

Mohammedan dynas-
ty, its present govern-

Christian era, and was
Emperor Constantine

Theodosius the Great,

EGYPTIANS.

concerned chiefly
of foreign domina-
tion (time of the Per-
sians) all subordinate
to that the Egyptian
character were not
changes of govern-
ment of the last Greek
era, on the wall of
Memnon, is still
of the stiff, sche-
matic art. At this
time, after nearly
two centuries of foreign rule,
the sacred animal,
the crocodile, roused a popu-
lar feeling which the people
of Egypt after Christ
dom. The name
of Christ, is inscribed

is doubtless origi-
nal. The absolute
power of the Nile obliged
the Egyptians to recur-
rently known in Upper
Egypt is placed on
subject to such
a world in receiv-

ing no tributaries for a distance of about 1350 miles above its mouth, through Egypt, Nubia, and Ethiopia. Its annual rise and overflow result from the melting of the snows on the lofty mountains of Central Africa, and occur at almost exactly the same dates of each succeeding year. The sediment deposited during the overflow is a rich fertilizer. Thus the sowing of seed, reaping the harvest, repairing the dykes and canals, verification of landmarks, and all other agricultural activities, were here forced into a regularity of recurrence and arrangement which the climate and conditions of other countries would not even remotely allow.

Besides the fixity and regularity of all other habits of life, determined by the controlling occupation, the Egyptians were fixed still further in accustomed grooves by an **exclusiveness** which was also forced upon them. Other nations have been modified by contact with those surrounding them, and have often wished to change their conditions to resemble others. But the Egyptians wished to repel all other nations. Their own valley supplied them with an unfailing source of riches, for which no foreign residence could offer them a substitute. Their valley was bounded by deserts from which the wandering nomads were constantly tempted to descend for pillage. Barbarians from the wilds of Southern Africa were tempted to descend the Nile. Wandering tribes from the desert Peninsula of Sinai, from Arabia, or Syria, were constantly tempted to effect an entrance by way of Suez. Thus the Egyptians were obliged to be an exclusive people. They wanted to keep other people out of their country, and never wanted to leave it themselves, unless to make their own land secure by terrifying other warlike nations. The campaigns of their greatest conquerors never really aimed to combine other countries with the Egyptian valley, but simply to teach them that they were not to enter it.

To these two elements of influence—that of constantly recurring habits of life, and the antagonism to all modifying external influence—we may add **the influence of landscape and climate**. The Egyptian lived in a valley of fertile soil, one thousand miles long, and from two to nine miles wide above the Delta, with barren mountains on either side. The monotony of climate and surroundings added an emphasis to the more important influences produced by the same grand facts.

From what has been said of the riches of Egypt and its relation to surrounding nations, we may argue the reasons for a **form of government** of the most absolute despotism. The loss of a single battle might place the entire valley at the mercy of the conqueror. There were no mountain fastnesses to prolong resistance or check invasion. The rivers of other countries offer obstacles to attack, but the line of the river being also the line of the