

## Egypt.

### Analysis.

1. How is Egypt founded?
2. When and by whom was this kingdom founded?
3. Its ruins.
4. Inhabitants and their character.
5. State of Egypt at the present time.

Egypt is bounded on the north by the Mediterranean Sea, east by the Red Sea, south by Nubia, and west by the Great Desert.

The kingdom of Egypt was founded, according to the belief of ancient historians, about the year 2188, B. C., by Menes, more commonly Misraim. It is a country of almost perpetual summer, and its western part consists of a desert. It has rendered famous by the deeds of its founder in ancient times, & in still later times by the Conqueror Alexander, surnamed the Great, and in modern times by the success of Napoleon, appropriately styled the "Man of Destiny." There is but one productive and fertile region, through which flows the Nile, which overflows the country every year, thereby fertilizing it. Its history is very obscure, and Sesostrius was the last Egyptian ruler. He was a vain and ambitious monarch, caring only for his greatness, after having reached his pinnacle of human greatness in those days. When he gained a victory, he exulted greatly. He frightened the sparsely settled countries around, and reduced them to slavish obedience. He erected marble pillars, upon which was to be seen more conspicuously than all, the inscription, "Sesostrius, King of Kings, has conquered this territory by the power of his arms." But his marble pillars, and the deeds of Sesostrius, which they were vainly designed to commemorate, have decayed, and obscurity has almost hidden the fame of Sesostrius, so that writers doubt whether he made any conquests at all. 525 the Persian emperor conquered Egypt, and in 332 yrs. B. C. Alex the Great, master of the world, wrestled from the Persian grasp.

In 1798, it was invaded by 40,000 Frenchmen under the command of Napoleon. Prior to its invasion by the Saracens and Mamelukes, Egypt was dreaded a foe, and respected as a friend, and it was considered the greatest nation on earth, but "Tempora mutant, et illis opera hominum," "Times change, and with them change the works of men." Their former glory has gone. Its commerce has departed. Where now is Carthage, where reigned once the mighty Dido, and which rivalled in splendor Rome, the mistress of the world? Where now is Thebes with her hundred gates? Where are their greatness, their glory, their strength, the prowess of their, their heroes, whose deeds have been almost obliterated by the hand of Time? Where is their wealth? Where are their inhabitants, surpassing everybody and everything in the elegance of their works, in the cultivation of their minds? Alas! Their works have decayed, and their ruins serve only as a monument of former glory and magnificence. Their heroes' deeds have been surpassed by the heroes of modern times. As a race, its inhabitants have been destroyed, and once where

thousands were treading, the paved streets of a magnificent city, where crowds move thronging the thoroughfares, viewing every-thing, that is pleasing to the eye, now walks a single traveler, endeavoring to open the path of wisdom, upon the burning sands of a barren desert.

Alas! They have yielded to the vigorous strokes of Time, applied by a mighty hand. It ruled for a while as the superior of the world. Obscurity has covered its ancient history, and has buried its brightest pages, into the lowest corner of mystery. The poor Egyptian roams over ruined country to mourn for its loss. But Egypt, although the fame of Egypt has gone, will forever receive the grateful acknowledgements of the learned and enlightened nations of the present day, for first introducing and light into the world.

There first rose the sun of science. Upon the cities of this wonderful nation, it poured its mild beams, gradually increasing in heat, until nothing could be compared to it, in the beauty of its citizens, in the refinement of its inhabitants, in the cultivation of learning and the fine arts. Its inhabitants were always noted, as a race of beings, than whom no nation was greater in the preparation of their works for peace or for war. At first, like most all barbarous nations, its people were a degraded race, but scarcely had Learning trimmed her lamp, and bidden darkness and her forces to disperse, before they awoke from their savage lethargy, enlisted under the banner of Learning and Freedom, overthrew the throne of Ignorance, and rushed forward to glory and to fame. But it found an early grave, and those two countries of Europe, always endeavoring to surpass each other, seized the dying embers of science and light, blew them into a blaze, and the heat of their melted from their hands oppression's manacles, and its light went abroad into the more remote portions of Europe.

Truly has it been said, "One profits by another's loss," for scarcely had lost her wealth and splendor, before they were seized by the avaricious hands of Greece and Rome.

**Pause.** Cease thy wanderings for a while, ye roamer over the earth and searcher into antiquity, turn thy thoughts upon Egypt, imagine it to be what it once was, and help exclaiming, if you can, "How far superior was former Egypt to the other countries of the Earth!" Ye traveler, as you tread those burning sands, contemplate its former grandeur; view its former cities, established by everything that serves to [...] this mortal earth, whose towers threaten the skies; notice the decorations and ornaments of its works, look at those tall masses of stone, termed pyramids, arising seemingly out of the earth, and note those heads of stone, resembling the heads of females, upon the bodies of wild beasts, likewise of stone, and see if they ever have as yet been equaled by the builders of modern times.

But Alas! how roam over this once beautiful country, wandering Bedouins, pillaging and ransacking "everything, with which they meet. Egypt is now known as a degraded country, governed by rulers, styled Pashas, whose will is law. "Sic transit gloria mundi."

Eugene S. Mitchell,

Macon, Geo. Feb 20<sup>th</sup>, 1857