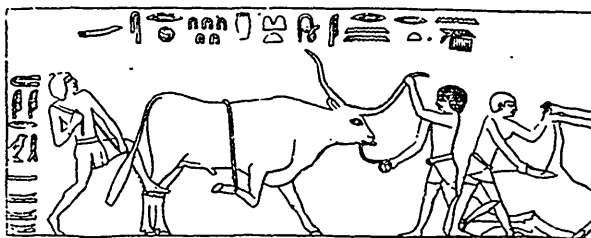


oxen deities of Egypt. The passages have an aggregate length of 380 yards, are about 10 feet wide and 17 feet high, hewn out of the solid rock. On either side are sixty-four Apis vaults, averaging 26 feet high, and roofed with stone. Twenty-four of these chambers still contain the huge sarcophagi in which the



SACRIFICING CATTLE.

Apis mummies were deposited. These monster coffins average 13 feet in length, 7 feet in width, 11 feet in height, hewn out of solid granite, and weigh no less than sixty-five tons. They were all brought from the quarries of Assouan, in Nubia, nearly six hundred miles away. The solid covers have all been pushed aside for the purpose of rifling the tomb. Four or five persons could easily sit around the small table in one of these sarcophagi.

The cut on page 7 shows one of these Apis tombs which has been dragged into the corridor, in the vain attempt to remove it, upon which the Arabs have, for some unknown purpose, built a mass of masonry.

Mariette, in his account of his discovery of these tombs, states that one chamber which had been walled up in the reign of Rameses II., had escaped the notice of the plunderers of the vault.

"I was so fortunate," he says, "as to find it untouched, although 3,700 years had elapsed since it was closed. Everything in the chamber seemed to be precisely in its original position. The finger marks of the Egyptian on the wall built to conceal the doorway, were still visible in the lime. There were still marks of naked feet visible on the sand within. Everything was in its original condition in this chamber, where the embalmed remains of the bull had remained undisturbed for thirty-seven centuries."



FEEDING GEESE.

One of the inscribed sarcophagi bore the name of the Persian conqueror, Cambyses. Herodotus states that in a fit of rage that conqueror had stabbed the sacred bull of Memphis in the thigh, and that the wounded animal some time after died.