

INSCRIPTION OF AAHMES,
SON OF ABANA.

TRANSLATED BY
P. LE PAGE RENOUF.

THE following inscription occurs in a tomb of the period of the XVIIIth dynasty, at Elkab or Eileithyia, and has been published by Lepsius, *Denkmaeler* Abth. III., Bl. 11, and Champollion, *Notice descriptive*, fo., Paris, 1870, p. 655. It has been translated in part by M. the late Vte. Emmanuel de Rougé, *Mémoire sur l'inscription du Tombeau d'Ahmès chef des nautoniers* in the *Mémoires de l'Institut de France*, Prem. serie, Tom. III., 4to. Paris 1851, but not entirely, and partly by Professor Brugsch-Bey in his *Histoire d'Égypte*, 4to. Paris, 1859, p. 80, 81, 86, 90, although not together, nor in continuous order. The present is the first continuous and complete translation of the whole inscription, the only remaining part of the text being the statement of the amount of land presented to Aahmes, amounting to 60 *sta*, and the list by name of

the slaves obtained by Aahmes in the course of the campaigns. It is one of the most important of the historical inscriptions as it gives the account of the campaign against the Hykshos at the commencement of the XVIIIth dynasty, and the siege of their stronghold, Avaris. Born in the days of Sekenen-Ra the Egyptian monarch, contemporary with the later Shepherd kings, Aahmes served under Aahmes or Amasis I, Amenophis I, and Thothmes I. These monarchs, it will be seen from the inscriptions, had personally entered the field, and Aahmes was witness of their prowess in some of the actions in which they had been engaged. Like all the great Egyptian officers he had seen active service both on the Northern and Southern frontiers of Egypt. It was one of the most critical periods in the history of Egypt, and this inscription together with the *1st Sallier Papyrus* throws great light on the comparatively obscure events of the time of the Shepherd kings. The names of some of the places are obscure especially those of the localities in the neighbourhood of Avaris. The name Teta-an that of the chief of the Hykshos is not elsewhere found; it appears after the siege of Avaris and final expulsion of the Shepherds.

S. B.



INSCRIPTION OF AAHMES.

THE Captain-general of Marines, AAHMES, son of ABANA,
the justified,

1 He saith : I speak to you, all men, in order that I may
inform you of the honours which have fallen to my lot.
I have been presented with gold seven times in the face
2 of the whole land; and with slaves both male and female.

I have acquired very many landed possessions. The
warlike name which he hath made shall not perish
3 ever in this land. He saith : I came into existence in
the city of Eilethyia ; my father was an officer of King
SEKENEN RA ; BABA

4 son of RE-ANT was his name. I performed the duties of
an officer in his place on board the ship called the Calf
in the days of King NEB-PEHTI-RA,¹ the justified.

5 I was (then) too young to have a wife, and I was clad in
the uniform of the Shennu.² But as soon as I had a
house I betook myself

6 to the ship called the North, for the purpose of taking
part in the war. And it was my duty to follow the
Sovereign on foot when he went out on his chariot.

7 We laid siege to the city of Avaris and I had to fight on
foot in presence of His Majesty. I was promoted

8 to the ship called Chā-em-Mennefer.³ We fought upon
the canal of Patetku of Avaris. Here I obtained
prizes ;

9 I carried off a hand, mention of which was made to the
Reporter Royal, and there was given to me the golden

¹ Aahmes I.

² "*Je couchais dans le lit Réservé,*" Chabas.

³ Literally, "Crowned in Memphis."

- (collar) of valour. I fought a second time at this place and a second time I took prizes
- 10 there. I carried off a hand and there was given to me a second time the gold of valour. There was fighting at Takamit, at the south of this city
- 11 and I carried away prisoner a live man. I plunged into the water far in bringing him off; in order to avoid the road to the
- 12 town, I crossed over with him through the water. Mention of this was made to the Reporter Royal and I was presented with gold once more. We
- 13 took Avaris, and I carried off as captives from thence one man and three women, in all four heads; and His Majesty gave them to me for slaves. We
- 14 laid siege to Sharhana in the year 5, and His Majesty took it. I carried off from thence captives, two women and one hand. And there
- 15 was given me the gold of valour. Likewise there were given me the captives for slaves. But as soon as His Majesty had slaughtered the Asiatic barbarians
- 16 he returned to Chent-hen-nefer for the purpose of destroying the Anti of Nubia, and His Majesty made a great slaughter of them.
- 17 I carried away captives, two live men and three hands, and I was presented once more with the gold and likewise the two slaves were given to me. Then came
- 18 His Majesty down the river, his heart dilated with valour and victory; he had conquered the people of the South and of the North. Then came the Pestilence¹ of the South
- 19 introducing its *devastation*, and *profaning* the gods of the South in its grasp. It was found by His Majesty at Tent-ta-qabu² and His Majesty carried off

¹ Identified by M. Chabas with the "Shepherds."

² A place determined by water.

20 all his men as living captives. And I brought off two officers whom I had seized on the ship of the Pestilence. And there were

21 given to me five heads for my share and five *sta* of land in my own city. It was done to all the company of the marines in like manner. Then that enemy

22 named TETA-AN came, and rebels joined him. But His Majesty slaughtered him and his slaves even to extinction. And then were

23 given to me three heads and five *sta* of land in my own city.

It was my lot to convey King SOṚ-KA-RA¹ on his journey up to Kush for the purpose of extending
24 the frontiers of Egypt. His Majesty smote that Anti² of Nubia in the midst of his troops; taken by assault they escaped not

25 so as not to exist. Behold I was at the head of our soldiers, and I fought as it behoved me. His Majesty was witness of my valour as I carried off two hands and brought

26 them to His Majesty. We pursued his people and his cattle. I took a living prisoner and brought him to His Majesty. In two days I brought His Majesty back to Egypt

27 from the Upper source. And I was presented with the gold, received two female slaves besides those which I had brought

28 to His Majesty, and was raised to the dignity of "Warrior of the King."

It was my lot to convey King AA-CHEPER-KA-RA³ on his journey up to Chent-hen-nefer

¹ Amenophis I.

² Name of hostile tribes on the southern boundaries of Egypt.

³ Thothmes I.

29 for the purpose of chastising the guilty among the tribes and of exterminating the I fought upon the river

30 the ships at the stranding; and I was raised to the dignity of Captain-general of the marines. His Majesty

[Another portion of the inscription proceeds as follows:]

1 His Majesty became more furious than a panther, and he shot his first arrow, which stuck in the knee of that wretch fainting before the asp. Then was

2 made of them in an instant their people were carried off as live captives. His Majesty returned down the river, all the regions being in his grasp. That

3 vile Anti of Nubia was kept with his head down on the royal ship when he landed at the Apet.¹

4 After this he went to the Rutennu² for the purpose of taking satisfaction upon the countries. His Majesty arrived at Naharina,³ where he encountered that enemy, and organised an attack. His Majesty made a great

5 slaughter of them; an immense number of live captives was carried off by His Majesty. Behold I was at the head of our soldiers, and His Majesty saw my valour

6 as I seized upon a chariot, its horses and those who were on it as living captives whom I took to His Majesty. I was once more presented with the gold.

7 I have grown up and have reached old age; my honours are like (I shall rest in the tomb) which I have myself made.

¹ A well-known part of the city of Thebes: the modern Karnak.

² Syria.

³ Mesopotamia.

END OF SAMPLE TEXT



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