

E G Y P T.

MODERN STUDIES OF THE ANCIENT HIEROGLYPHICS.

The earliest authentic records of History, aside from those of the Holy Scripture, relate to Egypt. In the times of the Greeks and Romans, by whom the Nile valley was successively subjected, authors of these nations described the country and related its history. But their accounts have been mainly supplanted by studies, made in our own 19th century, from the still earlier records of the Egyptians themselves — partly from their ruins, paintings, and sculptures, partly from the *hieroglyphics* ("sacred carvings") carved on the temples or written on rolls of papyrus.

These modern studies in Egyptian history have been promoted by the interest attaching to this country, since the opening of the Suez Canal in 1869, as the highway for European commerce with India. They were first excited by the Egyptian expedition of Napoleon Bonaparte in 1798.



Obelisk at On.*

* Showing a hieroglyphic inscription. On, or Heliopolis, is in the Nile Delta. Its obelisk, erected by Sesortasen I., is the oldest now standing in Egypt and earlier than n. c. 2000. It is of granite, and 68 feet high in the solid block.