

governor kneeling before him, (thereby proving the assertion of Scripture that Joseph was the Prime Minister of Pharaoh) and receiving the written order, while Joseph points to his father Jacob, and to his brethren. The whole transaction is explained in hieroglyphic scrolls. And all this happened, and was thus recorded seventeen hundred years before Christ.

But it is not so much to the early date at which these countries were civilized, as to the peculiar nature of their civilization and learning, that I would direct your attention. It is probable that India and Egypt were in advance of all Europe and Asia in science and art, but to the extent, the depth, and the abstraction of their science, and to the variety of their arts, that I would ask you to look. It is a matter of much controversy, whether civilization proceeded from India to Egypt, or from Egypt to India, but an enquiry of that kind can have no place here at present. We know very well that their early civilization and religion were intimately connected, if they were not the same; for the Sepoy troops, whom Sir David Baird conducted across the desert to Egypt, to attack Buonaparte, fell down before the idols in the ancient Egyptian temples, saying that these were their gods also.

Taking them indiscriminately, we are astonished to find that but one or two nations on the whole face of the globe were, within four hundred years after the deluge, in so peculiar a position. We find and now know since the learned have been able to read their inscriptions, that within this short time after the deluge, these people had erected temples and porticos, and excavated vast halls, all either covered or filled with sculptures; the buildings, the halls, and the decorations excelling in stupendous power and finish, everything which has since been executed. We know that most of the wonders of Upper Egypt must have been finished more than three thousand four hundred years ago; and that the pyramids and labyrinth cannot be much later than three thousand two hundred years since. We know that for the erection of these buildings, they must have possessed a knowledge of mechanics greater than even we possess. We know that their quarrying was conducted upon the most scientific principles, and we even find distinct remains of that vaunted discovery of modern times, the railroad; by which alone they were enabled to transport immense blocks of stone across the desert, from the neighbourhood of the Red Sea. We find, in their paintings of the same date, representations of almost every art with which we are now acquainted, and of many of which we are still ignorant; in chemistry we know that they excelled, and we find convincing proofs of their knowledge of mesmerism, that new wonder or scandal of the present day.

But more than this, we find in these very temples, and constructed at the same early period, planispheres, and astronomical tablets; which prove the perfection to which they had carried the kindred sciences of mathematics and astronomy. In short, we must begin to be in doubt of the extent of our own attainments, and to feel uncertain, whether in this our age of boasted illumination, we have not yet something to learn which was familiar to the sages of more than three thousand years ago.

Again, as to religion, we find evident traces in the Hindoo mythology, of a clear tradition of the Trinity in Unity, and of the incarnation of one member of the Godhead; a tradition gradually obscured, and at last obliterated, by multiplied incumbrances of superstitious rites.

From a fair consideration of all these wonders, I was inclined to make these countries an exception to our general examination of the infancy of