

a court studded with four-and-twenty graceful lotus-crowned columns, completely covered with inscribed hieroglyphics, as are also the surrounding walls. Beyond this are successive chambers, courts, corridors and halls, and in the innermost penetralia a dark cell, the shrine of the deity. In this temple were found in the roof, though blackened with the smoke of torches, the famous zodiacs, which were supposed to be of vast antiquity, but are now known to be not earlier than of Ptolemaic or Roman date. The stone stairway in the wall leads to the flat roof, in which is the beautiful temple of Osiris. We climbed down by the light of a dim taper to a secret chamber underground, on which it is supposed were hidden the treasures and sacred vessels of the old Osirid worship. The shrines of the god, the treasury of the Pharaohs, were all bare and desolate. The processions and pageants have vanished forever. The sistrums and symbols are mute. Only the owls and the bats haunt these empty halls.

On the outer walls may still be seen, amid many other elaborate carvings, the portrait of Cleopatra and that of her son, although her features, as shown in the cut on previous page do not correspond with the records of her renowned beauty.

For miles before one reaches it, the lofty pylon or gateway to the magnificent temple of Edfou can be seen towering above the west bank. Till within a few years, it was only the top of the pylon that was visible, the great court, terraces and roof of the temple being filled and covered with the debris of ages, and surmounted with the mud huts of an Arab village. This rubbish has all been cleared out by Mariette Bey, and an unrivalled spectacle of an old Egyptian temple revealed. It was founded by Ptolemy Philopter, and still further adorned by Ptolemy Philometer and Euergetes II. Its length is 450 feet; the breadth of the pylon is 250 feet, and its height is 115 feet. The top of the tower is reached by 145 steps, and commands an admirable bird's-eye view of the temple and surrounding vicinity. This temple is peculiar, in that it has an outer wall surrounding it at a distance of only a few feet from the main temple. Every inch of wall surface is elaborately carved with historical or mythological sculptures. As we paced the lofty summit of the pylon, a loud wailing was heard from the squalid Arab hovels at its foot, and a funeral procession filed slowly through the narrow streets to the house appointed for all living. Doubtless like this were the funerals of the Israelite bondsmen three thousand years ago. So great is the multitude of tombs that all Egypt seems one great cemetery. Miss Edwards has computed that during the period when the process of embalming took place, not less than 800,000,000, equivalent to two-thirds the present population of the earth, were embalmed.