

he does not seem to have had anything to do with the military caste. Such high officials are sometimes met with in paintings or sculptures; they were the controllers of the income and of the produce of the soil, and they wore the curious title of "the eyes and the ears of the king."

The geographical researches made in the Delta have led us to recognise the original site of the land of Goshen, which was given to the Israelites as their abode. The traveller who leaves the station of Zagazig and journeys towards Tel-el-Kebir crosses, in all its width, what was the old land of Goshen. This part of the country is still now particularly fruitful; it abounds in fine villages, the sheiks, and even the common inhabitants of which are generally very well off. The railway skirts a canal which opens near Aboo Hamad into the large fresh-water canal, the Ismaïlieh. At a distance of six miles from Zagazig the traveller, if it is Wednesday, will see on the right side of the canal a mound of crude bricks covered by a motley crowd; it is the market of Saft-el-Henneh, which takes place on the ruin of an ancient city, Phacusa, the capital of the Arabian nome, the central spot of the land of Goshen.

The exact site of Goshen has been the object of many discussions. Most authors have located it in the eastern part of the Delta, on the road to the Red Sea, and also on the way which the family of Jacob is supposed to have followed in going from Palestine to Egypt. Generally speaking, too large an extent has been attributed to that region. The name of Goshen exists in Egyptian. In the list of nomes or provinces which are preserved on the walls of the temples, and which generally belong to the Ptolemaic or Roman epoch, we find in the XXth nome of Lower Egypt a nome bearing the name of a divinity, the god Sopt; there is also a district called *Kesem*, a name which corresponds to the *Γέσση* by which the Septuagint have transcribed the Hebrew Goshen. The district of Kesem, at the time when the lists have been written, was part of the administrative division of the XXth nome. But if we refer to older documents, to the rare lists which have come down to us from the time of the