

mity of the city to the other, in order to preserve a sufficient quantity of water during the annual subsidence of the Nile; but as these are situated at a considerable distance from the most populous part, a number of poor persons gain a subsistence by carrying water from house to house upon camels, and for each camel's load they receive a sum that is equivalent to twopence of English money.

The only monuments of antiquity, that retain the least degree of perfection, are the obelisk, the column usually termed of Pompey; and a sarcophagus, of serpentine marble, which is used as a cistern in the great mosque. As the latter curiosity is exceedingly rich in hieroglyphics, and has received but little injury from the corroding tooth of time, a person, who had for some time farmed the customs, ventured, on his retiring from Egypt, to negotiate for the sale of this precious relic to an European, who designed to present it to the emperor of Germany. Previous to its embarkation, however, the secret was divulged, and the citizens insisted so loudly, that the property of their mosque was inviolable, that the projected scheme was prudently given up, and the chest permitted to continue in its place, where, since that occurrence, it has been watched with such unremitting vigilance, that it is now extremely difficult for a traveller to obtain a sight of it; consequently Mr. Browne was precluded from presenting the public with so minute a description as would have been congenial with his own desires.

The flocks and herds that are brought up for the consumption of the citizens, are pastured on the herbage in the vicinity of the canal; at night, however,

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