

Biblical Research.

In one of his late interesting articles on "Ancient Egypt" in the Contemporary Review, Mr. Reginald Stanley Poole, one of the best living authorities, says:

As soon as hieroglyphic texts had been read, the public eagerly asked the interpreters: "What do the monuments tell us of Joseph and Moses, of the settlement in Egypt, the sojourn, and the Exodus?" For the answer the Egyptologist long fruitlessly questioned the monuments. In their eager search, they found materials, of which they raised a series of ill-constructed theories, fast to fall as they were completed. Thirty years ago, Dr. Lepsius made the first step in the direction of sound criticism. His valuable results were scarcely added to until quite recently, when M. Chabas, and, still more, Dr. Brugsch, carried the inquiry much further. It may be fairly said that we now held the materials for evidence, and that each year is sure to add to its value. For it must be understood that the materials are as yet scarcely as available as they might be, even to Egyptologists. Some are only known to us through translations, and the original documents are needed before criticism shall decide on their bearing. The inquiry itself has shifted its ground in the inquirers' hands and only a very careful comparison of their statements can give the general worth of the results. Yet these results, put at their lowest, are what was truly wanted. We have, indeed, no record of Joseph's administration, or of the oppression and the Exodus. What we have is an accurate general knowledge of the geography of the part of Egypt where the Israelites were settled, and much information as to the political and social state of the country at the time of their stay. It is true that we cannot point with certainty to the Egyptian name of each Pharaoh mentioned in the Hebrew record (though, indeed, we can probably do this in the cases of the two most important of them); but we hold an independent set of documents, most of them of the period as to which we are inquiring, which we can use, not as detailed illustrations, but as an almost continuous commentary. Thus we can read the Bible history by the clear light afforded by monuments contemporary with the events, with occasional aid from later Egyptian sources.

The first result is a general agreement as to the date of the Exodus. This is mainly due to Dr. Lepsius, the earliest of our own inquirers. If his theory is correct, we have no longer to make our choice between the extremes of B. C. 1648 (Hales) and B. C. 1314 (Rabbinical chronology), the date of B. C. 1491 (Usher) in the margin of the English Bible occupying nearly the middle point in more than three hundred years of uncertainty. Lepsius' theory would, in the form in which it is now generally accepted, place that event toward the close of the fourteenth century. The essential argument is very simple.

We read in Exodus that the Israelites, during the oppression, built for Pharaoh a town called Rameses, which, or another of the same name, is afterward mentioned as the starting point of the Exodus. A Rameses was, therefore, near the northeastern boundary of Egypt. The name Rameses is the same as that of several kings of Egypt, the first of whom was, as already stated at the head of the Nineteenth Dynasty. This king, consequently, was the earliest to whom the building of a city Rameses could be assigned. His, however, was an extremely short reign, and it is most unlikely that any city was named after him. Dr. Brugsch has shown that his grandson, Rameses II, rebuilt Tanis, the Zoan of the Bible, and called it Pa-Rameses, the city of Ramses, or else founded the new city

close to the older one. Tanis suits the geographical conditions, and if another city be intended by the Biblical Rameses, the builder would be the same, as any subsequent Rameses would be too late. Rameses II would thus correspond to the great oppressor, and the Exodus would have taken place shortly after his reign, the long duration of which (sixty-seven years) leaves a few years of the eighty assigned in the Bible to carry us on through the oppression for the next reign, until the Exodus. Manetho, the Egyptian historian, speaking, if Josephus is to be trusted, on the authority of tradition, states that this event occurred in the reign of Menptah the successor of Rameses. The date of Menptah was probably during the fourteenth century B. C. and may be reasonably placed near its close. Thus the date of the Exodus would be a little before B. C. 1300.

So late a date of the Exodus is startling to most English scholars. It may, therefore, be mentioned that it receives collateral support from the most reasonable view of the evidence of the Hebrew genealogies for the period between the Exodus and the Kings, although this evidence can scarcely be used in the construction of a theory. If these genealogies are of successive generations, the Exodus would fall about B. C. 1300. It would be replied that Hebrew genealogies frequently omit a generation, or several generations; but the pedigree of David, remarkable for the few generations it contains, is supported by evidence of completeness which seems to forbid the idea that any single link has been dropped.

