son of Cheops. Snefern, Khufu's predecessor, the founder of the dynasty, flourished, according to Mariette, 4235 B.C.; according to Wilkinson, 2450 B.C. A mean between these divergent statements, very largely accepted, would assign *cir.* 3000 B.C. as the approximate date of the pyramids. The system of chronology adopted in the margin of the English Bible would require a date at least eight hundred years later than this.

2. *Dimensions.* It is extremely difficult for one who has not seen the Pyramids to realize their size and impressiveness. To appreciate their incomparable grandeur one must climb the giant staircase which the surface forms and stand on the level summit, from which the strongest arm cannot hurl a stone or shoot an arrow to clear the base, and view from that high altitude the varied panorama which, beginning eastward with the Mokattam Hills, fades in the rich green strip of fertile land watered by the Nile, and loses itself in the rocky hillocks and sandy undulations of the great desert to the west.

The third and smallest pyramid, covered in its original completeness nearly three acres, the second more than eleven, while the great pyramid occupied no less than thirteen acres of ground. The length of its base was 764 feet, its height (now thirty feet less) 482 feet, or thirty feet higher than St. Peter's at Rome and 120 feet higher than St. Paul's, London, which exceeds by 100 feet the height of the new French Cathedral of Montreal. Its cubic contents were more than three million cubic yards, and its weight nearly seven million tons.

A better conception of the size, however, than it is possible for abstract figures or even such comparisons as the above to give, may be gathered from the illustrative calculation made by Professor Rawlinson. "Suppose," he says, "a solidly built stone house, with walls a foot thick, twenty feet of frontage, and thirty feet of depth from front to back; let the walls be twenty-four feet high and have a foundation of six feet; throw in party walls to one-third the extent of the main walls and the result will be a building containing four thousand cubic feet of masonry. Let there be a town of twenty-two thousand such houses suited to the abode of an hundred and thirty thousand inhabitants, then pull these houses to pieces and pile them up into a heap to a height exceeding that of the spire of the Cathedral of Vienna, and you will have a rough representation of the "Great Pyramid;" lay down the contents of the structure in a line a foot in breadth and depth—the line would be nearly 17,000 miles in length, or girdle two-thirds of the earth's circumference at the equator."

3. *Structure.* Even more than its dimensions, however, the structure of the Great Pyramid fills the beholder with astonishment. The Pyra