

XIXth dynasty, we see that the administrative organization of the land was far from being completed as it was later. The number of nomes or provinces of the Delta was smaller, and especially the nome of Sopt did not exist. Thus it was not yet a distinct province, having its capital and its government ; it was a region depending from the nome of Heliopolis, irrigated by the water which came from that nome, and very likely not very densely peopled. The irrigation not being as well regulated as in the well-cultivated parts of the land, Goshen must have consisted of marshes and pasture land particularly well adapted to the flocks which the Israelites brought with them, even more than those parts of the country where agriculture was better managed. Besides, that land must have been more or less vague, without any definite owner, as it is the case at the present day in the eastern part of the Delta, where the Bedouins drive their cattle ; and it could be given to the Israelites without spoiling settled inhabitants and regular possessors of the soil.

The area which I have indicated for the land of Goshen, viz., the region extending between Zagazig, Belbeis, and Tel-el-Kebir, corresponds exactly to the data furnished by two ancient translators of Genesis, Saadiah and Abou Said. It is Goshen, properly speaking, the land which was first attributed to the Israelites for themselves and for the flocks of the king. If, as the last excavations have proved, Bubastis (Zagazig) was an important Hyksos settlement where the king undoubtedly often took his residence, it was in the immediate vicinity of the court, and a natural spot to be selected by Joseph for his father and his brethren to dwell in. Later on, the name of Goshen extended further ; the Israelites, increasing in number, were compelled to cross the borders of the limited district, where they first had been settled, and to spread towards the east along the canal to the Red Sea, near which, as we know from the papyri, there was good pasture land very useful to the nomads of the Sinaitic peninsula, and also towards the south along the canal, which, leaving Heliopolis, watered the land of Goshen. The name of Goshen has wandered with them, and it has been applied to all the region inhabited by