



OUTER MUMMY CASE OF QUEEN
AHMES-NOFRETARI.*

of which looked upon tomb-breaking as the legitimate trade of the place. On the fourth morning,

* This huge outer mummy case (in style resembling the colossal Osirian caryatide in the first court of the Temple of Medeenet-Aboo) stands 7 metres 17 centimetres high, without counting the lofty plumes upon the head-dress. The plumes measure 1 metre 50 centimetres in height, so making a total

however, the steamers made their appearance, received their august freight, and steamed for Boolak.

And now a startling incident, or series of incidents, took place. Carried from lip to lip, from boat to boat, news flies fast in Egypt. Already it was known far and wide that these kings and queens of ancient time were being conveyed to Cairo, and for more than fifty miles below Thebes the villagers turned out en masse, not merely to stare at the piled decks as the steamers went by, but to show respect to the illustrious dead. Women with dishevelled hair running along the banks and shrieking the death-wail, men ranged in solemn silence and firing their guns in the air, greeted the Pharaohs as they passed. Never, assuredly, did history repeat itself more strangely than when Rameses and his peers, after more than three thousand years of sepulture, were borne along the Nile with funeral honors.

How comes it, we ask, that so many royal mummies, of periods so widely separated, are found gathered together in a single vault? Were they not originally buried in sepulchres of their own? If so, why were they not suffered to repose "each in his own house"? When were they taken thence, and why deposited en masse in the later resting-place? These are questions

of 8 metres 67 centimetres. This mummy case measures 87 centimetres across the shoulders, and in thickness, from the chest to the back, 55 centimetres. The material is what French Egyptologists call "cartonnage." It is made of innumerable layers of linen saturated and hardened together by some kind of glue, and coated outside with stucco. The features, necklace, bracelets, etc., are also picked out in blue. In each hand the queen holds the emblem *Ankh*, which is the hieroglyph signifying "life." Inside this enormous external case was found another of the ordinary size and the same material. The mummy measures 1 metre 69 centimetres in length; and upon its breast, written in hieratic characters, bears the name of Ahmes Nofretari. After nearly 3600 years it meets the light of day.