

number are to be seen—all that shattered magnificence makes a powerful impression on the beholder. It is evident that Tanis, which Scripture says was founded seven years after Hebron,¹ was one of the favourite residences of Rameses II., who took pleasure in adorning it with costly buildings. Several Egyptologists even thought that Tanis was the city which a papyrus calls the city of Rameses, and of which it celebrates the remarkable beauty. Rameses has not been its actual founder ; it goes up to the VIth dynasty, and we have seen that it was the capital of the Hyksos. Nevertheless, Rameses granted to Tanis special favours, and maintained there the worship of Set, the Hyksos god, as he did in other places of the Delta. He even raised there a monument, quite unique, which never had its like, and which gives a good idea of what was the character of Rameses II. A few years ago Mr. Flinders Petrie, making excavations at Tanis, found there a few fragments of a monolithic colossus, representing the king standing, which must have measured more than 90 feet in height and weighed about 900 tons. The statue has been overthrown and cut to pieces by following dynasties, but at the time when it was standing it "must have been the glory of the capital of the Delta, towering above all the surrounding buildings, a figure seen for miles across the plain as the sign of power and magnificence of the great Rameses ; a colossus unsurpassed by any monolith of previous or later times."² Before this colossus also took place what the 78th Psalm calls 'the marvellous things He did in the sight of their fathers in the land of Egypt in the fields of Zoan.'

More to the south stood a city which had a great likeness with Tanis, although its temple was on smaller proportions, Bubastis. It existed already under the IVth dynasty, and, later, was inhabited by the Hyksos. It has certainly been also one of the chief residences of Rameses ; and if we think of the beauty of its temple and the number of its inhabitants, it may be considered as a rival of Tanis, and we might also

¹ Num. xiii. 22.

² Flinders Petrie, *Tanis I.*, p. 24.