

the "Newry Examiner," Ireland, whose extensive experience, both as a correspondent and a journalist, will be a guarantee, that whatsoever subject he may choose to treat upon, will be handled with ability. We shall still be aided by those whose names have appeared from time to time in our columns, and who have contributed so much to the interest of the JOURNAL in the past.

We trust, that that active assistance with which we have been favoured up to the present, will not be withheld, as we extend and perfect the scheme, as first put forth by the prospectus of the JOURNAL.

(FOR THE CANADIAN LITERARY JOURNAL.)

THE LAND OF THE PHARAOHS.

BY G. V. LE VAUX.

The ancient Egyptians, like their modern representatives, were an agricultural people. The priests, like the druids of Britain, monopolized nearly all the knowledge and power of the country. They were the bards, historians and teachers of the nation, and usually transmitted their "deeds and sayings" from generation to generation of "clerics," by means of a hieroglyphical character which could only be interpreted by themselves. This character was different from the common hieroglyphics.

The geographical position of their country seems to indicate that the Ancient Egyptians should have taken the lead in commercial enterprise. They probably would have done so were it not for the restrictions imposed on commerce by the priests. They were eminent as sculptors, architects, astronomers and geometers. The sculptured and architectural works of this ancient people, defying the ravages of time and the destroying hand of man, stand forth as everlasting witnesses to the pursuits—military, civil and religious—of the industrious sons of Mizraim. In travelling through this country the monuments of other and better days attract our attention on every side. The whole valley of

the Nile might, without exaggeration, be looked upon as one vast cemetery filled with the dust and adorned with the ruins of forgotten ages.

The ruins of Thebes—the first capital of Egypt—are perhaps the most ancient and most interesting of all the antiquities of the "land of the Pharaohs." The whole avenues of obelisks and sphinxes lift their gigantic forms above the surrounding sands. Some of them stand erect as when first constructed. Others are slightly inclined to either side as if they longed to bend their heads to mourn for the past, whilst others again, having "sunk beneath their misfortunes" recline upon the earth, partially covered by the sands of the neighboring desert. But of all Theban relics the temples are perhaps the most wonderful and interesting. Some of them seem to have been isolated buildings, but it is evident that the majority of them were semi-temples, semi-fortresses—perhaps semi-palaces, semi-temples. It is said that the temple of Karnac was a house of prayer, a royal residence and a military garrison.

In the village of Luxor (situated on the site of one of the suburbs of Thebes) there is another of these gigantic temple-palaces. An avenue, about two miles in length, connects the temple of Luxor with that of Karnac. This avenue is lined on either side by an army of stone sentinels—by gigantic sphinxes, standing at a distance of three yards from each other. Some affirm that the portico of Karnac is the most beautiful specimen extant of ancient Egyptian architecture. It is supported by 134 columns—the 12 central ones being 35 feet in circumference and 56 in height. The walls of the apartments here, as elsewhere, are decorated with *basso rilievo* figures, adorned with brilliant colors in a high state of preservation.

Opposite the Karnac temple, on the other side of the Nile, is the Memnonium, and in a plain close by, surrounded by a host of standing and prostrate figures, is the statue of Memnon. This is the same statue which in ancient times, by some secret contrivance, known only to the priests, used to "sing" at sunrise and moan at sunset.

The catacombs of Thebes are the largest in the world. They are said to extend a