

from Cairo to Suez, about twelve miles from Ismailieh, are the ruins of abandoned houses, which were one of the chief settlements of the engineers who dug the canal. The place is called Tel-el-Maskhutah, the mound of the statue, from a monolithic group in red granite representing the king seated between two gods. While the place was inhabited it had a railway station, and was called Ramsès. This name had been attributed to it by Lepsius, who, from the fact that Rameses was seen sitting between two gods, thought it to be one of the places where he was worshipped, and that it must have been named after him. The excavations which have been made there in 1883 have brought to light a considerable number of inscriptions, which show that Tel-el-Maskhutah was not Raamses, but Pithom, *i.e.*, the temple or the abode of Tum ; that its civil name, and that of the district around, was Thuku, or Thukut, which the Hebrews have changed into Succoth, and that under the Ptolemies and the Romans it was called Heroopolis and Ero Castra.

The most interesting remains at Pithom exist in a square area of about 55,000 square yards, enclosed by enormous brick walls. It might have been thought at first that it was the temenos, or sacred ground of the temple ; but the temple itself covered only a small part of the area, and all the rest was occupied by buildings, no indications of which appeared above the sand before I began to excavate. They consist of thick walls built of crude bricks, joined by a thin layer of mortar, which form a great number of rectangular chambers of various sizes, none of which had any communication with each other, and the access to which was only from the top. Those chambers seem to have been built for no other purpose than that of storehouses or granaries, where the pharaohs gathered the provisions necessary for armies about to cross the desert, or even for caravans and travellers on the road to Syria. The fact of their being granaries has been confirmed by the discovery made by Mr. Flinders Petrie, at Naucratis, of storehouses exactly on the same plan. Pithom was, therefore, a store city, and as, owing to its very strong enclosure and its heavy walls, it could easily be defended as a fortress, or even turned