

From Mr. Buckingham's Lectures.

EGYPT.

(CONCLUDED.)

Sais, a city dedicated to Isis, is remarkable for having contained a temple hewn out of a single stone. It was brought from a distance of at least 500 miles. The dimensions are not given, but some idea of its magnitude may be formed from its having occupied 2000 pilots of the Nile, for three successive inundations of that river, in bringing it to the place of its destination. This is a proof of the great labour and care the Egyptians bestowed upon the temples of their Divinity; and however much they may have been mistaken in their religion, it is impossible not to honor them for the zeal which they displayed in its behalf. Tanais is principally remarkable as having been the spot where Moses contended with the magicians of Pharaoh, and for the magnitude of its walls. Babastis near Cairo, was at one extremity of the canal, connecting the Isthmus of Suez with the Nile, and the selection of the place for cutting the canal was a great proof of the practical knowledge and sciences of the Egyptians. The distance is nearly sixty miles from sea to sea; for, had the Red Sea been above the Mediterranean, they must have known that there would be so strong a current as to render it impossible for ships or boats to navigate the canal when excavated; and in order to obtain this object it was necessary to select a spot where the two seas were on a level, and this their choice of a situation showed them fully capable of doing. Heliopolis, or the city of the Sun, is in the territory called in scripture the land of Goshen. The name of Heliopolis was given it by the Greeks. It has two splendid obelisks, and is remarkable for having contained a college, where Pythagoras first taught his doctrine of the metempsychosis, or transmigration of soul. Very near to it stands Cairo, a city better known to travellers than any other. On the other side of the Nile stands the ruins of Memphis, a city founded in an age so remote, that it was in ruins when Alexandria, a place of great antiquity, was built. One of the remarkable features of Memphis, is the site chosen for the interment of the dead. The custom of the Egyptians, in this respect, was most judicious, and is well worthy the imitation of the moderns, in all countries. They never interred their dead in land capable of being applied to the purposes of the living. This custom was probably owing to the scanty limits of the valley of Egypt, a country so thickly peopled, that it was desirable to preserve every portion of it capable of ministering to the wants of its living inhabitants. Memphis has a desert on one side, and rich and fertile fields on the other. From the desert arise the Pyramids, those stupendous remnants of an age so remote, that, notwithstanding their magnitude, and presumed importance, nothing certain is known as to their origin, or the uses to which they were applied. As is well known, the opinions on the subject are various; the most rational is, that these enormous structures, reared with such labor, and at such a vast expense, were intended for the burial place of the Kings of Egypt. They are generally mentioned as three in number, because there are only three of considerable magnitude, but in the plains around there are not fewer than fifty; their being so numerous is another argument in support of the opinion that they were intended for the burial of the dead. The three principal ones, each, cover a space about equal to that occupied by Lincoln's Inn Fields, London, or Grosvenor-square. The size of the base, which is a square, is eight hundred feet each way; the elevation is equal to the breadth at the base, and the Pyramids are, therefore, twice the height of St. Paul's in London. They are not of difficult ascent, being formed of retiring ranges of stone, gradually decreasing, so that the summit may be obtained without great difficulty. The prospect from the top is the most remarkable, delightful, and extensive that can be conceived. It forms the subject of one of the Orphic hymns. Orpheus ascended the Pyramid to witness the rising of the sun, and the sight gave rise to one of the most beautiful productions of antiquity. So completely is the origin of these stupendous structures buried in oblivion, that Herodotus, the father of ancient history, who lived 3000 years ago, lamented the impossibility of ascertaining it. He found that even the priests were incompetent to give any notion of

