ANNALS OF RAMESES III.

BY

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THE following document is found on the papyrus generally known as the *Great Harris Papyrus*, one of the finest, best written, and best preserved that have been discovered in Egypt. It measures 133 feet long by $16\frac{3}{4}$ in. broad and was found with several others in a tomb behind Medinat Habu. Purchased soon after by the late A. C. Harris of Alexandria it was subsequently unrolled and divided into 79 leaves and laid down on cardboard. With the exception of some small portions which are wanting in the first, the rest of the text is complete throughout. After the decease of Mr. Harris, his collection of papyri was brought to England by his daughter, Miss Harris, and sold to the British Museum through the mediation of Professor Eisenlohr, who was then in England.

The historical portion of the papyrus was translated with a comment, by Professor Eisenlohr and published in his work *Der grosse papyrus Harris, ein wichtiger Beitrag zur ægyptischen Geshichte*, 12mo., Leipzig, 1872, and in a paper printed in the *Transactions of the Society of Biblical Archæology*, Vol. I., Pt. II., p. 355-384. Dr. Birch published a translation of the first 23 pages in the *Zeitschrift fur ægyptische Sprache*, 4to., Berlin, 1872, p. 119; 1873, pp. 9, 34,

65, 97, 152. Another translation of the whole papyrus except the lists of objects given to the temples was given by Professor Eisenlohr in the same Zeitschrift, 1873, pp. 15 and foll., 49, 98, and 154; 1874, pp. 23-25. A translation of the historical portion comprised in pages 75-79, was given by M. Chabas in his work Recherches pour servir à l'histoire de la XIXth dynastie, Chalon, 1873. The object of the papyrus is the address after death of the king Rameses III, recounting the benefits he had conferred upon Egypt by his administration and delivery of the country from foreign subjection and also the immense gifts which he had conferred on the temples of Egypt, of Ammon at Thebes, Tum at Heliopolis, and Ptah at Memphis, etc. The last part is addressed to the officers of the army consisting partly of Sardinian and Libyan mercenaries, and to the people of Egypt in the 32nd year of his reign and is a kind of posthumous, panegyrical discourse or political will like that of Augustus discovered at Ancyra. The papyrus itself consists of the following divisions, three of which are preceded by large coloured plates or vignettes: Pl. I., Introduction; Pl. II.-XXIII., Donations to the Theban deities; Pl. XXIV.-XLII., Donations to the gods of Heliopolis; Pl. XLIII.-LVI., Donations to the gods of Memphis; Pl. LVII.-LXVI; Donations to the gods of the North and South; Pl. LXVII.-LXXIV., Summary of donations; Pl. LXXV.-LXXIX., Historical speech and conclusion. Throughout the monarch speaks in the first person, the list excepted.

ANNALS OF RAMESES III.

PLATE 1.1

I THE year 32, the 6th of the month Epiphi of the reign of the King of Upper and Lower Egypt, Ra-user-ma beloved of Amen, the living 2 the Son of the Sun RAMESES Ruler of An,3 beloved of all gods and goddesses

2 The King crowned in the white crown like Osiris, the luminous ruler of Akar,4 like Tum over the great house in Taser 5 who comes for ever and ever King of the Abyss, King of Upper and Lower Egypt RA-USER-MA beloved of Amen, the living, the Son of the Sun, RAMESES ruler of An,3 living, the great god

3 who says worshipping the adoration, the thanksgivings, and numerous and mighty actions which he did as King a Ruler on earth at the house of his noble father AMEN RA King of the gods

- 4 Mut, Xonsu 6 Lords of Uas,7 the house of his noble father Tum, Lord of the two lands of An,3 RA HAREM-AKHU8 IUSAAS NEBHETEP all the gods of An for the ·house of his noble father, PTAH, Chief of the Southern wall
- 5 Lord vivifying the two lands, Sechet the greatly beloved of PTAH, NEFER-TUM protecting the two lands and the gods of the temple of PTAH-KA,9 for the house of his noble fathers all the gods and goddesses of the South
- ¹ The plates refer to the forthcoming publication of the British Museum, and the divisions into which the papyrus was cut and laid down by the late Mr. A. C. Harris.
 - ² Anx uta snat, "life, established and sound." 3 Heliopolis. 5 Another name of the entrance of Hades.
 - ⁴ Name of Hades. 6 Khons, son of Mut and Amen.
 - 9 Memphis. 8 Harmachis title of Ra. 7 The Thebaid.

- 6 and North by the good glorious works (which he performed to) the men of the land of Egypt and of every land assembled altogether at one time, to inform
- 7 the fathers, the gods and goddesses of the South and North, (men) mortals, intelligences, mankind of the numerous glorious actions which he did on earth while great Ruler of Egypt.

PLATE 2.

