



POMPEY'S PILLAR

L. Meyer delin.

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support leaves of metal of better workmanship, which would be much less liable to injury, and of which many examples occur at Baalbec and Palmyra.

The foundation of this column consists of two tier of stones. An arab endeavoured to blow up the column, in order to make himself master of the treasures, which he supposed to be buried underneath. His plan miscarried, however; for the explosion of his mine only displaced a few of the stones on one side, thus exposing to view a block of white marble, covered with hieroglyphics in an inverted position, which show it to have been a fragment of some egyptian antiquity. On this block the centre of the pillar rests, as on a pivot. There are among the stones of the foundation another piece of marble of a yellowish colour spotted with red, which has likewise it's hieroglyphics, but much damaged, a piece of a small column, and some other fragments of marble that have nothing remarkable.

Some english seamen, who took it into their heads to drink a bowl of punch on the top of it for a frolic, found there a hole, which first gave reason to suppose, that a statue had been erected upon it. Mr. Norry informs us, that it is a circular cavity, six feet and half in diameter, and about two inches and half deep, which he imagines contained the base of a statue.

Much labour has been spent by the learned in fruitless endeavours to ascertain the time when it was erected, and the purpose for which it was designed. Many have been inclined to suppose it erected in honour of Severus, who visited the city of Alexandria, and conferred on it various benefits; and Abulfeda

has been quoted, as giving it the name of his pillar. But the erudite professor White has lately shown, that the passage in Abulfeda was mistranslated; and with great probability ascribes it's erection to Ptolemy Philadelphus, whose reign was chiefly employed in embellishing Alexandria, imagines the statue upon it to have been that of Ptolemy Soter, and supposes it to have been placed in front of the temple of Serapis.

From the circular cavity discovered by the english seamen there can be little doubt, that a statue was intended to be placed on the top of the column; but it may be questioned, whether any statue were ever erected upon it. If there had, it could not very easily have been removed; and we do not find the least mention of a statue actually standing on the summit in any arabian or other writer. From Mr. Bruce's observation respecting the foliage of the capital it is perhaps more probable, that the pillar was unfinished at the death of Ptolemy Philadelphus; that his son Euergetes, whose life was a succession of wars and conquests from his ascending the throne, neglected to complete the design; and that the rest of the race of the Ptolemies, for the most part tyrants, cared little for the memory of their progenitor; so that neither the metallic foliage, nor the statue of Ptolemy Soter, ever graced the column.

There are some other remains of antiquity in the neighbourhood of Alexandria, of which we have given a representation.



BATHS OF CLEOPATRA, AT ALEXANDRIA.

J. Meyer del.

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THE BATH OF CLEOPATRA,

As it is vulgarly called, is a large basin, a little to the west of the old port, on one side of which are three small square rooms, hollowed out of the solid rock. Across these are stone benches, and a canal, made of a zigzag form for the purpose of stopping the sand, conveys into them the water of the sea, as pure and transparent as crystal. The water rises a little higher than the waist of a person sitting on the bench, while his feet rest on a fine sand. He hears the waves roaring against the rock, and foaming in the canal: the swell enters, raises him up, and then subsides; and thus alternately entering and retiring, brings a continual fresh supply of water, with a coolness truly delicious in so hot a climate. Some ruins announce, that once this bath was not destitute of ornament.

The columns of granite, of which a view is given in another plate, are supposed to have formed part of one of the spacious porticoes of the gymnasium near the Canopic gate.

ALEXANDRIA.

Having just mentioned the principal remains of it's antiquities, we shall now proceed to give some account of Alexandria itself, a city on various accounts memorable.

It was founded by Alexander, who saw how well this situation was adapted to an extensive commerce: the comprehensive mind

of that illustrious monarch not confining it's views to the land, being fully aware how conducive a maritime intercourse between the remotest parts would be to his grand object of uniting all nations under one head, and confirming their union by assimilating their manners. The celebrated Dinocrates, who had acquired the highest reputation by rebuilding the temple of Diana at Ephesus, was employed by Alexander for constructing this city. One street of great width intersected it in a straight line from north to south, and was crossed by another equally spacious from east to west. These were decorated by magnificent houses, temples, and public buildings, displaying a profusion of marble and porphyry, destined at a future period to embellish the two capitals of the roman empire. Parallel to these ran other streets of inferiour though not confined dimensions, leaving a free passage to the wind, particularly from the north, which alone conveys coolness and salubrity into Egypt. A mole, near a mile in length, stretched from the continent to the island of Pharos opposite the city, and divided the harbour into two. On this island was erected the famous lighthouse, begun by Ptolemy Soter, and finished in the reign of his son Ptolemy Philadelphus. It was a square tower of several stories, with a lantern at the top, the light of which might be seen for many leagues; and cost eight hundred talents, being adorned with columns, balustrades, and galleries of the finest marble, and exquisitely wrought. Sostrates of Cnidos was the architect. In the great harbour was the island of Antirhodes, on which stood a theatre and a place of royal residence. In the eastern part of the city was a gymnasium, with porticoes of more than six hundred



RUINS OF THE GYMNASIUM, NEAR THE CANOPIC GATE OF ALEXANDRIA.

