

HISTORICAL.

"As Morality is the science of human life, so History may be defined to be morality taught by example."

Having passed through the period intervening between the deluge and the confusion of tongues, historians lead us to ancient Egypt, the land which Rollin says, "seemed to place its chief glory in raising monuments for posterity." A single sketch is here sufficient to fill us with astonishment. Speaking of Thebes, the capital of Upper Egypt, or Thebais, Dr. Mavor says, "it might indisputably vie with the most illustrious cities of the universe, whether considered with respect to its extent, wealth or population. Previous to its destruction by Cambyzes, its extent is said to be no less than fifty-two miles and a half: so great was its wealth, that after it had been plundered by the Persians, three hundred talents of gold, and two thousand three hundred of silver, were found among the remains of the pillage; and Homer, speaking of its population, informs us, that from each of its hundred gates issued two hundred warriors, with their horses and chariots." In 1778, Mr. Sonnini visited the ruins of this once magnificent city. "It would be impossible," he observes, "to describe the sensations I experienced at the sight of objects so truly grand and majestic. It was not simple admiration, but an ecstasy which suspended the use of my faculties: I remained a long time motionless with rapture, and was more than once inclined to prostrate myself in veneration before monuments, the erection of which seemed to surpass the genius and the powers of man. Colossal and other gigantic statues, obelisks, avenues, formed by rows of sphinxes were still visible, tho' shamefully mutilated, porticos of a prodigious elevation, immense colonnades, the pillars of which are some twenty, and some thirty, feet in circumference, paintings which still retain an incomparable brilliancy; granite and marble lavished in structures; stones of astonishing dimensions forming the magnificent roofs; and thousands of prostrate columns which literally strew the ground, combine to strike the beholder with equal admiration and amazement.

But among the antiquities of Egypt nothing has excited more curiosity, or created more wonder than the pyramids which are to be found in the Lybian deserts, to the largest of which historians allow for the area of its basis more than eleven English acres of ground, while its height is four hundred and eighty-one feet perpendicular. It is built as are the others, with a white sandy stone, and contains a vast number of apartments embellished with the finest marble. It is asserted by Ptolemy and Diodorus, that the

erection of this pyramid afforded employment for three hundred and sixty thousand men for twenty years, and it is said, that no less a sum than 1600 talents of silver, equal to 1,836,000 dollars, was expended in "garlic, leeks, onions, &c. for the workmen." The period of their erection is supposed to be more than three thousand years ago, and they are conjectured to have been intended for the receptacles of the remains of the Egyptian monarchs.

The lake of Moeris, however, is pronounced by *Herodotus* to be the noblest and most wonderful of all the works of the Egyptian kings. It is about a day's journey in length, half a league broad, and its depth in the middle, is about fifty fathoms. King Moeris is said to have constructed it "for the purpose of correcting the irregularities of the Nile, either by preventing the stagnation of the water in other places, to the detriment of the lands, or by preserving an ample supply when the river failed in its usual prolific inundations."

Nor is the attention of the traveller in Egypt confined to the stupendous works of art which, after the lapse of centuries, remain to astonish the modern world; the river Nile presents one of the most extraordinary phenomena of nature, rising every spring to a sufficient height to fill the numberless canals in which its fertilizing waters are conveyed over the land. "With respect to the time of its increase," says Dr. Mavor, "it commences in May, yet no public notice is taken of it till the latter end of June, when it has usually risen to the height of ten or twelve feet. The public criers then begin to proclaim it through all the Egyptian cities, and continue to publish its daily augmentation till it rises to the height of twenty-four feet, when the dam of the great canal at Bulak is opened with great solemnity, and the day is devoted to feasting, fire-works, and all other demonstrations of public rejoicing."

"While contemplating," says the same author, "the fertility occasioned by this truly wonderful river, we are naturally led to observe the two beautiful prospects which, as the result of its influence, Egypt exhibits at two seasons of the year. It is, indeed, impossible for the most ardent imagination to form a scene more interesting and delightful than presents itself to the entranced spectator at either of these periods; for if a man ascends some lofty mountain, or one of the great pyramids of Grand Cairo, in the month of July or August, he beholds with amazement a spacious sea, spotted with innumerable towns and villages, intersected with several causeys, and occasionally contrasted with groves and orchards; while a magnificent display of sylvan and

mountain scenery bounds the delightful view, and terminates a most exquisite horizon at the utmost distance the eye can possibly discover. On the contrary, if the view be taken in winter, that is, in the months of January and February, the whole country resembles one extensive meadow, clothed with the finest verdure, and enamelled with an infinite variety of flowers; the plains are embellished with numberless flocks and herds; the mild zephyrs are literally impregnated with the sweetest odors that rise from the orange and lemon blossoms, and the air is altogether so pure and salubrious, that a more healthful or agreeable climate cannot be found in the universe; and, for this reason, nature, which seems to droop and languish in every other climate, appears at this time to triumph in the delights of her Egyptian abode

BIOGRAPHICAL.

"The proper study of mankind is Man."

NELL GWYNN.

ELEANOR GWYNN was the daughter of a tradesman in mean circumstances, who could not afford to bestow on her much education, but who took care to introduce her to as good company as possible, and to implant in her mind a sense of virtue and delicacy. At an early age she went to live with a widow lady, where a counsellor at law seeing her, was smitten with her beauty, and made love to her in rather a violent manner, but without success. This coming to the knowledge of the lady, who herself had a penchant for the lawyer, she became jealous, and ordered Nell to quit the house; she immediately did so, but met with a cold reception from her father, whose ear had been poisoned regarding her conduct by her mistress, by whom he was advised to send her into the country, to wean her from flattery, and cure her of self-conceit, for which purpose the lady put ten guineas into his hand.

Her father believing the story, threatened to abandon her for ever, unless she consented to live with an aunt in York-shire. Our heroine however would not consent to go, but directed her attention towards the stage, on which, as she was remarkable for beauty and vivacity, she imagined her figure alone, without any theatrical requisites, would enable her to succeed, or, at least, if she could not wear the buskin with success, she apprehended no objection to her appearing as a lady in waiting, or one of the maids of the bed-chamber to the queens of the stage.

Animated with these fancies, she conceived one of the boldest schemes a girl of her education could possibly imagine. She left her father's house, took a genteel