

was struck while fighting ; the blow of an axe has smashed his cheekbone, and a spear penetrating through his forehead has been the cause of his death. It was necessary to embalm hastily his body, which had perhaps been wrested from the enemy ; and his face still bears an expression of ferocity which he must have had when he fell.

The expulsion of the Hyksos was not accomplished in one single war nor by one king. It was Thothmes III., the great king of the XVIIIth dynasty, who finally delivered the country, and who subdued the Asiatics who remained in the country. Thus the royal power was in the hands of native sovereigns, who had no reason to feel any sympathy for the Hebrews ; for the Israelites were of the same race as many of the detested strangers, and of the Asiatic nomads, against whom the kings had continually to fight. The pharaohs might fear that some day the Hebrews would make common cause with them, and "join unto their enemies," to use the language of Scripture. Besides, the pharaohs must have been tempted to employ them, as they did all their prisoners. On a famous picture in a tomb of the time of Thothmes III. are seen strangers of a well-marked Semitical type, who are occupied in making bricks under the supervision of Egyptian overseers. It is not said that they are Hebrews, and the fact of their being called prisoners would rather lead us to think that they belonged to another nation ; but what is there represented is only what happened to them under subsequent reigns. The persecutor applied to them the rule which had long been in force with beaten enemies : he treated them like slaves, and, what must have been specially painful to them, he changed their manner of life and their occupations. They had always been shepherds, their life was to drive flocks and to breed cattle ; he compelled them to be masons, which was contrary to all their traditions.

The king who, above others, was the persecutor of the Israelites must have been the king Rameses II., he whose high deeds are celebrated in the legends of the Greeks under the name of Sesostris. He is the second king of the XIXth