



MUMMY OF RAMESSES II. (PHARAOH), THE OPPRESSOR OF THE ISRAELITES.

eses II., which has been unearthed. It is now lying on its side in a small enclosure, an admirable piece of workmanship of tremendous size. When whole the total length was 48 ft. 8 in. It is now in a damaged state, one of the legs being broken off. Thence onward we went through some fields where the Egyptians were at work, and finally leaving all vegetation mounted the ridge and proceeded over the hot, sandy desert. The heat was most intense, and the little breeze stirring around like the air from a red hot stove fairly suffocated one. Fortunately we hadn't a very long ride before us, for it was the hottest place I had ever been in.

In the Necropolis of Sakkarah there are tombs

without number, whence hundreds of mummies have been removed. Most of these tombs are buried in sand, which drifts over them to a tremendous depth. It is a difficult matter to keep the few open generally visited by tourists. To this dry sand, however, is due their marvellous preservation. Ruins of great temples have been found amongst the tombs, and there are eleven pyramids there, most of them, though, in a ruined state.

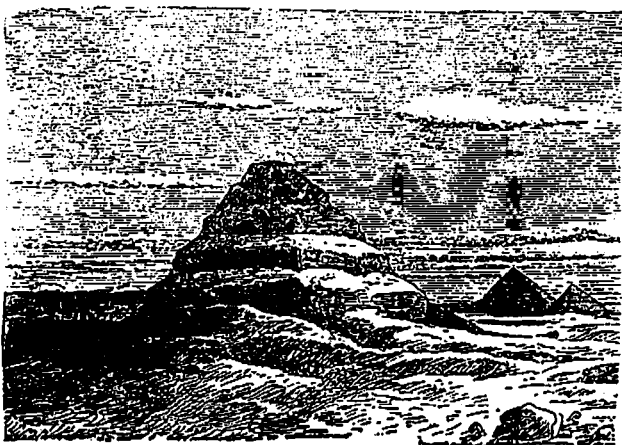
The step-pyramid, so-called because of its being built in stages or degrees, is 197 feet high, and supposed to be the oldest monument in the world. We descended into one pyramid, which was in a very ruined state, and which had been recently opened, where we were shown what was said to be the tomb of Oonaa, though there is another pyramid of that name. It has the most interesting interior of any of the pyramids. There are three chambers inside, two of which are covered with painted or carved inscriptions, to see which we burned magnesium wire. One contained an empty sarcophagus. The blocks of granite used in the construction of this tomb were of great size. We next went down

into the Serapeum or Apis Mausoleum (Tomb of the Sacred Bulls)—a subterranean tomb which contains the enormous sarcophagi holding the mummies of the sacred bulls. These sarcophagi are deposited in vaults connected by large passage-ways. Though there are many others, only twenty-four are unearthed at present and which the visitor may see. It is a dark and dingy place. The longest passage is 210 yards in length, and on either side, but never opposite, are the recesses for the huge sarcophagi of granite, which are on an average 13 ft. x 7 ft. 6 in. by 11 ft. high—sarcophagus and cover being made in two single pieces. All the mummies were found to be missing. In the walls were niches where had been placed small tablets inscribed with pious visitors' names, most of which have been removed.

The most interesting sight of the day was the Tomb of Tih or Thy—a priest who lived at Memphis four or five thousand years ago. He was of humble origin, but attained to greatness and built for himself this magnificent tomb, the ruins of which may now be seen, and enough remains to give a good idea of its grandeur. This splendid tomb was built during his life, and on its walls are painted and carved some of the clearest, most beautiful, and most perfectly preserved inscriptions or hieroglyphics to be seen in Egypt. They give a record of his life's doings, which are admirably depicted, and are in excellent condition, having been so many centuries buried in the sand. Some of the large columns or pillars of the entrance remain, the tops of which are on a level with the present desert surface. The records and scenes of Tih's life are graphically pictured on the walls of the entrance passage and inner chamber. Here are illustrations of his servants sowing, reaping, and threshing under his sup-



AN EGYPTIAN BOY.



THE STEPPED PYRAMID OF SAKKARAH—THE OLDEST MONUMENT IN THE WORLD.

ervision, showing plainly the methods of farming in those early days, which are not widely different from the methods now in vogue on the farms not four miles away! They are wonderful pictures. Tih is illustrated, too, in the act of fishing, hunting, etc., etc., and various scenes in his history, even his own funeral cortege, to the slaying of the oxen for sacrifice. It was an exceedingly interesting old place. We lunched in the house formerly occupied by M. Mariette, which is near by, where this celebrated Egyptologist and explorer, who has done so