821), and may be said to have unlocked the treasure-house of Egyptian learning. This line gives an example of the hieroglyphic characters:¹



The Influence of Egypt.—Egypt held a place in the valley of the Nile somewhat similar to that held by Babylonia in the Tigris-Euphrates valley. They both represent the early stages in the world's civilization, and contributed much to the progress of other nations. But the culture of Egypt was not at first so widely diffused as was that of Babylonia. Egypt, however, formed one of the great sources of Oriental culture, from which Europe and modern countries have received valuable materials. Egypt taught the world the principles



MUMMY AND MUMMY CASE

of a durable architecture. It is true that the Babylonians built elaborate structures of brick, but these have well-nigh perished, while the stone buildings of Egypt have withstood in a wonderful manner the destructive influences of time. Indeed, we might say that one great difference between the material civilization of Babylonia and that of Egypt was the fact that one was wrought in *clay* and the other in *stone*. The Greeks, no doubt, derived much of their early knowledge of architecture from the Egyptians. The

¹ The line is read from right to left, and is translated thus: "Raising | statue | of king of Egypt | Ptolemy eternal beloved of Ptah."