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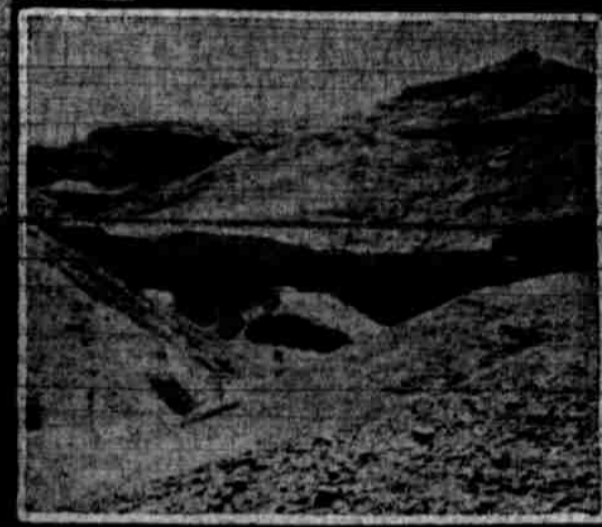
NEW LIGHT ON RECORDS OF JOSEPH'S TREASURY OF THE PHARAOH YACHT FOUND.



Imperial Yacht of Caligula, Recovered from Lake Nemi, Italy.



Ruins of the Montezuma's supposed Treasure House.



Valley of the Tomb of Kings, where the Tomb of the Pharaoh of Exodus was found.

DELVING here and there into the earth; now exploring the wind-swept sand dunes of the Nile and, again, the mountain fastnesses of Mexico and Peru; even searching the bottoms of placid Italian lakes—modern research is ever throwing new light upon the dim outlines of ancient history.

Recent excavations in Egypt have brought to light ruins of structures erected there by the Hebrew bondmen, who preceded Moses—the men who made bricks without straw. Even bricks so made have been recovered.

More important still, a tablet has been uncovered, upon which some ancient historian covered the story of the famous seven-year famine that caused the brothers of Joseph to journey into Egypt to buy corn.

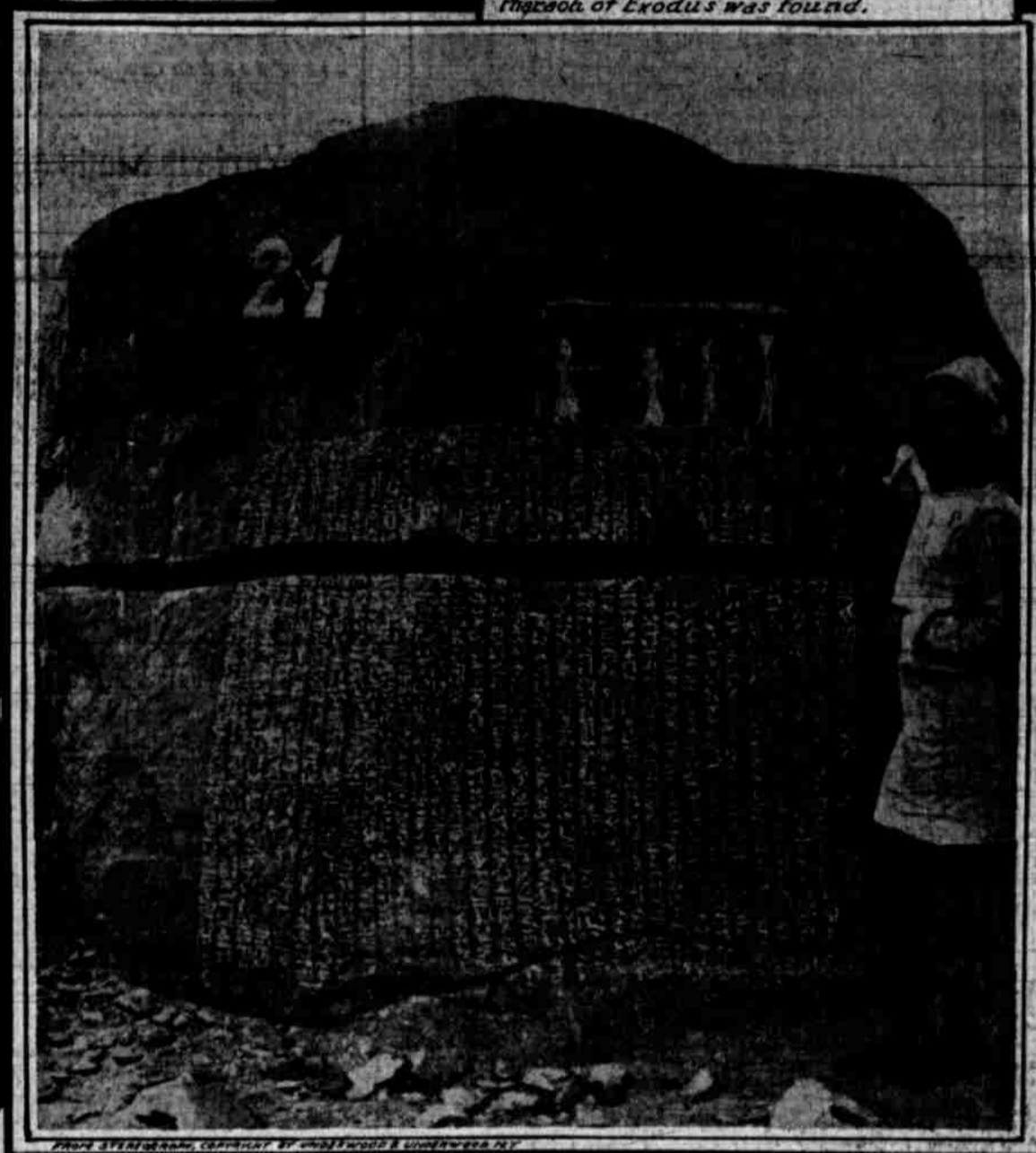
From the waters of Lake Nemi, in Italy, the imperial galleys of Tiberius and Caligula, those famous floating banquet halls, wherein the elite of the Roman Empire gathered on festive occasions, are being dredged.