L. Mayer del.

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GRANITE PILLARS OF THE PORTICO OF CANOPUS IN ANCIENT ALEXANDRIA

J. Meyer del.

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feet long, supported by several rows of marble pillars: without the Canopic gate was a spacious circus for the chariot races: and beyond this the suburb of Nicopolis stretched along the shore, forming almost a second city, where was a superb amphitheatre, with a raceground, for the celebration of the quinquennialia.

A considerable portion of the city was occupied by the palace, within the precincts of which were the museum; accommodations for men of learning, in which fourteen thousand scholars at a time were lodged and maintained at the public expense; and a temple, where the body of Alexander was deposited in a golden coffin. This was violated by the infamous Seleucus Cibyofactes, whose avarice tempted him to remove the coffin of gold, and substitute in its stead one of glass.

In the suburb of Rhacotis was a temple called the Serapeum, built in honour of Serapis, whose image was brought from Pontus to Alexandria in the reign of Ptolemy Soter. This structure, according to Ammianus Marcellinus, surpassed in beauty and magnificence all others in the world, except the Capitol at Rome. When the museum in the palace was filled with books, to the amount of four hundred thousand volumes, an additional library was built within the verge of this temple, which came at length to contain three hundred thousand more. The library in the palace was burnt in the war that Julius Cæsar waged against the Egyptians: but Cleopatra having added two hundred thousand volumes from the Pergamean library, given her by Mark Antony, to that in the Serapeum, and others from time to time increasing

it's stores, this alone became at length as rich in books as both had formerly been. During the troubles of the roman empire it was frequently plundered, and as often supplied with new books, till at length the khalif Omar's famous syllogism consigned them all to the flames. 'If,' said he to his general Amrou, who took Alexandria, 'the books contain nothing but what is in the Koran, they are useless: if they contain any thing contrary to it, they ought not to be suffered: let them, therefore, be destroyed.' In consequence of this order they were distributed among the keepers of the public baths, of which there were upward of a thousand, and supplied a sufficient quantity of fuel to heat them during the space of six months.

As Alexandria was destitute of fresh water, ample reservoirs were formed underneath the city, to contain the water brought from the Nile by a spacious canal. These reservoirs were arched over with brick, and coated with a cement impenetrable by water, of the same kind as is seen in the ancient baths and reservoirs at Rome and other places. The greater part of these reservoirs are now stopped up; a few only being left, sufficient to supply the wants of the inhabitants of the present town.

Beside thus furnishing the city with water, this canal formed a safe and speedy communication with the Canopic branch of the Nile, by means of which the more circuitous and frequently dangerous passage by the mouth of the river was avoided. It had ceased to be navigable however for ages; but Bonaparte, when in Egypt, cleansed it in some degree, so that during the inundation he was enabled to send provision by it from Cairo to Alexandria,



RUINS OF THE PTOLOMEAN LIBRARY

L. Mayer del.

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AMOSQUE WITH AN ANTIQUE FRAGMENT IN OLD ALEXANDRIA NEAR THE GATE OF ROSETTA.

L. Mayer del.

J. Millon sculp.

and transport a considerable quantity of artillery from Alexandria to Geeza.

For near three hundred years, during the reigns of the Ptolemies, Alexandria continued to flourish. Its founder having destroyed Tyre, the commerce of the whole world was in its hands: and while it possessed this inexhaustible source of wealth, it could boast such establishments for the promotion of science, as never existed in any other place, even Athens itself not excepted. At length the race of the Ptolemies, eight of whom reigned two hundred and seventy years, began to decline, and Rome laid its grasping hand upon Egypt. Alexandria, which about this time had three hundred thousand freemen on its rolls, soon after fell into decay, and experienced various vicissitudes. Its commercial advantages, however, enabled it in great measure to recover from every fresh calamity it endured, till about the middle of the sixth century it was taken by storm, by Amrou Ebn al Aas, the general of Omar. Of its population at this period we may form an idea from what is said by Amrou, according to whom, it then contained four thousand palaces, four thousand baths, twelve thousand dealers in fresh oil, twelve thousand gardeners, forty thousand jews paying tribute, and four hundred comedians. Arabs, fatimites, curdes, mamalukes, and turks, now annoying Egypt in succession, Alexandria never again recovered its ancient splendour: though it was preserved from destruction, even in the hands of the most barbarous nations, in consequence of the advantages accruing from the East India trade to the masters of Egypt, whoever they might be, till the discovery of the passage round the Cape of Good Hope sealed its ruin.

