

THE TABLET OF 400 YEARS.

XIXth DYNASTY.

 TRANSLATED BY

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THIS Inscription is incised on a tablet of red granite found in the ruins of the ancient Tanis, which is at present in the Museum of Boulaq in Cairo. The monument and a translation have been published by Mariette Bey in the *Revue Archéologique*, vol. xi, Paris, 1865; pl. 4, p. 169 and foll. The inscription is in some respects peculiar if not suspicious. It is an act of homage from a high officer of state named Seti to the god Sut in the reign of Rameses II of the XIXth dynasty, and gives an interval of 400 years between his reign and that of the rule of the Hykshos or Shepherds. As such it is most important for

the chronology although unfortunately the place of the Shepherd king in the dynasty is not known, nor is the regnal year of Rameses II mentioned in the tablet, which had it been, would have given two fixed points for the duration of the XVIIIth and XIXth dynasties.



THE TABLET OF 400 YEARS.

The upper part of the tablet contains the usual vignette, the subject being, a

Scene representing RAMESES II "giving wine to his beloved that he may make him a giver of life." The god SUT in his human form wearing the white crown *hut*, and holding the *ankh*, as symbol of life and the *was*, sceptre. The officer SETI stands behind the monarch in adoration to SUT. The inscription runs :—"A gift of adoration to thy person Oh SUT, Son of NUT, give thou a long time in thy service to the Prince, Nomarch, Royal Scribe of the horses, Superintendent of the countries Superintendent of the fortress Ta-ru " (Parameses).

- 1 THE Living HORUS, the Living Sun, the Powerful Bull beloved of Truth, Lord of the Festivals of Thirty Years like his father PTAH, King of Upper and Lower Egypt RA-USER-MA, Approved of the Sun, Son of the Sun RAMESES beloved of AMEN Giver of Life
- 2 Lord of Diadems, Regulator of Egypt, Chastiser of Foreign Lands, Sun born of the gods, Possessor of the Upper and Lower country, the Hawk of Gold, Rich in Years, Greatest of the Powerful
- 3 the King of the Upper and Lower country, RA-USER-MA, Approved of the Sun, the Son of the Sun, RAMESES, beloved of AMEN, the Chief enriching the two countries with memorials in his name,
- 4 the Sun has shone above to his wishes¹ the King of Upper and Lower Egypt, RA-USER-MA, Approved of the Sun, RAMESES beloved of AMEN.

¹ Or, as the king liked.

- 5 His Majesty ordered that a great Tablet of stone should be made in the great name of his fathers for the sake of setting up the name of the father of his fathers,
- 6 the King of the Upper country RA-MEN-MA, Son of the Sun, SETI¹ beloved of PTAH, firm and prosperous for ever like the Sun daily.
- 7 The 400th year the 4th of the month Mesori² (of) the King of the Upper and Lower country SUT-AA-PEH-PEH, Son of the Sun, whom he loves NUB-TI³ beloved of HAR-EMAKHU⁴ who is for ever and ever.
- 8 A journey was made by the Prince, the Superintendent of the nome, the Fan Bearer at the King's right hand, the Superintendent of bows, the Superintendent of lands, the Superintendent of the fort of Taru, the Chief of the Matau, the Royal Scribe of the cavalry
- 9 the Processional Priest of Ba-neb-tat⁵ the High Priest of SUT, officer⁶ of Uat⁷ the Ruler of the two countries, the Superintendent of the Priests of all the gods, SETI, justified Son of the Prince, the Governor of the district,
- 10 the Superintendent of the bows, the Superintendent of the countries, the Royal Scribe of the horses PARAMESSES, justified, born of the Lady of the house, the Singer of the Sun, TAA, justified he says
- 11 Hail to thee SUT son of NUT, AAPEHPEH in the boat of millions of years, overthrowing enemies before the boat of the Sun, great are thy roarings in
- 12 grant me a good time of life to follow thy person
I have been placed in

¹ Sethos I, king of the XIXth dynasty.

² The 12th month.

³ Name of the Shepherd king, predecessor of Apophis, a kind of minister, sepulchral or civil.

⁴ Harmachis, "The sun in the horizon."

⁵ Mendes,

⁶ The *Karheb*.

⁷ Buto.

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