

64 WHAT ROME WAS BUILT WITH

Egyptians so seldom used granite as a building stone.

The obelisks of New York, London, and Paris are all of the famous red Egyptian granite, many examples of which are also to be seen in the British Museum.

Lapis Psaronius, Granite of the Forum, Granito del Foro

'Authors, too, have paid some attention to the stones in use for mortars, not only those employed for the trituration of drugs and pigments, but for other purposes as well. In this respect they have given the preference to Etesian stone before all others, and next to that to Thebaic stone, already mentioned as being called "Pyrrhopoecilus" and known as "psaranus" by some.'¹

From all available information in regard to this granite it seems clear that it was not employed by the Egyptians, nor was it worked by the Romans before the reign of Claudius; hence it was frequently known as 'Claudian Stone'; and Mons Claudianus was the name given to the long tract of land where the quarries were situated. These were some fifty-five miles from the red 'porphyry' at Djebel-Dokhan. From an inscription we learn that both stones were under the care of the same procurator under Hadrian. During the reign of Trajan, Fons Traianus (now Djebel Fateerch) was founded in order to work these quarries more conveniently. An interesting inscription was found here of the year A. D. 118, or the second year of Hadrian, with the name of the contractor or procurator of that time.²

New quarries were opened and worked under

¹ Pliny, *op. cit.*, Book xxxvi, chap. 43.

² Bruzza, *op. cit.*