

concern themselves largely with chronicles of the royal campaigns and victories, and with detailed catalogues of the booty. The style of



The Great Hall of Karnak, Thebes.

the inscriptions is prolix, and much space is taken up in the repetition of titles. The study and collation of inscriptions has enabled scholars to extend their knowledge of Egyptian history and character in a multitude of interesting ways, but perhaps the most interesting result of hieroglyphic study is negative. From what has been left us of Egyptian literature we find it differing from later literature by the absence

of individuality or personality of style.

This uniformity and monotony of character in the Egyptian writings remind us that the greatness of this nation was collective; it did not lie in the individuals, but in the mass. The typical expression of Egyptian life and character was not in literature—it was in building. It is on the architecture of Egypt that the colossal greatness of this nation stamped itself, and to this we must look especially for our conceptions of its character. Along the Nile lie the most stupendous, and the earliest, monuments of history; in their ruins more imposing, a thousand times, than the most perfect modern structure. Notwithstanding the magnificence and number of these remains, they represent but a small portion of the ancient structures.

Description of the Ruins. *—It is not till the traveler reaches Abydos, about three hundred and fifty miles from the mouth of the Nile, that he finds an important temple ruin of the ancient period. Meantime, the fertile country has narrowed from its greatest width in the Delta to a width, above the head of the Delta, of from seven to nine miles. On either side of this strip

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