From this period it has dwindled almost to nothing under the benumbing sceptre of turkish despotism. Its mixed inhabitants of various nations have been lately reckoned not to exceed fourteen or fifteen thousand; though it is said to have furnished the Porte with four thousand men, soldiers and sailors, in the last russian war: and instead of that superb and spacious city, of which there are not now even ruins enough remaining to trace it with accuracy, we have only wretched houses and paltry mosques, occupying a little neck of land between the two ports.

The progressive decline of this city is marked by its walls. These were raised by one of the successors of Saladin, who had just taken Egypt out of the hands of the khaliffs of the race of Fatima, in the beginning of the thirteenth century. They are composed of fragments of marble and broken columns, the wreck of the ancient city, confounded with common stones; are of great thickness; and are flanked by a hundred towers. A circuit of five miles only is enclosed by them, which shows how much the extent of the city must have been contracted at that period; and even of this space a great portion is now waste ground, occupied by piles of rubbish, and scattered fragments of edifices destroyed.

Such is now Alexandria, founded by the great pupil of Aristotle, rising into extraordinary splendour under the earliest of the Ptolemies, the seat of learning, the emporium of the world, where Cæsar, enthralled by the charms and wiles of Cleopatra, had nearly sunk in that flood of luxury, by which Antony was afterward overwhelmed, leaving the temperate Augustus to enjoy unrivalled the empire of Rome.



EXTERIOR VIEW OF THE ANCIENT WALL OF ALEXANDRIA, WITH CLEOPATRA'S NEEDLE.

J. Kay del.

Engraved by R. Brown, after the original, Pall Mall, 1731.

But Alexandria deserves our notice on another account. ' If, says Herder, ' Jerusalem were the cradle of christianity, Alexandria was it's school. Into this ocean of science and of philosophy, where the notions of all ages and all people were collected together, the drop of christianity was thrown, and attracted to itself whatever it supposed itself capable of assimilating. Hence various corruptions were generated, and the simplicity of the christian doctrines destroyed. It is certain, however, the earlier fathers of the church, who were formed in Alexandria, were none of the worst. Origen alone did more for christianity than ten thousand bishops and patriarchs; since, but for the learned critical industry, which he employed on the records of christianity, these would have gone near to sink among unclassic fables. His spirit was transmitted to some of his scholars also; and many fathers of the alexandrian school thought and argued at least with more address and refinement, than many other ignorant and fanatic heads. Probably it would not have been to be regretted, had the system of christianity remained, what, according to the representations of a Justin Martyr, Clement of Alexandria, and some others, it was intended to be; a liberal philosophy, reprobating virtue and the love of truth at no time, and among no people, and yet unacquainted with exclusive verbal formularies, which afterward obtained the force of laws.'

The soil in the neighbourhood of Alexandria was anciently famed for it's fertility, and still retains the same reputation. It's harvests have been said to yield a centuple product, which might possibly be true when dourra was sown, of which the bread of the

lower class of people in the east is commonly made. Of wheat it usually produces from seven to fifteen fold, though in extraordinary years it has yielded twenty-four, or even upward. Mr. Forskaol informs us, that the fields near the canal are sown in october, and reaped in february; but those nearer the town, which cannot be watered by the Nile, are not sown till november. The wheat in these is ripe in february, and the barley in march.

The canal of Alexandria having long been obstructed, boats cannot reach the Nile from this city but by sailing along the coast to Rosetta, situate at the mouth of the Bolbitine branch of that river, which now forms the western limit of the Delta. In this voyage, about five leagues from Alexandria, they pass

ABOUKEER, the ancient CANOPUS.

The city of Canopus is said to have been built on an island, standing at the mouth of a branch of the Nile, which took it's name from the city, and bounded the Delta on this side: but the island is now a part of the main land, and the Canopic branch of the Nile is choked up. A temple of Serapis stood here, that was particularly famed; and great numbers of strangers were continually resorting to the city, to pay their devotions to the deity: or rather, perhaps, to enjoy the pleasures of the place. This concourse of visitors, who had nothing to do but to attend the rites of an idol, and wealth enough to undertake a voyage for the purpose, would naturally seek pleasure, and amusement for their vacant hours. A city abounding with riches, in a country fertile



FORT & HARBOUR OF ABOUKIR, ANCIENT CANOPUS.

