

tic size and ponderous mass, which have withstood the wear and tear of time and the ravages of barbarians, were considered in antiquity among the wonders of the world.

The highest pyramid is that of Cheops which rises to a height of 450 feet above the ground. Herodotus tells us a hundred thousand men, working at intervals of three months, took thirty years to build this pyramid. A wall six feet high and three thousand miles long could be built of the stones of this structure.

IV. - The Middle Empire. — 6. About 3000 B. C., through events unknown to us, the supremacy passed over to Upper Egypt, that is, to the southern cities, and Thebes became the residence of the kings.



The Pyramids of Egypt.

Poets tell us that this city had a hundred gates, through each of which 10,000 men could pass out together. Its magnificence equalled its size. Travellers in modern times have discovered in its ruins, temples and palaces still almost entire, containing innumerable statues.

The twelfth dynasty is the most brilliant and the best known of the Middle Empire. The kings of this dynasty accomplished works which were beneficial to the whole of Egypt. Lochs and canals, dikes and reservoirs were constructed in order to effect a more regular distribution of the Nile waters over the land. King Meris built a vast and extraordinary collection of palaces called the Labyrinth. He also constructed an immense reservoir,