(From the Edinburgh Witness.)

HUGH MILLER ON MONUMENTAL EGYPT.

THE BONDAGE.

Strange that we should know Egypt better than those who lived so much nearer to it! Many things respecting that ancient kingdom which were obscure to the Greek writers of two thousand years ago are clear to us. Though we stand twice the distance from it which they did, we could write a fuller and more truthful history of the age of the Pharaohs than any which the Greeks have left us. It is common to say, that as the ages pass, the darkness increases, and doubts multiply. Time removes contemporary witnesses from the stage, effaces the memorials of past transactions, and slowly converts history into myth and fable. Such is its effect in ordinary cases, but such has not been its effect in this. As if it had strangely changed its functions, the touch of Time's finger on the Coptic tablets has vivified, not effaced, the writing inscribed upon them; and now, across a gulph of forty centuries that writing can be read, and the truth of the inspired records tested thereby. It is sufficiently remarkable, and indicates strikingly enough the prescience that presided over the creation of these stone-written records, that the monumental evidence of Egypt begins about the time that that land comes into contact with the chosen race, and ends when the Israelites take their departure from it. There are few monuments of any importance belonging to times prior to the first visit of Abraham to Egypt, and there are few relating to the time subsequent to the exodus. The calamities of the latter epoch appear to have weakened the power of the kingdom to an extraordinary degree, and led to a discontinuance of those expensive and magnificent monuments in which the former monarchs of Egypt had indulged. We owe it to a singular peculiarity of the customs and religion of that land, that we possess such minute and numerous memorials of its early history. Its royal tombs were just so many historical volumes. Each King was obliged to become the historiographer of his reign. It was a point of their religion, that the monarch should prepare his own tomb. The work began on the day of his accession, and ended on the day of his death. If the reign was long, the tomb was proportionally large and sumptuous. Hewed out new corridors were opened, new chambers were hewn out and decorated. If the King was devoted to the arts of peace, or gave himself to the internal improvement of his kingdom, the hieroglyphics on its walls were of a corresponingly pacific import. If his reign had been passed in war, the representations on his tomb were all of battles, and of the subjugation of foreign provinces, depicted by long trains of the natives of these provinces led as captives to the royal presence. So sacred was the duty of superintending the preparation of the royal tomb, that even Pharaoh could not perform it by proxy. He must direct the excavation of the chambers, and their adornment with pictures and hieroglyphics, otherwise the work stood still. At the instant of his death it ceased altogether; no stroke of chisel, no trace of pencil, was permitted to supply what might be lacking when the monarch had breathed his last. Finished or unfinished, the mummy of Pharaoh was laid in it, and the vault was closed. In these circumstances, the monarch would take care to have his tomb in a forward state, and to record year by year those actions of his which he wished posterity to know, well knowing that if not written then, they would remain for ever unrecorded. To these considerations were added the sanctions of religion which made it an impiety to neglect this duty. In these arrangements the hand of Providence is seen providing abundant materials, destined in the first place, to a long continuance in the sands of Egypt, and, as soon as the world was able to decipher them, to come forth, and to remain to all time the irrefragable witnesses of the historic truth of the Bible.