L. Mayer del.

T. Milton sculp.

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to profusion, and in a genial clime, would offer no check to their wishes. Thus the people of Canopus became notorious for the luxury and dissoluteness of their manners, which were carried to an unbounded pitch. The sources, however, that gave wealth to the people, and fertility to their fields, have long been dried up; and nothing remains of the city but ruins, which still display sufficient vestiges of it's ancient grandeur.

Aboukeer, which now occupies it's site, is a small village, inhabited by a few fishermen, and sailors who navigate the little vessels of the country, too poor to furnish a traveller with bread, or any other necessary, except a little fish. In front of the village is a very good road, where the french fleet, that conveyed Bonaparte and his army to Egypt, lay at anchor under the command of admiral Brueys, when it was attacked by admiral Nelson, and almost every ship that composed it taken or destroyed, only two ships of the line and two frigates escaping. On the point of a cape running out into the sea stood a paltry castle, in the centre of which was a round tower, serving for a lighthouse.

The view we have given of this place represents it as it appeared before the late expedition to Egypt. When the french attacked the turks here under Mustapha bashaw, many of the houses, as well as the castle, were beaten into ruins by their cannons; and others were demolished to make room for the fortifications, which they erected in order to defend the place, when it was in their possession.

RASHID, or ROSETTA.

Near where Bolbitine formerly stood, is a populous modern city, about two miles long, built in a tolerably handsome though simple style, and not disfigured by ruins like Alexandria. Its arabic name of Rashid is commonly softened by europeans into Rosetta, or Rossetta. It is the commercial depository between Alexandria and Cairo, and of all places in Egypt the most agreeable residence for a foreigner. Pleasantly situate on the border of the Nile; commanding a prospect of two beautiful islands a little below the town, and a fertile country on the opposite bank; skirted on the north by fields covered with odoriferous flowers, grateful fruits, and useful vegetables; the stranger may walk unmolested through the streets abounding with well filled shops, or into the delicious gardens that adjoin the city. It is perfectly open, having no wall; and the houses are built more in the european manner than those of the rest of Egypt, having a regular succession of stories one above another. Many of the houses are raised on a row of columns, a few feet in height, consisting of fragments of ancient pillars of all sorts and kinds. Some of them have no base, some no capital. Sometimes you will see the upper parts of two pillars of different orders joined together, the inverted capital of one of them serving as a base to the new made column; and if either of them happen to have been fractured obliquely, the modern architect, unequal to the task of reducing the surface to a level, has filled up the vacuity with pieces of stone or brick embedded



CITY OF ROSETTA.

L. Mayer del.

J. Milton sculp.



SEPULCHRES OF ARABIAN SAINTS. NEAR ROSETTA.

L. Mayer del.

Published by A. Bonyer, Historic Gallery, Pall Mall, May 1, 1807.

T. Milton sculp.

in mortar. A little way within these columns a wall is carried up to support the floor. This mode of building is not peculiar to Rosetta, though more common there, than it is in most other parts of Egypt.

The europeans settled here consist only of a few factors, and a viceconsul or two, subordinate to the consuls at Cairo. Goods are brought from Cairo to this place, and conveyed hence to Cairo, in the vessels of the country: and the commercial intercourse between this place and Alexandria is carried on in the same manner, for no foreign ships are allowed to come hither. Indeed the passage of the Bogaz, or mouth of the Nile, is obstructed by a dangerous bar; on which the sea breaks heavily, if the wind blow at all fresh, particularly to the northward; and which is continually shifting, so that the pilots are obliged to be almost always sounding, to find the channel. It is also too shallow to admit any vessel that draws much water, though this is the deepest of the branches of the Nile, that communicate with the Mediterranean.

Beside the commodities it receives from Cairo, it transmits to Alexandria others of it's own. Striped and coarse linens are manufactured here in considerable quantity; and abundance of rice of excellent quality is produced in the neighbourhood, much of which is exported.

The castle of Rosetto, about two miles north of the town, is scarcely worth mentioning as a fortress. It was a square building of brick cased with stone, with round towers at the corners of it, and portholes near the bottom; but is now nearly demolished.

Lewis IX of France, commonly called St. Lewis, is said by some to have built it in the time of the croisades: others ascribe it to Keyck bey, about four centuries ago. Most probably it was erected in the time of the holy wars, and repaired, with the addition of portholes, by Keyck. Opposite to it was another castle, intended in conjunction with it to defend the entrance of the Nile. The city itself is without fortifications.

