

Lake Mœris was dug, and the Labyrinth was constructed. The invasion of the Hyksos or Shepherd Kings also took place during this period.

V. — The New Empire was noted, first, for its conquests; secondly, for its downfall. Egypt fell successively into the hands of the Persians, the Greeks, the Arabs and the Turks.

LESSON.

I. — Subject matter of Ancient History. — 1. Ancient History or the history of antiquity comprises historical facts which date from the most remote ages to the fall of the Western Empire in the fifth century of the Christian era. This history may be divided into three parts: The First Empires, Greece and Rome.

Ancient History does not date back to the origin of mankind, but begins after the deluge. After the dispersion of Noah's descendants men grouped here and there and formed nations. The monuments and writings which they left to posterity to commemorate their deeds show that they reached a certain degree of civilization. The ages previous to this period are called primitive or prehistoric ages and are known to us only through the Bible.

Races. — 2. Noah had three sons: Sem, Cham and Japhet. Of the descendants of Sem (Semites), history treats chiefly of the Hebrews or Israelites, the Babylonians and the Assyrians; of the descendants of Cham (Chamites), it treats principally of the Egyptians and the Phœnicians; lastly, it treats of the Medes, the Persians, the Greeks and the Romans — descendants of Japhet.

The Hebrew people, whose glorious privilege it was to maintain the worship of the true God in the midst of universal idolatry, has a history apart — Sacred History. In Ancient History, mention will be made merely of those facts of the history of the Jews which are connected with that of other nations.

II. — Egypt. — Its Situation. — 3. Egypt is the first country mentioned in history. The boundaries of An-