Picture of King before Amen Ra, the goddess Mut and Chonsu.

DONATIONS TO THE GODS OF THEBES.

PLATE 3.

- I Celebrate, and return thanks for the glorious actions which he did for the house of his noble father AMEN-RA, King of the gods, MUT, KHONSU and all the gods of Uas^I
- 2 Says the King the RA-USER-MA beloved of AMEN the living the Son of the Sun, RAMESES Ruler of An the great god adoring his father that noble god AMEN-RA King of the gods the substance which was at first,
- 3 the god of gods who produced himself, lifting his hand, raising the crown, maker of existences, creator of beings, himself a mystery to men and gods, give to me thy ears Oh Lord of the gods,
- 4 listen to my adorations which I make thee, let me come to thee at Uas¹ thy reserved city, be deified in the cycle of thy gods, thou art at peace at thy strong place in Nebanx
- 5 at the noble face of thy propylæa. Let me be united to the gods Lords of the Empyreal gate, like my father

Thebes. Anx uta snak, "life, established and sound."

Osiris Lord of Taser, may my soul be like the soul of the company of the gods who are at rest where thou art

- 6 in the horizon for ever and ever. Give breath to my nostril, water to my soul, to eat the substance and the food of thy divine offerings, may my noble form remain before thee
- 7 like the great gods Lords of Akar, may I go in and depart from thee like they do, thou hast ordered my spirits like theirs against my accusers. Establish my peace offerings brought to my

8 person² continually³ for ever and ever, I am King on earth, Ruler of the living, thou hast set the crown on my head when thou madest the passage in peace to the noble

temple,

9 thou sittest on thy seat dear to thy wish, I am established in place of my father as thou madest to Horus in the place of Osiris. I neither excluded nor deprived 5

no another of his place. I have not infringed what thou hast ordered being before me. Thou gavest peace and joy to my people; every land is adoring before (thee). I

look at the pious works

II I did as King. I redouble for thee the mighty and glorious numerous actions, I made for thee a noble house of millions of years placed on the hill of Nebankh⁶ facing thee,

PLATE 4.

r built with carved stone, sandstone and black stone, with lintels of gold and brass making its tower of stone visibly elevated above

¹ Tser, Hades. ² Ka, "person."

³ Ameni, "continually," or "day by day."

⁴ Aashak. ⁵ Huru, or "drew" out of his place.

⁶ Lord of the living world. ⁷ Columns (Br.)

⁸ Uasm, "electrum," or "copper."

- 2 carving engraved with the chisel in the great name of Thy Majesty. I built a wall around it fabricating, favoured indeed, having a door and passages of carved stone.
- 3 I dug a lake in front of it full of water from heaven, planted with groves in its meadows like the land of the North, filling its treasury with the products of the land of Egypt,¹
- 4 gold silver and all precious stones for hundreds of thousands, its granaries had their heaps of corn and barley, its fields and herds multiplied like the sands of the shore. I made tribute to it
- 5 the lands of the South as those of the North, the land of Khent, and Taha to it bringing their work, filled with captives which thou gavest to me of the Pat,³ the youths⁴ were ten thousands.
- 6 I carved thy statue reposing within it AMEN NUM HEH⁵ was its noble name, embellished with real stones like the horizons, at its progress there is rejoicing to see it.
- 7 I made for it vases for the tables of good gold and others of silver and brass without number. I made numerous divine offerings presented before thee, with bread, wine and beer, fat geese
- 8 numerous oxen calves⁷ and cattle, antelopes and goats offered on his altar. I dragged as hills great statues⁸ of alabaster and engraved stone,⁹
- 9 giving them life in making (them) repose at the right
- ¹ Kami, "Black land."
- ² Mas mas, "measured," "full."
- ³ Nine-bow barbarians.
- ⁴ Able bodied tamu of my foundation.
- 5 Name of the image "Amen uniting Eternity."
- 6 Or "drinking vessels.
- 7 Renen, "virgin," or "young cattle."
- 8 Mennu, "statues," or "monuments."
- 9 Husi, "carved," perhaps applies to alabaster, "carved alabaster."

and left of its gate cut in the great name of Thy Majesty for ever, other statues of mau^{*} stone, sandstone,

- IO figures of black stone placed in it, I sculptured PTAH SEKAR, NEFER TUM in the company of all the gods of heaven and earth in its shrine made of pure gold
- 11 and silver, making² (them) of jewels, and real stones, rich indeed: I made to thee a noble palace of the King in it like the house of Tum above, the columns
- 12 the hinges and gates of gold, the great cornice crowned of pure gold. I made for it transports loaded with corn and barley to tow them to

PLATE 5.

