

The ancients, and especially the Greeks, adorned their floors and pavements of palaces and temples with mosaic or rather *musaic* work. A work composed of many stones, or rather matters of different colors, so disposed as to represent divers shapes and ornaments, birds &c.

The word *musaic* is evidently of Egyptian origin, which will appear from the following explanation :

The rural works not being resumed in Egypt till after the Nile had quitted the plains (the Delta), the Egyptians for this reason gave the public signs of husbandry the name of *Moses* or *Museus*, *saved from the waters*, and on the same account the nine moons during which Horus, Apollo or Husbandry continued his exercises, and during which Egypt is fed from inundation went by the same name.

These nine moons or months were represented by nine different figures of Isis, each intended to inform men what they were to do, and hence originated the fable of the nine muses.

Now what could be more appropriate than to denominate the variegated and beautiful face of the earth in Egypt, in particular the Delta, during the nine months that bore the name of *Moses* or *Museus*, *musaic* or *musaic work* and to give the same appellation to its imitation on the floors or pavements of their temples and palaces.

Thus the flooring of the Lodge is intended to resemble the face of the earth, and the principal ceremonies preformed in it, are an imitation of the movements of the heavenly bodies, particularly of that great luminary the sun, the god of Egypt.

But the Greeks among whom this chorus of deities was introduced, gave each of them a proper name and which are known in Grecian mythology as the nine Muses.

Near the *nine Isises*, that denoted the nine months in which people might go up and down, and act at liberty, appeared also *three Isises*, that represented the three months during which the water remained on the plains and hindered the free correspondence of one city with another.

They were drawn sometimes in swathings, and incapable of making any use either of their feet or arms; sometimes half women and half lizard or half fishes, because men must then remain on the land by the water side. In fine they were represented as the three idle sisters, without any attribute, holding one another by the hands, because they denoted the inaction of the three months of inundation, that succeeded each other without interruption. And as these three months broke off the ordinary correspondence of one city with another, at a time when they had not as yet raised the magnificent causeways, that have since been made; the three Isises proclaiming the neomenia of these months of total separation were called *Cheritout* that is the divorcee, the time of the separation. This word has a relative sound with the word *charities* which in Greek signifies, sometimes the *thanks-givings*, sometimes the *favours* or a *courteous behaviour*, which gave occasion to the Greek poets to imagine that these three goddesses presided over gratitude and outward charm and hence the origin of the "*Three Graces*" in Grecian Mythology.

The *Blazing Star*, the emblem of prudence, in the centre, was a most important emblem among the ancient Egyptians, it was Anubis, the barker, the Dog-star, which warned them of approaching danger, caused