Two facts of considerable moment appear to be placed beyond a doubt by the more recent monumental discoveries. The first is the name of the Pharaoh to whom Joseph acted as Prime Minister; the second is that of the "King who knew not Joseph." It is the character and transactions of the latter, so far as the monuments have revealed them, that we are now to bring under notice. Phiops, or Aphophis, the patron of Joseph, was a most munificent sovereign, the patron of the arts, the ruler of a prosperous kingdom; and he was succeeded in the throne by a Pharaoh equally munificent and prosperous. So much the monuments declare, and evidence of these is likely to be vastly strengthened so soon as the ruins of Heliopolis and Memphis, the residence of these powerful and prosperous Pharaohs, shall have been exhumed from the sands which have so long covered them. But by and by, symptoms begin to appear on the monuments of the decline of their kingdom. We find Memphis, their southern capital, captured by Amosis, one of the kings of Upper Egypt, though the event appears to have been attended with no adverse influence to Israel. They still were possessed of much consideration, enjoyed all the immunities of native Egyptians, and were rapidly growing into a numerous and powerful nation. Matters continued much in this state for several reigns. The Kings of the line of Phiops seem to have resumed the policy of that great sovereign, which was to encourage intercourse and alliances with the Canaanite tribes east, east of Egypt, and even to give them settlements in the Delta. Two tribes, those of Heth and Arvad, immigrated into Egypt, and became located in its cities, yet living apart from each other, and maintaining their national peculiarities and distinctions. War broke out betwixt them; the tribe of Heth was worsted, and expelled from Egypt. They crossed the desert and the story of their wrongs roused the vindictive feelings of their brethren in Canaan, who not only attacked the Canaanite possessions of their Arvadite enemies, but invaded Lower Egypt, where the Arvadites held possessions in suzerainty. In this emergency the King of the Delta, where the Israelites were located, besought the aid of the Theban Pharaoh, Sethos I. The Pharaoh of the Delta, according to the monuments, purchased the assistance of his Theban brother at a costly price, even that of the cession of six cities or strongholds in Lower Egypt, and among these was Heliopolis, or In, the city in which Joseph had lived—a fact, which is unequivocally attested by the obelisk in the Piazza del Popolo at Rome, which appears to have been erected at Heliopolis by this very Pharaoh, even Sethos I. Now comes the "King who knew not Joseph." The reign of Sethos, which appears to have been long and prosperous, drew to a close, and he associated with himself in the government his son, who was for five years co-regent with his father. This King is named by the Greeks, Sesostris, and in the lists on the monuments he is styled Ramses. In the first year of his *sole* reign, war broke out on the north-eastern frontier of Egypt, the details of which are amply chronicled on three of the greatest temples now remaining in Egypt. A new invasion of Lower Egypt by the Hittites and their confederate Canaanite tribes took place; the aid of Ramses was again invoked, and by his help the invaders were driven back. But the victory was short-lived; for only four years afterwards we find a new and more successful invasion attempted; and when Ramses arrived for the third time to rescue the throne of his brother of Lower Egypt, he found the Delta in possession of the Moabites. These facts are recorded on a papyrus (the Salier papyrus) in the British Museum. It is probable that the Israelites, now powerful in Egypt, took no part in the war against their kindred the children of Lot; hence the success of the invasion. There can be no doubt that we see in this that condition of matters which dictated his policy towards the numbers of the Israelites. They "increased abundantly," we are told, "and multiplied and waxed exceeding mighty; and the land was filled with them." They had only to combine with the Moabites to overthrow the throne of Lower Egypt, and to seize on the Delta as their own. Ramses I., on his arrival, saw, doubtless, the extent of the danger. His first care was to mediate betwixt the Egyptians and their Moabite invaders, and bring about peace by a compromise. This got rid of one of the dangerous parties, and left them at liberty to deal with the other, even the Israelites. The treaty by which all this was accomplished was ratified, as we learn from the monuments, in the twenty-first year of Ramses; and the price which Si-Phtha paid for it was, that he married Thouoris, the daughter of Ramses, and consented to govern Lower Egypt as the viceroy of his father-in-law, on the understanding that, on the death of the latter, Si-Phtha should succeed him as king of all Egypt. Thus the kingdom of Phiops had finally merged in that of Upper Egypt, and the whole of Egypt came under the sway of the Theban dynasty. This beyond doubt, is the rise of the "King who knew not Joseph."