In this part of Egypt we have striking evidence of the importance of an industrious population to the fertility of the land. All the tract between the bolbitine branch of the Nile and what was once the canopic formerly belonged to the Delta, abounded with people, and was by no means inferiour in fruitfulness to any other part of this most fertile portion of the country. War and massacre, despotism and tyranny, fanaticism and ignorance, thinned the numbers of the inhabitants, and palsied the industry of those who were left. By degrees the fertile mould disappeared, and gave way to barren sand; even the western arm of the river itself was choked up, and converted in part into a stagnant salt-water marsh; and the whole tract, with the land, once fruitful likewise, that skirted it on the side of Lybia, is now almost an uninhabited desert, two spots excepted, Rosetto and Alexandria. Here we still see the effects of industry amid the surrounding waste. Such of the land near Alexandria as continues to be watered by it's canal retains much of it's ancient character: and the immediate vicinity of Rosetto, the inhabitants of which are the least fanatic, and the least exposed to the scourge of tyranny, of any in Egypt, is a delicious garden.



MOSQUE OF ABOU-MANDOUR.

T. Meyer del.

Published by R. Bury, Piccadilly, Pall Mall, 1812



THE TOWN OF FOUA, ON THE BANKS OF THE NILE.

L. Meyer del.

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FOUA.

Farther up this branch of the Nile is Foua, near which is supposed to have stood in ancient times the city of Metelis, celebrated for the female singers and dancers educated there, who made it their profession to travel about, and exhibit their skill at public festivals. Even in the present day most of the itinerants of this description in Egypt come from Foua.

Here, as in other places, hieroglyphics have long ceased to give any value to the stone on which they are cut, many fine pieces of red granite insculptured with them appearing confounded with others in the steps leading down to the river. See the plate.

CAIRO.

This city, the present metropolis of Egypt, is seated on the eastern side of the Nile, a few miles before it begins to branch off and form the Delta. It has been erroneously considered as of vast extent, and containing an infinite number of inhabitants. In it are commonly included three towns, Old Cairo, Cairo properly so called, and Bulac, which are about a mile distant from each other.

The ancient city, which seems to have succeeded to the Egyptian Babylon, and was built near it, was called Misr, the old name of Egypt. It is now reduced to a small compass, not being above two miles round; is the port for the boats, that come

from upper Egypt to the capital; and some of the beys and other principal inhabitants of Cairo have a sort of country houses in it, to which they retire, when the Nile is at it's height. There is nothing in it worthy notice, except perhaps Joseph's granary, as it is called, for the people here are inclined to ascribe every thing extraordinary to Joseph. This is a large square, surrounded by a wall, with several partitions, in which the corn brought from different parts of Egypt, and paid as a tax to the grand signior, is deposited. As this granary is entirely open at the top, the corn is not only exposed to the weather, but to the depredations of the pigeons and other birds, that feed on it unmolested, and leave their dung in return for the grain they carry away. The doors have only wooden fastenings; but the officers who have the charge of the granary, after they shut a door, affix to it their seal on a handful of clay, which they use instead of wax. This building, notwithstanding it's name, has no claim to antiquity. The walls are modern, partly of freestone, but chiefly of bricks and clay, such as are every day used at New Cairo.

Between Old and New Cairo another city was built, called Kbaseh, which has been since destroyed, but it's ruins are still to be seen.

New Cairo stands about a mile from the river, and stretches near two miles eastward to the mountains. It's circumference is about seven miles; though it is said to have been larger, when it was the centre of trade from the East Indies. A wall of stone surrounds it, on which are handsome battlements, and at the distance of every hundred paces very fine towers, capable of holding



GATE OF GRAND CAIRO. — ARABIAN ARCHITECTURE.

L. Mayer del.

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PRINCIPAL SQUARE IN GRAND CAIRO, WITH MURAD BEY'S PALACE.

L. Mayer del.

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a great many people. This wall was never very high, and had gone to ruin in many places, but the french repaired it as well as they were able, while they were in possession of the place. In it are three or four very grand gates, that were built by the mamalukes. The workmanship of them is very good, and, amid all the simplicity of the architecture, every one must be struck with the magnificence that appears in them. Of one of these we have given a view, which will enable the reader to form a just idea of their style.

The streets of Cairo are narrow, irregular, unpaved, and almost destitute of beauty. The houses are generally built round a court, toward which they make the best appearance, in the outside facing the street nothing but use being considered, and all their ornament being reserved for the saloons within. Unlike the european, who is desirous of rendering the appearance of his mansion pleasing to others, the jealous and selfish mussulman would keep all his pleasures to himself, and gratify no eyes but his own. His outer wall, built below of stone, and above with a sort of framework, sometimes filled up with unburned bricks, and having no windows, or a few placed without order, can afford no agreeable object to the passenger, of whom he is perfectly regardless.

Though the streets of Cairo are narrow, it is not without some squares, which are large irregular places, partaking of the general character of the city, except that they are spacious. The view of the great square exhibits no unfavourable picture of them, when the waters of the Nile, with which the ground was covered during the inundation, have retired, and given place to a cheerful

verdure, not yet parched up by the sun. On the left may be distinguished the house of Murad bey, of whom we shall have occasion to speak hereafter.