The date of Joseph may next be taken. It presents a greater difficulty than that of the Exodus. At the outset a concession must be made to the Egyptologist. The later Hebrew chronology, if the view given above is correct, is consistent with the theory that the genealogies of that time are unbroken; but the majority of scholars are in favor of reckoning the earlier period, that now under consideration, by what they hold to be the genuine numbers of the biblical text. The development of the family which settled in Egypt into the nation which went out of it implies a long period of time, and the Hebrew text states the interval to have been four hundred and thirty years. If we base our reckoning upon this number, and place the Exodus in the reign of Menptah, the government of Joseph would fall before the Eighteenth Dynasty, in the latter part of the Shepherd dominion, somewhat before B. C. 1700. Here we find on the monuments no definite point of contact, and the theory must be tested by general historical probability.

Joseph would thus have been governor of Egypt under Pharaoh who, though a foreigner himself, and thus able to appreciate foreign merit, was one of those who had Egyptian titles and usages. The subsequent oppression would thus have been a near or remote consequence of the expulsion of the Shepherds. It is precisely in the latter Shepherd period that Dr. Brugsch finds an Egyptian record of a famine of many years duration. No other such famine is recorded in later Egyptian annals until that of the Fatimee Khaleefeh El-Mustansir billah, remarkable as having lasted seven years (A. D. 1064), like that of Joseph. Great famines in Egypt are extremely rare, because they require a succession of very low inundations. Such failures of the river seldom happen singly, and a sequence of seven is most extraordinary.

Any one who reads the history of the time of Joseph side by side with that of the Exodus must be struck with the different conditions of Egypt which they portray. The transition is from almost patriarchal simplicity

to a highly organized condition of society.

Unfortunately, the monuments of the Shepherd kings are too scanty for us to be able to draw from them a picture of the manners of their subjects. We know, however, that in the latter period of their rule—the time to which the government of Joseph is now assigned—the kings had adopted Egyptian manners, and we can not suppose that in civilization they had advanced beyond the conquered race, in this the masters as the conquerors. We do know the condition of the Egyptians about this time. Then, and later, up to the earliest reigns of the Eighteenth Dynasty, they were not more cultivated, if as cultivated, as under the Twelfth Dynasty. All the conditions of life were those of the old monarchy, as distinguished from the empire; so simple that it would require a critical eye to discern the germs of the elaborate social organization of the imperial time.

The geographical indications in the biblical history of Joseph are but scanty; but they are consistent with his proposed place in Egyptian history. Those of a later period fill in their outline. It seems evident that the capital of the Pharaoh to whom he was minister was in Lower Egypt. When Joseph places his kinsmen in Goshen, it is that his father may be near him. Throughout the comings of his brethren he appears to be near the eastern border. Zoan, or the stronghold Avaxis, in the same part of Egypt, was the capital of the later Shepherds, and the position of either would suit the circumstances of the narrative.

The name Goshen has been recognized by Dr. Brugsch in the Egyptian texts as Kesem (Gesem), the Phacusa of the Greek writers. He places the land of Goshen near this town, and therefore not far south of Tanis (Rameses), which would perfectly agree with the conditions implied in the narrative of the Exodus, in which a Rameses is the starting point of the settlers in Goshen.

The story of Joseph is illustrated step by step from the Egyptian texts. The "Tale of the Two Brothers," the earliest known of Egyptian fictions, was no sooner read than it was seen to relate in its turning point an incident identical with the trial of Joseph. Pharaoh's dream of the kine described the years of plenty and famine under the usual type of the inundation as Dr. Birch has shown. The installation of Joseph has its parallel in the case of an Egyptian Governor of the age of the Eighteenth dynasty, who received exactly the same office, "Lord of all Egypt" (Gen. xiv. 9), in the Egyptian record a "lord of the whole land," the word lord being *adon* in both cases (Brugsch, "History," i:269, 270). The term in the Hebrew "means ruler," in Egyptian its sense is more special, and the whole title of Joseph may be best rendered "regent" (Brugsch, l. c.) Two circumstances of the narrative brings us very near Egyptian official usages. "By the life of Pharaoh" is used as a strong asseveration by Joseph (Gen. xlii:15-16), and when he has sworn to his father after the Hebrew manner, that he will not bury him in Egypt, then "Israel bowed himself upon the head of his staff" (xlvii:29-31). Both the expression "by the life of Pharaoh," and the custom of bowing upon the staff of an officer are traced to M. Chabas in his interesting essays on Egyptian judicial proceedings, where he cites the following passage describing the taking an oath by witness in a trial at Thebes: "He made a life of the royal lord, striking his nose and his ears, and placing himself on the head of the staff" ("Melanges Egyptologiques" iii, 1, 80), the ordinary oath when the witness bowed his head on the magistrate's staff of office. He well remarks that this explains the passage in Genesis quote above as a recognition by Jacob of his son's au-

