

NEAPOLITAN STELE.

AN INSCRIPTION OF THE PERSIAN PERIOD.

 TRANSLATED BY

C. W. GOODWIN, M.A.

THE inscription of which the following is a translation is at present in the Museum of Naples, and has been published by M. Brugsch, *die Geographie des alten Aegyptens*, 4to., Leipzig 1857, Taf. lviii., and some remarks on it are given in the same work, S. 40, 41, but it has not been previously translated. It as will be seen refers to events of the Persian period, and according to M. Brugsch is of the time of the conquest of Egypt by Alexander the Great, but no king is actually mentioned in the inscription by name, nor is the particular battle described in which the person for whom the inscription was made happened

to be engaged. It is in fact an adoration to the god Chnoumis of whom the person was the priest. This sacerdotal personage appears to have taken part in the military operations although it is not mentioned that he held any military office. It has been arranged in paragraphs of sentences, and is an interesting example of the inscriptions of this later period, which is not much illustrated by contemporaneous monuments although well known from other sources. It is however always desirable to know the state of Egypt from its own contemporay documents of which this is an interesting example.

S. B.



NEAPOLITAN STELE.

- 1 The PRINCE, President, Keeper of the seal,
Companion of the javelin, Prophet of HAR,
Lord of Hebnu,¹ Prophet of the gods of Sah,²
Prophet of SAMTATI of Ahehu,
- 2 Spiritual superior of the Un,
Chief of the Priests of SEXET in the whole land,
SAMTATI-TAF-NEXT, son of the housemaster,
- 3 Prophet of AMEN-RA, *Shat-tât-Samtati-Afanx*,³
born of the lady ANXTA : saith :
“ O ! Lord of Gods, XNUM, King of the double land,
- 4 Ruler of the Districts, who risest to enlighten the earth,
whose right eye is the Solar Disk,
whose left eye is the Moon, whose spirit is
- 5 Shu⁴ from whose nostrils issues the North wind,
to enliven all creatures : I am thy Prophet, my heart
is according to thy ways, I have been faithful unto thee,
- 6 I have made no dwelling (for myself) except thy dwelling,
I have not turned away from doing Every one's
heart rejoiced, there was *exultation* in every house,
- 7 on seeing what thou hast done for me to their advantage,
many and many times.
Thou didst *give* me entrance to the palace,
the heart of the good god (king) was pleased
- 8 with my words. Thou didst *grant* to me the *oil* of gladness,
in that thou didst spare Egypt. Thou didst put kindness
into the heart of the ruler of Asia,
- 9 his councillors did honour to me,
he gave me the post of Chief of the Priests of SEXET
in Es-Senem⁵ Chief of the Priests of SEXET,
- 10 of the double land, Head of the park. Thou didst defend
me in the battle of the Greeks,
when thou didst smite Asia,

¹ Hipponomi in 16th N.E. Nome.² 16th N.E. Nome.³ Sacerdotal name.⁴ The Dawn.⁵ Isle of Bigeh.

- 11 (when) they killed many of my companions. He¹ raised
 not his hand against me, (his) eyes were dull.
- 12 Afterwards Thy Majesty said to me, Go thou to
 Suten-senen² Be thou diligent to traverse the regions
 13 alone by thyself. I embarked at Uat-Ur,³
 I feared no difficulty,
 I disobeyed not thy command, I reached Suten-senen.
- 14 Not a hair of my head was *hurt*.
 The beginning was observed in accordance
 with that which thou hadst commanded ;
 in the end, thou gavest me a long space of repose.
- 15 O ! all ye priests who serve this great god,
 XNUM, King of the double land, HAR of the horizons,
 Lord of all things, the beneficent spirit in Suten-senen,
 16 TUM first in *King* of generations
 the kingdom for the ruler of lands,
 17 (causing) his beloved son to be King of both lands,
 who comes to the heavens and beholds therein XNUM,
 King of both lands, TUM in his sanctuary ;
- 18 the great god who approaches the shrine of the King
 of Lower and Upper Egypt *Unnofer*. May your names
 remain upon earth, (may ye be) in favour
 19 with XNUM King of both lands, while ye say, May the
 gods, the Eyes, who are in Suten-senen be favourable
 to his reverence, the devoted to his district, SAMTATI-
 TAF-NEXT.
- 20 May ye yourselves be blessed.
 May others repeat your names for years and years.”

¹ The enemy.² Heracleopolis.³ Pehu of 1st N.E. Nome.

END OF SAMPLE TEXT



The Complete Text can be found on our CD:
Primary Literary Sources For Ancient Literature
which can be purchased on our Website :
www.Brainfly.net

or

by sending **\$64.95** in check or money order to :
Brainfly Inc.
5100 Garfield Ave. #46
Sacramento CA 95841-3839

TEACHER'S DISCOUNT:

If you are a **TEACHER** you can take advantage of our teacher's discount. Click on **Teachers Discount** on our website (www.Brainfly.net) or **Send us \$55.95** and we will send you a full copy of *Primary Literary Sources For Ancient Literature* **AND** our *5000 Classics CD (a collection of over 5000 classic works of literature in electronic format (.txt))* plus our *Wholesale price list*.

If you have any suggestions such as books you would like to see added to the collection or if you would like our wholesale prices list please send us an email to:

webcomments@brainfly.net