There are in Cairo several magnificent mosques, which, though they do not possess the elegance of grecian architecture, are no unimportant ornaments to a city so little embellished. Sultan Hassen's, built at the foot of the castle hill, is very lofty, of an oblong square figure, crowned with a cornice all round, that projects a great way, and is adorned with a particular sort of grotesque carvings after the turkish manner. The entrance into it is very finely inlaid with several sorts of marble, and carved in a similar manner at top. Several steps formed the ascent to it; but these have been broken down, and the door walled up, because the rebels often took shelter there in times of insurrection. What has given particular celebrity to the mosque of Four Hundred Pillars is sufficiently marked by it's name. But the views given of different mosques in this work will convey a more adequate idea of their style, than any description.

The castle of Cairo stands on a rocky hill, which seems to have been separated by art from the neighbouring mountain, *Jibbel Duise*; and which is called *Jibbel Mocattem*, or the Cut Mountain, more probably on this account, than because there is a way up to the castle cut in the rock. It resembles a small town walled all round, but is so commanded by the hill to the east, that it would be little capable of defence since the invention of cannon, were it kept in much better repair than it is. At the west of the castle are remains of very grand apartments; some of



THE MOSQUE OF FOUR HUNDRED PILLARS AT CAIRO.

L. Mayer del.

Published by R. Bogue Historic Galleries Pall Mall Sep^r 1802



THE LOVERS FOUNTAIN WITH THE ADJACENT MOSQUE.

L. Mayer del.

Published by R. Bowyer, Historic Gallery, Pall Mall, Nov. 1802.



RUINS IN THE CASTLE OF CAIRO, NEAR JOSEPH'S HALL.

L. Meyer del.

Engraved by K. B. Rogers for the Gallery, Pall Mall, 1820.



JOSEPH'S HALL, IN THE CASTLE OF CAIRO.

L. Mayer del.

Published by R. Doyne Historic Gallery Pall Mall 1802.

them covered with domes, and decorated with paintings, gildings, arabic inscriptions, and representations of trees and houses in mosaic; once belonging no doubt to the ancient sultans. This part of the castle is now used only for weaving, embroidering, and preparing the hangings, or coverings, sent every year to the temple of Mecca.

Above this is a higher ground to the east, near the grand saloon commonly called Joseph's hall, whence there is a fine prospect of Cairo, the pyramids, and all the country round. This ground was probably a terrace to that magnificent room, which is now all open, except on the south side, and is adorned with very large and beautiful pillars of red granite, little inferior in magnitude to those of the Rotunda at Rome:

To procure a supply of water must always have been essential to the defence of the castle, and for this a well, which has not perhaps its equal, has been cut through the rock. The mouth of this well is a parallelogram four and twenty feet long, and eighteen feet wide. Round it is cut a staircase six feet wide, and nine feet high, separated from the well by a partition left of the native rock only six inches in thickness, with apertures at certain distances to admit light. At the depth of a hundred and forty six feet is a reservoir; and from this the water is drawn up by two oxen, turning a wheel, round which passes a rope carrying a number of earthen pitchers. At this depth is a platform, with a second wheel, to which two oxen descend by the staircase already mentioned, the steps being covered with earth for the purpose: and these oxen draw the water up to the reservoir in a similar manner

from the spring, which is at the bottom of a second well, a hundred and thirty feet deep, and containing about nine or ten feet of water. This second well is less than the former, its opening being only fifteen feet long, by nine broad. There is a descent to the bottom of this likewise by steps cut round it; but these are only three feet and half broad, and have no partition between them and the well, and the roof is only six feet high. The water of this well, being drawn up from the subterranean reservoir to another at the surface, is distributed all over the castle by a multitude of pipes; but as it is brackish, it is employed only for ordinary purposes, a sufficient supply of the water of the Nile being brought by an aqueduct from Old Cairo: though if this were cut off by an enemy, the well would be a valuable resource to a besieged garrison.

In the city of Cairo are several baths, some of them very handsome within; and these are much frequented, not only on account of the religion of the mohammedans, which enjoins frequent ablutions, but as they are extremely agreeable in such a climate. There are some baths devoted entirely to the use of the women; and in such as are common to both sexes it is usual to set apart certain times for their admission, during which men are strictly excluded. The women are particularly fond of them, and commonly spend the greater part of the day at the bath once or twice a week, being glad of a pretence to escape from their confinement, and exhibit their finery, or gossip with one another. This is an enjoyment, however, of which the wives of the great are deprived, for their husbands take care to have baths fitted up for them in their own houses.



