

of some of the adventures awaiting him in the unseen state.* Secondly, the ornamental cases in which the mummies are enclosed are painted all over with scenes setting forth the realities and events to which the soul of the dead occupant has passed in the other life.† Thirdly, the various fates of souls are sculptured and painted on the walls in the tombs in characters which have been deciphered during the present century. ‡

Those mystic, stony volumes on the walls long writ,
Whose sense is late reveal'd to searching modern wit.

Combining the information thus obtained, we learn that according to the Egyptian representation the soul is led by the god Thoth into Amenthe, the infernal world, the entrance to which lies in the extreme west, on the farther side of the sea, where the sun goes down under the earth. It was in accordance with this supposition that Herod caused to be engraved on a magnificent monument erected to his deceased wife, the line, 'Zeus, this blooming woman sent beyond the ocean.'§ At the entrance sits a wide-throated monster, over whose head is the inscription, 'This is the devourer of many who go into Amenthe, the lacerater of the heart of him who comes with sins to the house of justice.' The soul next kneels before forty-two assessors of Osiris, with deprecating asseverations and intercessions. It then comes to the final trial in the terrible Hall of the Two Truths, the approving and the condemning, or, as it is differently named, the Hall of the Double Justice, the rewarding and the punishing. Here the three divinities, Horus, Anubis, and Thoth, proceed to weigh the soul in the balance. In one scale an image of Thmei, the goddess of Truth, is placed; in the other a heart-shaped vase, symbolizing the heart of the deceased, with all the actions of his earthly life. Then happy is he

Who weighed 'gainst Truth, down dips the awful scale.

* *Das Todtenbuch der Ägypter*, edited, with an Introduction, by Dr. Lepsius.

† *Pettigrew's History of Egyptian Mummies*. chap. ix.

‡ Champollion's Letter, dated Thebes, May 16, 1829. An abstract of this letter may be found in *Stuart's Translation of Greppo's Essay on Champollion's Hieroglyphic System*. Appendix, Note N.

§ Basnage, *History of the Jews*, lib. ii., chap. 12, sec. 19.