

of Memnon there ; remarkable, it is said, for emitting a sound each morning.'¹

According to King² this was probably a work of the age of the Ptolemies, and brought from Alexandria by the emperor named as its dedicator. This, however, is not the group in the Vatican which passes for it, the latter being in statuary marble. King adds that 'the Capitoline Museum possesses some wonderful centaurs and stags in basalt, ascribed to the reign of Hadrian, of whom Pausanias had noted as something remarkable, a statue in this material, "Egyptian stone," in the Olympeum, Athens. His love of Egyptian art revived the use of this stone, which the Egyptians continued to sculpture to a late period of the Roman Empire. The more compact pieces of this extremely hard material were used for scarabi and intagli by the later Egyptians : it is not unusual to find gnostic amulets, belonging to the Alexandrian sects, engraved in basalt. Engravers, however, of a good period have never made use of so coarse a material.'

Strabo mentions a similar stone to Lapis Basanites found near Syene.

The urn on the high altar of the Church of S. Croce in Gerusalemme is of the ancient basalt.

¹ Pliny, *op. cit.*, Book xxxvi, chap. 11. ² King, *op. cit.*