EGYPTIAN ANTIQUITIES IN THE VESTIBULE OF A COUNTRY HOUSE AT BULAC.

L. Meyer del.

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Here are likewise many spacious and handsome coffee-houses, the tops of which have several apertures, which keep them very cool. They will very conveniently hold some hundreds of persons, but they are frequented by few but the common people, many of whom spend the greater part of the night in them.

Bulac is the port of Cairo. Built for the accommodation of the vessels that come up the Nile, it stretches along it's bank to some distance, and exhibits all the hurry and bustle of trade. As it is a more healthy and pleasant residence than Cairo itself, it seems natural that it should have been preferred by europeans, who settle here for the sake of commerce. But whether they chose to fix themselves at Cairo, in order to be more immediately under the protection of the government; or whether the bashaw thought proper to keep them more under his eye, and in his power; they live at Cairo, and have their warehouses in that city; where a street is appropriated to their use, closed at one end by gates, and at the other terminating in a handsome garden, in which they can enjoy a little air and exercise, when they wish to avoid the haughty mamaluke or surly turk, or when the plague induces them to seclude themselves from all intercourse with the rest of the city.

The trade carried on at Cairo is certainly very considerable. We are informed, that the amount of the goods entered at the custom-house in 1783 was between six and seven millions sterling. The rice, corn, flax, and coffee exported, were valued at nearly two millions; beside the drugs, spices, cotton, leather, and other commodities.

The population of Cairo has been estimated at two millions, but this may be considered as greatly beyond the truth; though it is positively affirmed, that seven thousand have died in one day of the plague; and of this they say they can make an exact computation, from the number of biers that are hired to carry out the dead. We may justly reckon it, however, to be a very populous place; for in general several families live in one house, and a number of persons in each chamber of it; and during the busy time of the day all the streets are so crowded with people, that it is difficult enough to pass through them.

In the middle of the river, between Old Cairo and Geeza, is the island of Rhoda, in which stands the Nilometer, already described in this work. Almost all the island is divided into gardens, the cultivators of which are it's only inhabitants.

The views which Mr. Mayer has drawn of different parts of the metropolis, of Alexandria, of Rosetta, and of Aboukeer, give a lively representation of the general style of building in the towns of Egypt; but the series would be imperfect, were the village excluded. Those of Kafr Radoin, and Ned Sili, situate on the banks of the Nile between Cairo and Rosetta, with some others, will sufficiently display it's rural architecture, while the appearance of the country itself is faithfully exhibited in a great many of the plates. In general the rustic habitations of the egyptians are slight, so that the loss of them is easily repaired, when they are carried away by the Nile, which sometimes happens. For though the current of this river is not in general very rapid, it occasionally undermines it's banks, till at length they sink into the stream, with the houses,



AN ARABIAN SUMMER HOUSE UPON ANTIQUE FRAGMENTS ON THE CANAL OF MENOUF.

T. M. Jones del.

Engraved by F. Rowland for the Historic Gallery Pall Mall, June 1801.

T. M. Jones sculp.

trees, and every thing on them. The mould and sand, being washed away, are deposited in some place where the current slackens, extending the limits of the shore, or giving rise to new islands, destined perhaps on some future occasion to be removed in a similar manner, and transferred to a different situation. Such occurrences happening before our eyes in the present day certainly tend to confirm the opinion, that the Delta itself is an ancient gift of the Nile.

MANNERS, CUSTOMS, &c.

The ancient government of Egypt, at least in the time of the pharaohs, which is as far back as we are able to trace it, bore a striking resemblance to our own. To use the words of Dr. Rutherford, whose able investigation of it is eloquently delivered in the true spirit of history, 'it was not despotic; it was indeed truly monarchical, from the principle and form of it's constitution; and it is the single government of all antiquity, which corresponds to our idea of monarchy. Limits were set to the royal power by the laws; the order of succession was regulated; the king had not the right of judging or pronouncing sentence in any civil cause; the administration of justice was confined to a particular body, whose credit could counterbalance all the authority of the pharaohs. Thus, to use the language of Montesquieu, the powers were divided. The judicial power was separated from royalty. Thirty judges formed the august tribunal, which decided concerning the lives and fortunes of the people. They had fixed revenues, and

held their offices for life, which rendered them independent of the prince. These judges took a solemn oath at their installation, that they would disobey the king, in case he should order them to pronounce an unjust sentence. Beside this college of thirty, which resided at Thebes, particular magistrates in the towns decided in certain causes. The monarch did not even tax his subjects without their consent. The provinces sent, from time to time, deputies, who met in the labyrinths, to determine all affairs of state. Their manner of administering justice had something in it august and sacred, and gives us the idea of a grave but a just people. No advocate appeared at the tribunal. Eloquence was not permitted to dazzle and deceive. The whole process was committed to writing. The president wore about his neck a figure without eyes, representing truth: he touched with this emblem the head of the party in whose favour the determination was made.