thority (*Ibid.* 91, 62). This illustration shows that the Septuagint is right in reading staff, *hammattah*, in agreement with Heb. xi:21, where the Masoretes read *bed hammattah*, and a question of controversy disappears.

Seed Time.

"Whatsoever a man soweth that shall he also reap," and "He that soweth plentifully shall reap plentifully." If a person scatters thistle seed, he should not expect fruits and flowers to grow therefrom; and if he sows sparingly he should not expect an abundant crop. Youth is the seed time of life, just as life is the seed time of eternity. Hindoo children are thus addressed, "Little babe thou enterest world weeping, while all around thee smile. Contrive to live so that thou mayst leave the world smiling, whilst all around thee weep."

The seed time will never return, and those who misspend it will, sooner or later, "possess the iniquities of their youth," in the harvest of sorrow or suffering they must reap. The young should begin well, for "The way to Babylon will never bring you to Jerusalem." Get into the right train if you would arrive at your proper destination. Have your cloth woven well at the loom if you would have it wear well and long. Lay a good foundation if you would erect a secure superstructure. Besides, "When you grind your corn, give not the flour to the devil and the bran to God. Rather let God have your freshest and best energies, as well as your life-long love and service. Terence says, 'Bad beginnings have bad endings.' Make a mistake in your multiplication sum at the commencement and it will be very wrong at last. One wrong action may quarter repentance upon us for life.—Eg.

Somebody's Child.

Somebody's child is dying—dying with the flash of hope on his young face and an indissoluble yearning to live and take an honored place in the world beside the companions of his youth. And somebody's mother is thinking of the time when that dear face will be hidden where no ray of hope can brighten it—when her heart and home will be left desolate—because there was no cure for consumption. Reader, if the child be your neighbor's, take this comforting word to the mother's heart before it is too late. Tell her that consumption is curable, that men are living to-day, rged, robust men, whom the physicians pronounced incurable at the age of twenty-five, because one lung had been almost destroyed by the disease. Dr. Pierce's Golden Medical Discovery is a most efficient siterative for separating the scrofulous matter from the blood and lungs, and imparting strength to the system. It has cured hundreds of consumptives.

What a Clergyman Says.

Rev. L. Pierce, of Sparta, Ga., father of Bishop Pierce, of the Methodist Episcopal Church South, says: "I do most honestly and earnestly recommend this 'Oxygen Treatment' to all persons laboring under any suffering from cold, cough, etc., and for all signs or symptoms causing fear of Consumption." Send for our Treatise on "Compound Oxygen." It will be mailed free. Address Drs. Starkey & Palen, 1112 Girard Street, Phila., Pa.

From all parts of the country reports come of the immense sales and increasing demands for that deservedly popular Sewing Machine, The Old and Reliable "STANDARD," the price of which the proprietors wisely reduced to \$20 including all the attachments, and at once secured for them a popularity among the people, far beyond that ever yet attained by any other machine at any price, the consequence of which is, agents are leaving the old high priced machines, and seeking territory for the "STANDARD." Knowing from experience that with the best goods at the lowest price they can outsell all other Machines, where the superior quality and low price is made known. This splendid Machine combines all the improvements. Is far ahead of all others in beauty and durability of its work, ease of management, and light running, is sensibly made upon sound principles, with positive working parts all steel, and can safely put down as the very perfection of a Serviceable Shuttle Double Thread Sewing Machine, in every particular, that will outlast any Machine, and at a price far down below any other. It is thoroughly warranted for five years. Kept in order free of charge. And sent to any part of the Country for examination by the customer before payment of the bill. We can predict equally as large a demand for them in this section as others. Families desiring the best Machine manufactured should write direct to the Factory. And enterprising persons wishing to seize the chance should apply for so desirable an agency. See advertisement in another part of this paper. Address, Standard Machine Co., Cor. Broadway and Clinton Place, New York.