the time when they were built, or for what purpose they were intended. All that is recorded is, the number of men who were employed, the number of years they were engaged, and the quantity of food which they consumed. That they were tombs, and not temples, there are many reasons to believe. They abound in mummies; the present population of England is not greater than that of the Necropolis, or City of the Dead. The dimensions of the Sphinx are still more enormous than those of the Pyramids. The height from the chin to the lips of the statue is thirty feet; and from this may be gathered some idea of the dimensions of the whole figure. Owing to the great increase of the sands of the desert in that part, the greater portion of the enormous figure is buried; but an Italian Captain, some time ago, having spent five or six months in removing the sand, a great part of the figure was discovered, and it was found to be of such immense dimensions, that it held between its paws like a plaything, a temple capable of containing 1000 persons. In this were found, in different compartments, remains of the ibis, the quail, and other birds. In the neighbourhood of Memphis is a reservoir, extending 150 miles in circumference, excavated by the Egyptians, who, with their usual prescience, thinking it probable that posterity would not credit that so stupendous an excavation had been the work of man, left a monument of the fact by erecting a Pyramid in the centre, which, when the waters were let into the lake, stood 400 feet below the surface, and 400 feet above it. On this occasion many thousands of men were employed for a great number of years in the prosecution of so vast a work. In the lower part of the Pyramid was formed a labyrinth, and priests were deputed to attend to the mysteries of their religion; the sacred crocodiles were deposited here; numbers of these animals have been dug up, some so large as twenty feet, others in chests containing fifty or one hundred of them, some as small as one's finger, for these creatures are smaller when born, compared to the size they afterwards attain, than any other animal. Another remarkable city, of which there are some stupendous remains, is that of Antinoe; the remains of these cities prove that, in architecture, as well as in other arts and sciences, the ancient Egyptians, were as superior to the Greeks as the Greeks were to the people of other countries. The Parthenon, and other monuments of Grecian art, are certainly extremely beautiful; but when a man passes on to Egypt, and views its splendid ruins, he is compelled to give the palm to those of that country. It is not possible to express the feelings which fill the mind of him who contemplates them. M. Dion, the keeper of the Louvre at Paris, exclaimed, on beholding the ruins of Antinoe, that had he been a Pagani, and asked who were the founders of such a city, he must have answered, that it was the work of the Gods, and not of men. The remains of Hermopolis are very splendid and magnificent. Of these M. Dion said, that had all the soldiers in the French army been artists, and had they all been constantly employed for twelve months, they would scarcely have been able to make drawings of all that remained of Hermopolis. Crocodilopolis is another ancient city, of which there are stupendous remains. It was dedicated to the sacred crocodiles, to which creatures the Egyptians paid divine honours. It contained a pharos, or lighthouse, to assist boats in the passage of the Nile, a river of peculiarly difficult navigation; yet this appears to have been the only lighthouse upon it. The Egyptians, however, were by no means a maritime people; they had, indeed, a horror of navigation, in consequence of their belief that those who perished at sea were eternally lost, in consequence of their not receiving the rites of sepulture, which they esteemed requisite to their happiness in a future state. The city of Hermopolis, previously named, contains a temple, 350 yards in length, and of the same height; on the gateway of which, half the height of this edifice, stands a village of about 100 houses, capable of lodging very comfortably 4 or 500 inhabitants. On Philoe, a small island about a mile in breadth, to which the Latin poet Juvenal was banished, on account of his satires, the Egyptians appear to have lavished their wonderful resources of power and art. They here formed what are termed cataracts, a name, however, somewhat improperly given, the fall of water is seldom more than five or six feet. The works on this island are a beautiful illustration

of the power of art, for though, on close examination, they are found to be full of the most discordant irregularities, the impression they produce is that of perfect symmetry and order. The ornaments and buildings remaining of Elephantina bear a remarkable similarity to a city of the same name in India.

IMPORTANT DISCOVERY.—Mr. John W. Cooper, of Waynesburg, has discovered a method for bleaching ley or copperas colored rags. Among the improvements of the age, this is not the least important; and to paper manufacturers, particularly, it is of high interest. A method for bleaching stained rags has long been in requisition, as they are of little use in the manufacturing of paper, unless the colors can be effaced without injuring the texture. Heretofore the process has been attended with much difficulty and expense; that of Mr. Cooper is perfectly harmless and simple, as it was tested by several scientific manufacturers of Chambersburg.—*Baltimore Minerva & Emerald.*

THE SEASON.

The Kingston (U. C.) Chronicle of the 20th ult. says, "The weather for some time past, has been unusually dry, and the crops have, in consequence, materially suffered throughout the District. Last night and to-day, however, heavy and refreshing showers have fallen, which will tend greatly to improve the face of the country, and relieve the anxieties that a continuation of so unfavorable a season for vegetation would naturally produce."

The York (U. C.) Observer of the 22d inst. states that after a journey of five days in the country, the editor can say that "crops of wheat, corn and potatoes have a fine appearance."

The Montreal Herald of 24th June, says "We have heard great complaints of the want of rain in Upper Canada, vegetation in many places suffering severely from drought. We are afraid that complaints arising from the very opposite cause will soon be heard in this neighbourhood, should the numerous and heavy rains we have had of late continue much longer."

The Montreal Gazette of the 25th says "For the last three days we have heard nothing but the unvaried sound of rain upon our windows. We hope the country may not be so drenched by the rains as to injure vegetation, but it is to be apprehended that if much more should fall, our anticipation of a plentiful Grain harvest will be somewhat disappointed. Hay and Grass still promise to be most abundant."

AGRICULTURAL REPORT FOR JUNE 1829.

District of Quebec.—The weather at the commencement of this month continued warm and dry. There were heavy rains on the 8th, 14th, 20th, 28th, and 29th of the month: from the 14th the nights became cool, and have generally continued so, altho' we have heard of no frost, a slight degree of which is not unusual at this season. A strange appearance was observed on the 15th on the leaves of the thorn, one of the hardiest of the native bushes, about one half of a great many of the leaves were withered, giving the whole bush a russet hue.

Gentlemen have arrived at New-York and who had passed through the Western parts of the State mention, that the crops promise abundant returns. In the Middle States, complaints are made against the drought; in the Southern a portion of the wheat is already housed, and it is said that flour will soon be as low as it has ever been.

THE WEATHER.—We are informed that in the upper parts of the country above Fredericton, it had rained 15 days successively. We do not learn that any of the crops in that quarter had been materially injured thereby except Indian Corn. Warm dry weather agrees best with that plant, and in consequence of the continued rains, it had a yellow and unthrifty appearance. It is however expected that it will yet recover. The weather has been remarkably wet throughout the Province generally, but until very lately the appearance of crops has been quite favorable. Within a few days we have heard complaints from various quarters, and we regret to say, that in the vicinity of this city, some of the grain crops have sustained irreparable injury, and the grass, though tolerably good, is not equal to previous expectation.—*City Gazette.*