

of land, annually fertilized by the inundations of the river, the barren mountains, with deserts beyond. The temple at Abydos, built about 1400 n. c. by King Sethos I., is well preserved. Here, as in all temples, the roofs and ceilings are solid blocks of stone. About fifty miles higher up the stream, at Deuderah, is found a splendid temple completed by the last of the Greek sovereigns of Egypt, Cleopatra, about 50 n. c. The ruins of Thebes, most important of all, are next reached. Some of these are named after the Arab villages built around them—as the ruins of Karnak, of Luxor, of Kourneh, and of Medinet Habou. The date of these temples varies from 1600 to 1200 n. c.

Thothmes III., about 1600 B.C., built the earliest Theban temple which remains in any sort of preservation (one of those at Karnak), though there are some temple columns standing of earlier date. This king erected before a temple at On (Heliopolis), in the Delta, the two obelisks which have been recently transported to London and to New York.

Amenophis III., about 1500 B.C., erected the two colossal statues at Thebes known as the statues of "Memnon," each sixty feet in height. He also built the Theban temples whose remains are named after the Arab village of Luxor. Between Luxor and Farnak he placed an alley of sphinxes, six hundred in number, each one from 12 to 18 feet long, in solid blocks of stone.

Sethos I., about 1430 B.C., built, besides the temple of Abydos, the Theban temple of Kourneh, and began the Great Hall of Karnak. This was finished by his son, Ramses II., 1350 n. c. The roofing blocks of its central nave are each 25 feet long. The Great Hall was 340 feet by 170, and contained one hundred and thirty-four columns. The twelve largest are 75 feet high and 12 feet in diameter. On the top of the capital of a single one of the largest columns a hundred men might stand together. Ramses II. also built at Thebes the temple now known as the *Ramesseum*. Beside its ruins lie the fragments of a statue of Ramses in red granite, which was 75 feet high, and weighed 887 tons. The Theban temple near the Arab village of Medinet Habou was built by Ramses III., about 1170 n. c.

Above the temple ruins of Thebes lie those of Esneh (Latopolis), Edfon, Koin Ombos, and of the Island of Philæ. All of these belong to the time of the Greek rule over Egypt, after n. c. 330, or to the Roman period, after B. C. 30. They are, notwithstanding, absolutely Egyptian in character, a most remarkable fact when we remember that other countries ruled by Greeks and Romans adopted their forms of art. The peculiar tenacity of Egyptian customs in general, which foreign influence could not shake, is illustrated by this permanence of their architectural styles. The temple at Edfon is the best preserved, and serves as a type by which other ruins may be imagined in restoration.

The Island of Philæ, five hundred and twenty-six miles from the mouths of the Nile, marks the limit of Egypt proper. Rocky formations here create a cataract in the Nile, known as the First Cataract, which impedes river navigation to the south. Above this point the character of the country begins to change. The narrow strip of fertile soil becomes still narrower, lying on one side of the river, and only two or three miles wide. From the First Cataract to the Second (about two hundred miles), this country is known as Nubia. Above the Second Cataract lies Ethiopia, stretching for three hundred miles to the Third Cataract. Egyptian temples are found along the river banks through Nubia and Ethiopia, showing that the civilization as well as the armies of Egypt controlled these countries.

The most important monuments of Nubia are the rock temples of Ipsamboul, executed under Ramses II. about 1350 n. c. The largest of these has a heavy façade 100 feet high, with four sitting figures; portraits of the king, semi-detached from the rock; each 75 feet high. The temple is cut into the rock 150 feet, with an interior height of 35 feet, the ceiling being supported by colossal human forms. On following pages, see portrait of Thothmes III., and views at Edfon and Ipsamboul.