MISCELLANEOUS.

1879 & 80. 1879 & 80.

MILLICAN'S MILLINERY

AND FANCY STOCK OF GOODS IS NOW COMPLETE FOR THE FALL & WINTER.

Call in and see the elegant assortment of Straw & Felt Hats, Ostrich Plumes, Bead Plumes, Fancy Brocade & Satin Ribbons.

Sarah Bernhardt and The New Pinafore are prominent shapes for the season. Changeable Silks & Velvets in the new shades. Gendarme, Cafe au Lait, Garnet, etc.

Wm. MILLICAN, SALEM, OREGON.

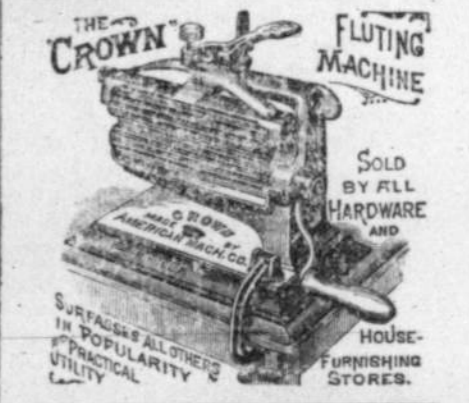
AGENTS WANTED

TO SELL ABBOTT'S Large Type Illustrated New Testament With Explanatory Notes.

This work, besides containing the text of the New Testament, with copious Notes, contains also a variety of valuable matter useful to the Bible student. No work sells better. Our Agents, everywhere successful. Terms to Agents have never been surpassed on a popular work. Outfit, \$1.00. Send at once for this, and begin to canvass, or address for circulars. H. S. GOODSPEED & CO., NEW YORK OR CINCINNATI.

\$66 A WEEK in your own town, and no capital risked. You can give the business a trial without expense. The best opportunity ever offered for those willing to work. You should try nothing else until you see for yourself what you can do at the business we offer. No room to explain here. You can devote all your time or only your spare time to the business, and make great pay for every hour that you work. Women make as much as men. Send for special private terms and particulars, which we mail free. \$5 Outfit free. Don't complain of hard times while you have such a chance. H. HALETT & CO., Portland, Maine.

75 CENTS A YEAR. THE CHICAGO WEEKLY NEWS, CHEAPEST Weekly Newspaper in the U. S. SEVENTY-FIVE CENTS A YEAR. POSTAGE INCLUDED. Fifteenth year of publication. It is especially complete as a newspaper, publishing all the dispatches from all important sources, and the National Associated Press, besides an extensive system of special dispatches from all important sources. It is independent in politics, presenting political news free from partisan coloring, without fear or favor. Every number contains Six Completed Stories. A favorite family paper. It is the Cheapest Weekly in the U. S. 75 cents a year. Address Chicago Weekly News, 123 Fifth Ave., Chicago, Ill.



NEW RICH BLOOD

Parson's Purgative Pills make New Rich Blood, and will completely change the blood in the entire system in three months. Any person who will take 1 pill each night from 1 to 13 weeks may be restored to sound health, if such a thing be possible. Sold everywhere or sent by mail for eight letter stamps. L. S. Johnson & Co., Bangor, Me.

JOYFUL News for Boys and Girls! A NEW INVENTION just patented for them, for Home-use! Pret and Scroll Sawing, Turning, Boring, Drilling, Grinding, Polishing, Screen Cutting. Price \$5 to \$20. Send 6 cents for 100 pages. EPHRAIM BROWN, Lowell, Mass.

Agents Wanted THE HISTORY OF THE BIBLE.

The best work to sell that has ever been published. A splendid Premium offered to every subscriber. For circulars and terms apply at once to The Henry Bill Publishing Co., 41, 43 and 45 Sheelcket St., Norwich, Ct.

THE TAMPICO BUSTS now used in DR. WARNER'S HEALTH CORSET and Skirt Supporter are the greatest improvement ever made in Corsets. They are cut in velvet, very flexible and contain no bones. THE FLEXIBLE HIP CORSET (120 bones) fits with perfect ease and is guaranteed not to break over the hips. Price, \$5. For Sale by leading Merchants. WARNER BROS., 351 Broadway, New York.