This then, was the date of the captivity—the twenty-first year of the reign of Ramses. When this monarch annexed the Delta to his kingdom, he found the Hebrew race rapidly extinguishing the Egyptian, and the Delta in danger of being lost altogether, from the frequent invasions of the Canaanite tribes on its eastern borders, with whom the Israelites must have been strongly tempted to combine. Nothing was so likely, then, in these circumstances, as the very policy which Ramses adopted. "He said unto his people, Behold, the people of the children of Israel are more and mightier than we: come on, let us deal wisely with them; lest they multiply, and it come to pass that, when there falleth out any war, they join also unto our enemies, and fight against us, and so get them up out of the land. Therefore they did set over them taskmasters to afflict them with their burdens. And they built for Pharaoh treasure-cities, Pithom, and Raamses." That is, they were deprived of all the immunities which Phiops had granted them in consideration of the services of Joseph—they were reduced to the position of strangers, and liable to the forced services which the practice of the ancient world exacted of persons so situated. They were compelled to build fortified camps for Pharaoh, which, when completed, would be manned with a strong military force, and employed as the means of perpetuating the slavery of those whose labour they had been raised. The great works of Egypt in that age were chiefly of a monumental character, and on these would the Israelites be employed. The quarries whence the stones were obtained were in the Sinaitic wilderness. Thither would the Israelites be marched in gangs, and the blocks of granite which were hewn in these quarries they would afterwards have to transport across the desert. Others of the oppressed race were employed, doubtless, to make bricks of Nile mud, extensively employed in the walls of the huge quadrangular precincts of the temples, and the cloisters and cells attached to them. And as at that epoch the mechanical arts were extremely simple, the amount of work done depended chiefly upon the amount of human force which the Sovereign of Egypt could bring to bear in the construction of his works. If, then, there be truth in the Bible narrative, and if Ramses be the "king who knew not Joseph," we should expect to find that his monuments erected during his reign surpassed those of any other of the Pharaohs, seeing none of them had such an amount of forced labour at their command. Now, we do not shrink from the test. There is a Pharaoh who is distinguished from all his predecessors, and from all who came after him, by the enormous number of the monumental memorials of his reign. There is a Pharaoh whose name is stamped on every crumbling mound in Egypt and Nubia, and on almost every Coptic monument in the museums of Europe. There is a Pharaoh whose existing monuments actually surpass those of all the other sovereigns of Egypt put together. That Pharaoh is Ramses. Every crumbling heap that dots the valley of the Nile—every ruined temple, almost every statue and sphinx in that land of wonders, proclaims that there was an epoch of fearful bondage in Egypt—an epoch when millions of slaves were urged by the lash to their daily tasks—and that there was a king in that land who reduced the full half of his subjects into slavery, and set them to work in the construction of cities, and strongholds, and gigantic monuments, which, after four thousand years, excite the spectator's astonishment. Over and over the soil is written, in ineradicable characters, the great fact of the oppression. "Thou shalt make bricks without straw," is "house of bondage." What a convincing and overwhelming proof of the truth of the Bible!

GLEANINGS FROM LATE PAPERS.

A Russian Lieutenant.—In the *Kilkenny Moderator* there is a letter from a medical officer, dated "Camp before Sebastopol, June 11," addressed to a member of his family in Kilkenny, in which he tells the following:—"While the French were employed at the Mamelon, we had a storming party who attacked the Quarries, which are strong defences for sharp-shooters, in front of the Redan. These were gallantly carried. Although nothing further was intended, our men pushed forward into the Redan itself, but there was so strong a reinforcement of Russians brought up here, that our fellows retired upon the Quarries again, which they held. The capture of this position was attended with great loss. A Kilkenny man, Colonel Shearman, was among the killed. A mine was sprung by the enemy during the attack, and several of the men returned almost naked, their trowsers and coats having been blown off, and they were as black as sweps. A little hop-o'-my thumb of a soldier made a prisoner of a Russian officer, whom he conducted with much pride to the first parallel, the officer over-topping the little man's musket and bayonet! I asked the Russian, if he spoke French, he shook his head and said, 'No speak!' but he exclaimed, 'Doctor, doctor,' I made signs that I was one, and he then took off his coat, when I found he had a bullet wound at the back of his neck. He now tried to make himself understood by talking Latin. Pointing to the wound in his neck, he said, '*Mortale est?*' When I told him it was not mortal, he pressed me by the hand, and said,—*Pater, mater, et soror sunt mihi.* He said he was a Lieutenant of the 7th Dnieper Regiment. When he saw me open my case for a bandage to dress his wound, he thrust his hand into one of his own coat-pockets, and produced his own for that purpose. All the Russian soldiers, very wisely, carry these things about them."

British Treaty with Siam.—Sir John Bowring is reported to have succeeded beyond all expectation in negotiating a treaty with the Siamese Government, which promises to open the resources of that rich country to the European trader.

English Expedition Defeated.—The brig Judge Blaney arrived at New York on Sunday, from Sierre Leone, with dates to June 3d, bringing an account of the disastrous defeat of an English expedition against a native chief on the Mallagher river. The British lost fifty men in killed and prisoners. Some of the prisoners were afterwards put to death by the natives in the most barbarous manner. Among the killed was Quartermaster Andrews, of Her Majesty's steamer Teazer. At last accounts, the Chief, anticipating a retaliatory visit from the English, was throwing the river with stones to prevent the passage up of vessels. Several British subjects had also been seized by the natives on the Rio Mundez, and Her Majesty's ship Ferret had been despatched to look after them.

