

Young People's Department.



SPHINX OF AMMUN-RA THEBES.

EGYPTIAN MONUMENTS.

HERE is something very pleasant in reading history, particularly that which relates to kingdoms and empires long since gone to decay. It is interesting to notice their different customs and religions, and to observe their peculiar way of living compared with our own. One of the most interesting countries to study is Egypt, for there are a great many monuments there to shew what a strange people the ancient Egyptians were. The pyramids which have ever been the wonder of the world, the old temples, obelisks, sphinxes, (such as shewn in the illustration above) and shrines of innumerable form are still to be seen in a greater or less state of preservation, and what do they all mean? If they could speak, how many a strange story of the past they could reveal. There is that great figure of the ram's head, near Thebes, with the sphinx by its sides. How many centuries have rolled past them and over them and yet there they are still silent and unmoved.

A recent traveller, says with regard to Egypt :
 "Everywhere we tread upon buried cities,

pointing to a time when Egypt was incomparably more prosperous and more civilized than it is now. We pass miles of tombs, palaces, obelisks, temples, at Heliopolis, Memphis, Thebes and Karnak. Look at the temple of El Karnak, with its gateway 300 feet wide—its hall of assembly, one suite only, consisting of 134 columns, each 70 feet high and 12 feet thick, built about 1400 B.C. The whole of Notre Dame would stand comfortably within the great temple. Mark the obelisk—180 feet high, about 1400 B.C.—the largest in the world. Yonder, in what is now a vast plain, periodically flooded by the Nile waters, stand the statues of Memnon, 70 feet high, raised by Amenoph III. about 1500 B.C.

Dominating the desert, as indestructible relics of the ages, against which the waves of time seem to dash themselves almost in vain, stand the three pyramids of Cheops, Chephren and Mycerynus. Not far from the pyramids, the mighty head of the Sphinx, disfigured but not destroyed, looks the world in the face with its insoluble enigma. The face alone measures 30 feet; the paws which have been unburied from time to time, 140 feet. The chapel between