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THE TELL EL AMARNA TABLETS.

ABOUT three hundred miles from the mouth of the Nile, and midway between Memphis and Thebes, on the east bank of the river, is a large plain twelve miles long and five miles broad. Ruins covering an area of ten square miles occupy the south-west part of the plain. In 1891 Petrie commenced explorations which have resulted in the exposure of a considerable portion of these ruins, and have furnished an important contribution to Egyptology. Here are the remains of a large city built in the fifteenth century before the christian era. Near the river stood the royal palace, with its painted pavements. Hard by lived wealthy citizens, for the remains of frescoes and wall paintings are found in the houses. In the central part of the city are the ruins of the Sun Temple; and the southern part gives evidence of having been the quarters of the workmen. Crossing the plain in various directions are the remains of broad roadways which were kept scrupulously clean. Concerning this city two things are remarkable if not unique. It was built in about eight years, an exceedingly short time for the erection of an Egyptian city; and all around the foreign element is visible. Egyptologists assert that Amenophis III., a great king of the