Sugar.—The average annual quantity of cane sugar produced and sent into the markets of the civilised world is above one million tons, exclusive of that manufactured in China and the Malayan archipelago. The whole sugar cannot be estimated at less than $75,000,000.

A PLEASING INCIDENT.

The following incident has just been communicated to us, which affords an interesting proof of the deep sympathy which pervades the public mind for our gallant soldiers in the East:—On Friday last, the Rev. Mr. M'Nair, late of Gourock, was about to take his departure and proceed on his new mission as Chaplain to the Hospitals at Scutari, and secured the services of a street porter from the nearest stand, west end of St. George's Road, to convey his luggage to the railway, who, upon reaching the terminus, begged to inquire whether his employer was Mr. M'Nair, and on being answered in the affirmative, positively refused to accept of any fee, stating, as his reason, that he had heard him preach in St. Matthew's Church on the Sabbath week previous, he knew he was going to the seat of war, and would be very useful to many of his poor suffering countrymen, and was proud of such an opportunity of furthering the object of his mission in the only way he could. Upon being pressed for his name, that the small sum he was entitled to should be placed to his credit on behalf of the hospitals, on Mr. M'Nair's arrival, he still, with the most genuine modesty, declined to give it, and at length in desperation, a Bible might be purchased with it, and presented to some poor soldier who had none.

The Rev. Robert McNair, A. M., late of Gourock, Scotland, and previously minister of St. James, Charlottetown, P. E. I., has been appointed one of the Scottish Chaplains to the army, and by latest intelligence from Scotland has demitted his charge, and had left for the hospital at Scutari, the appointed scene of his labours. Mr. McNair is well known and highly esteemed in these colonies where he sojourned for nearly three years, and now that he has embarked on this new and interesting mission, we doubt not that the prayers and best wishes of many of his old friends will go with him. From his missionary zeal, his experience, his winning manner—and his great aptitude in suiting himself to circumstances—he is singularly qualified for the post which he now occupies, and we sincerely trust that under the blessing of God, he may be the means of leading many a sick and wounded soldier to a knowledge of the Saviour, and of shedding comfort into many a sorrowful heart.

Mr. M'Nair's letters to the Home Record, during his labours here were read with great interest. And it will be long to have an opportunity of perusing some of his communications from Scutari, which we will gladly transfer to the pages of this periodical. Many of our readers who had before but a general interest in those exposed to the dangers of the war, will now have one personal friend to connect them with the scenes of suffering and contest and to quicken and engage their interest in the eventful movements that have taken place in the East. We beseech their prayers in his behalf, and in behalf of his fellow-labourers among the sick and wounded, that God may bring them safely home, that their lives may be spared, and their labours abundantly blessed.

AMERICAN ITEMS.

The Harvest and Crops, in U. S.—The accounts from every State in our country speak in the most glowing terms of the prospects of a harvest superior in productiveness to any that has ever preceded it. The crops are not only larger in proportion to the acre, but the quantity of land under culture is at least an hundred greater than it was last year. All kinds of fruit promise an abundant yield. The peach and apple orchards every where are heavily laden with their fruitage. This is cheering, as it offers a prospect of great manufacturing prosperity, for it is evident that art, science, and literature are dependent entirely upon the surplus products of the earth. In all countries where the inhabitants have to struggle with nature for the bare necessaries of life, art, science and literature are unknown.

Revolution in Shoe Making.—A paragraph is going the rounds of the American paper stating, that some Frenchmen have invented a machine for the manufacture of gentlemen's shoes. It is said that the cost of making a fine shoe will be only ten cents, and that of a fine boot but fifteen or twenty cents. The Utica Telegraph says, that the owners are now in Washington, securing a patent for their machine, and it thus speaks of its performance:—"The machine is so perfect, that it is only necessary to place in it two pieces of sole and upper leather, and in an incredibly short space of time, it turns out a complete boot or shoe as is desired. We learn that a number of capitalists of this city are inquiring for the purchase of the patent, and that it is their intention, should they succeed in se-