‘ In consequence of the limited monarchy that was established in Egypt, we find a greater regard paid to the rights of the subject, than was known or imagined in the oriental empires. The two great objects of government, security to the property and the lives of the citizens, were maintained by the laws. We have already described the administration of justice. The person of the subject also was protected. A reverence was shown to the natural rights of man. Human blood was respected. Pecuniary compensations for murder, which mark a certain stage of society between barbarity and refinement, were unknown in Egypt. The lives of all the subjects were equally secured. Murder was pu-

nished with death, without respect to person or dignity; but a fair trial always preceded the sentence. The summary decisions of despotic government were unknown. The pannel was acquitted or condemned according to the laws.

‘The sacred records, which, in every particular that regards Egypt, correspond with the best information from classical antiquity, confirm these accounts. Joseph, a hebrew slave, is accused of having offered the most outrageous and provoking affront to his master, one of the greatest lords in the court of the pharaoh. His lord did not doom him to instant death, as an eastern despot would have done: he sent him to the common prison, that he might be tried according to the laws.’

Such was the government of Egypt during it's most flourishing state. It has since varied with the different revolutions the country has undergone, though always more or less despotic, till at length it has sunk into a condition, than which a worse is not easy to be conceived; and the country, as well as it's inhabitants, has participated it's decline.

When Selim I conquered Egypt in 1517, he sent a bashaw to govern it as his lieutenant. At the same time fearing this vice-roy would soon assume independance, if he left him in possession of uncontrolled authority, he appointed twenty-four beys from among such of the mamalukes as he had not exterminated. These were to govern the provinces independently of the bashaw, to command the troops, and to form a divan or council of state. One of their number was to conduct the caravan to Mecca, one to convey the tribute to Constantinople, and one was to be elected sheik

el belled, but subject to the confirmation of the bashaw. This sheik el belled was to be considered as the chief of the republic, as Selim styled it; and to represent it's grievances to the Porte, if any act of oppression were committed by the bashaw, whose authority the beys were commissioned to suspend on such occasions. Thus holding the bashaw in check at their first establishment, enjoying despotic power themselves, and employing the greater part of the wealth they acquired or extorted in maintaining a retinue of slaves, trained to the exercise of arms, and well mounted and accoutred, it was no wonder the sultan's viceroy sunk into a mere phantom of a governor, while the ambitious beys contended among themselves for the real sovereignty.

Accordingly these beys, of whom however there was seldom the full complement, were perpetually involved in broils with each other; parties were formed, battles fought, and it was happy for the people, when one possessed sufficient strength to acquire the supreme power, and hold it without a rival. Still each of the beys, whether residing in the metropolis as a joint or subordinate ruler, or wandering about the country expelled from it by a successful antagonist, exercised the most unlimited authority over the people; and a train of inferiour officers acted with equal despotism in their respective departments. There are perhaps four hundred inhabitants in Cairo, says Mr. Bruce, who have absolute power, and administer what they call justice, in their own way, and according to their own views: but a more brutal, unjust, tyrannical, oppressive, avaricious set of infernal miscreants there is not on Earth, than are the members of the government of Cairo.

Of the religion of the ancient egyptians our knowledge is obscure and imperfect. The traditional notions handed down from our first progenitors, occasionally misconceived from the natural imperfections of language, and blended with discoveries in arts and sciences as they arose, probably formed its basis, as of paganism in general. The hieroglyphical writing of the egyptians must have been a prolific source of corruption. Whether the philosopher, aware that sounds are in themselves no adequate representatives of visible objects, invented this symbolical language, to depict things with more precision, and thus, as he imagined, secure them from being misconceived: or the priest, the depositary of all knowledge, framed it to conceal what he knew from the vulgar; though the abundance of hieroglyphical writings, every where exposed to public view, seems to favour the former opinion: they were probably soon misunderstood, the mind resting on the symbol, or, not contented with the obvious signification, rushing beyond it, and losing itself in the unfathomable sea of mystery. Hence in process of time arose a multifarious mass of mythology, in which the celestial bodies, the powers of nature, the phenomena peculiar to the country, and the traditions of the creation of the world, were jumbled together, and blended with the worship of animals, which the philosopher having first taught men to spare for the benefits they did, the mystagogue at length exalted to the rank of gods. Nay even some of the tribe of vegetables were considered as a sort of divinities; and the satirist of other heathen nations, in which deities were sufficiently abundant, could ridicule the egyptians for the multitude they adored. Many of