

progress of mankind, during the last two thousand years, has been limited, and lies rather in the application of that knowledge to the practical purposes of life, than in the increase of its volume. The priests of ancient Egypt were acquainted with the motive power of steam more than 3,000 years ago. As to engineering we cannot even conjecture by what mechanical contrivances these old Egyptians erected those huge stone mountains called Pyramids. The largest of these rose to the height of 450 feet; covered an area of 13 acres; contained seven millions tons of stone, and employed 100,000 men for twenty years. Is there any of our living sculptors who would undertake the erection of a companion statue to the Sphinx which lies partly buried in the sands of Egypt, and has been "staring right on, with calm eternal eyes," while Cambyzes, Alexander, Cæsar, Napoleon, with all their glittering hosts, swept past. This enormous statue was cut out of a mass of solid lime stone, its length being 180 feet, its height 62 feet, and the circumference of its forehead 102 feet. Talk about modern architecture! We men of the present time must hide our heads in shame, when we survey the ruins of Egyptian Thebes, sung of by Homer as having a hundred brazen gates, which was flourishing, in all its glory, eighteen hundred years before Christ. There is really nothing to compare with these majestic ruins. There stands the statue of Memnon, kingly still though shattered; one of the oldest and also one of the noblest works of art. There, too, is the temple of Luxor, with its rich sculptures, and the Temple and hall of Karnac, the central avenue of which contains twelve massive columns, each sixty feet high, and twelve in diameter, the Temple itself being two miles in circumference. The heart must bow in reverence to the great race who projected and perfected such works. That the human mind conceived them—that hands like our own fashioned them, gives us higher ideas of man, "the paragon of animals." We become sceptical about progress, when we find the Egyptians manufacturing glass 4,000 years ago, and staining it more skilfully than our modern workmen. Three thousand years ago, these cunning artificers built ships that doubled the Cape of Good Hope, twenty-one centuries before Vasco de Gama accomplished the feat. Their dentists were filling cavities in teeth with gold leaf three or four thousand years ago—an art that has only comparatively lately been introduced into Europe. In many things, we are but re-producing, after painful efforts, what this ancient people invented centuries ago, and traversing the very track they trod. The stupid, conservative Chinese invented and practised the art of printing a thousand years ago; and had a form of constitutional government, competitive examinations for state-officials, and used the mariner's compass before Hengist and Horsa landed in England. Then turn to glorious Greece and her brilliant civilization—her statuary, still the noblest models of art—her Parthenon, the wonder of the world though in ruins. We boast of our modern engineering skill in supplying our great cities with water; but were the best of our efforts compared with the aqueducts of Rome, many of them extending for sixty miles; crossing vallies at an elevation of 130.