What is supposed to have been the treasure house of Montezuma has recently been uncovered in Mexico. Additional relics of the Incas are coming to light in Peru.

With each discovery, new light is shed upon the more or less misty pages of ancient history.



Pharaoh's Chamber.



Record of the Seven Years Egyptian Famine of Joseph's Time.

ONLY a short time ago it was announced that a wealthy American Egyptologist, Theodore M. Davis, who has been exploring amid and near the ruins of ancient Thebes, has brought to light, in the Valley of the Tombs of Kings, the burial place of Mer-en Ptah. This King is supposed by many archaeologists to have been the Pharaoh of Exodus who oppressed the Israelites. Not long ago his mummy was found in the tomb of Amenhotep II, at Thebes. No antiquities were discovered in the tomb, however. For some time excavations have been conducted by Henri Eduard Naville at the site of the ancient city of Pithom, in the Nile Delta. Pithom was the store city of the Pharaohs, a fortress outpost at the edge of the desert for the armies of Ramesses II, its founder, and his successor. In the fact that this ancient city was built by the Israelite bondmen lies its principal interest.

The first chapter of Exodus states that the Egyptian authorities, under "the new king which knew not Joseph," afflicted the children of Israel with burdens, compelling them to build "for Pharaoh treasure cities, Pithom and Raamses." Here it was that the burdened bondpeople were driven to arduous tasks by the overseers of the king, and were compelled to make bricks without straw. Excavations reveal the fact that the ancient city was constructed principally of the unburned, sun-dried Egyptian brick. Numbers of thick walls of the crude material were unearthed, the bricks of which, it was found, had in fact been made without straw. There is little doubt in the minds of Egyptologists that the structures uncovered at Pithom were used as the store houses and granaries of the Pharaohs. They were constructed to hold supplies for the armies and caravans crossing the desert, and were built, undoubtedly, by the sorely-oppressed Hebrew bondmen. Indications, too, of the route taken by the fleeing Israelites in the exodus have been unearthed from these ruins, although the tablets have not yet been fully deciphered. Still more interesting, perhaps, is the discovery of inscriptions upon rocks on the Island of Sehel, below the first cataract of the Nile. Sehel was dedicated to the god Anukis, and contains the ruins of two temples. More than 200 inscriptions have been found engraved upon its rocks and cliffs. One of the inscriptions tells of a terrible fam-

ine that smote the land when the Nile failed to rise during seven successive years. This trouble, the inscription states, was relieved, finally, by a great inundation, following the prayer of the king to the cataract god, Khnum. Every Sunday school scholar is familiar with the story of the terrible seven years of drought and famine that followed the seven years of plenty in Egypt during Joseph's time. In the years of plentiful harvests Joseph gathered corn "as the sand of the sea," and stowed it in the cities, so that when the long and dreary time of dearth came "in all the land of Egypt, there was bread." "And all countries came into Egypt for to buy corn, because that the famine was so sore in all lands." These chiseled records of long ago seem to bring back the Biblical past with redolent intensity and directness. Were proof needed of the entertaining narratives of Genesis and Exodus, here it is, in a nature book that has defied the obliterating hand of time. Of great interest, too, to the students of history are the dredging operations that have been going on for some time beneath the waters of Lake Nemi, in Italy. This pleasing body of water was called "The Mirror of Diana" by the Romans of old. Upon its banks once stood a temple of the goddess, widely known throughout the world of that day. Wealthy Romans made the banks of Lake Nemi a pleasure ground, and they were followed by the emperors, who combined worship of Diana with