

some likeness to the Egyptian. Several scholars are now engaged in attempting to decipher those inscriptions, but at present no absolutely certain result has as yet been attained. The god of the Khetas was Sutekh, who had sanctuaries in all the most important cities. Sutekh is a Semitic divinity which had been the god of the Hyksos.

In the fifth year of his reign Rameses II. started from Egypt, marched through Palestine, which seems to have been under his rule, and reached the valley of the Orontes, where stood the city of Kadesh. There the king of the Khetas had collected a considerable number of troops; his army was composed of populations which were subjected to him, and also of allies who made common cause with him against the foreign invader. The war against the Khetas is described in one of the chief monuments of Egyptian literature, called the poem of Pentaur. It is a composition in poetical style, relating an act of valour of the king himself. Whether the king valued very much this composition, or whether, what is more likely, he was very proud of his great feat of arms, he caused the poem of Pentaur to be engraved on several of the temples of Upper Egypt, and, as it has come down to us also on a papyrus, we have several copies of this document.

Pentaur relates that the king, led astray by the false reports of two Shasu (Bedouins), took the start of the rest of his army, and alone in his chariot with his driver found himself suddenly surrounded by a multitude of enemies. Then he called on the god of Thebes, Amon, who gave him a supernatural gallantry, and enabled him to cut his way among his foes, who, amazed at such bravery, thought him to be a god. The next day the Egyptian army desirous to wipe away the disgrace of having abandoned the king, gained a great victory before Kadesh, and the prince of Kheta was compelled to ask for peace. The complete submission and the humiliating peace which is described by Pentaur does not agree with the historical data which we gather from other monuments. It is certain that very far from having subdued the Khetas, and having reduced them to the state of subjects or vassals, Rameses II., a few years afterwards, concluded