- I its granary without cessation I made for it a store house, great boats on the river laden with numerous things for its noble treasury
- 2 It is surrounded with orchards, and seats and bowers loaded bearing fruit and flowers to Thy Majesty. I built their summer houses having
- 3 places for light. I dug a tank before them, the ponds laid out with lillies
- 4 I made for thee a secret horizon in thy city of Uas⁶ facing thy propylæa, Lord of the gods, the house of Rameses-hek-An the living in the house of Amen, placed in heaven having the disk⁷
- ⁵ I built its walls of carved stone having great columns of good gold, I filled its treasury with the things my arms fetched to offer
- 6 before thee in the course of the day8 I made festive to
- ¹ Maau, or mafu, a kind of stone, perhaps Red Syenite.
- ² Or, ornamenting them with meh, "jewels."
- 3 Uasm metal, by some conjectured to be "copper" or "electrum."
- 4 The show balcony. 5 Good or best gold. 6 Thebes.
- ⁷ Amen men em pet kar Aten, its name. ⁸ Em kart hru, "daily."

thee Southern Thebes with the great monuments I builded for thee a temple in it like the seat of the Universal Lord, the divine temple of "RAMESES Ruler of An the living

- 7 embracing delight in Thebes." A second time I made thy monuments in Uas, the strong, where reposes thy heart near thy face—the house RA-USER-MA beloved of AMEN the living in the house of AMEN.
- 8 I made to thee a secret shrine at one time³ of good stone of granite, the doors in its face⁴ are of brass, made and cut in thy divine name
- 9 like the shrine of the Universal Lord, built of stone like a miracle, enriching it with eternal gifts; the columns in front of *mafu* stone, the doors
- 10 and lintels of gold. I furnished it with servants, and endowed it with treasures by hundreds of thousands.
- II Thy image was placed at rest in it like the Sun in the two horizons, it was set up in its place for ever and ever in thy very noble court
- 12 I made thee a great table of silver wrought, covered with good gold studded with jewels having figures of the living Lord of wrought gold and stands 6 having thy divine offerings placed before thee.

PLATE 6.

I I made thee a great sanctuary, for thy propylon plated with good gold with jewels, stone; its vases of gold holding wine and beer to be served up before thee every morning.

- ¹ Neberter, or "Entire Lord," the recomposed Osiris.
 - ² Amen num resau, the name of the temple.
- 3 En sep ua, "at once."
- 4 Her herf, "in front of it."

5 Tamau.

- 6 Al. stands.
- ⁷ Xenti, "an inner place," it is determined by wood.

- 2 I made for thee store places for the show festivals with slaves male and female I supplied them with bread and beer, oxen, fowl, wine, incense, fruit, fodder, vegetable pure offering before thee in the course of the day2 in continual addition to what was (stored) before.
- 3 I made thee noble pectoral plates3 of gold with jewels, great collars filled with perfect jewels4 to tie on at thy festivals, and at each of thy celebrations in thy great strong place in Apt-asu.5
- 4 I made for thee an image of the Lord of wrought gold deposited in its place in thy noble shrine.
- 5 I made for thee great inscriptions6 of beaten gold, cut in the great name of Thy Majesty having my adorations.7
- 6 I made for thee other inscriptions of beaten silver in the name of Thy Majesty on the tablet8 of the temple.
- 7 I made for thee great plates9 of beaten silver cut in the name of Thy Majesty engraved with the chisel having the tablets and registers of the temples which I made in TA-MERA 10
- 8 during my reign on earth to perpetuate thy name for ever and ever and ever, thou art their guide " in responding face to face.
- 9 I made for thee other plates of beaten brass,12 they were six sided of the colour of gold, cut and engraved by
- ¹ Un her heb, "show face festivals," i.e., when there was an appearance, or exhibition of the god.
 - ² Or "daily," the word ameni continually increasing.
 - 3 Uta, "pectoral plates" were so called, also "amulets."
- 4 Katmer, or kamer ken, this last word perhaps a variant of seben, "mixed," "various."
 - 7 Or "with my prayers." 6 Or "scrolls." 5 Thebes. 9 Or "tablets," annu.
 - 8 Or "the rule of the temple." " Or "prophet." 10 The name of Northern Egypt.
 - 12 Or "bronze."

the chisel in the great name of Thy Majesty with lists of the sanctuaries and of the temples also

- name, thou wast pleased to hear them Oh Lord of the gods!
- IT I made thee a great crater of pure silver, its lip was of gold cut in thy name, the cover upon it was beaten out of pure silver, a great vase of gold having covers and feet.
- 12 I worked for thee (images of honour) of the goddess Mut and the god Khonsu the work was made anew in the place of the gold, made of good gold plated all round with jewels and precious stones, engraved collars before and behind
- 13 prepared ³ with their clasps their hearts are delighted on account of the glorious deeds I did for them.

PLATE 7.

- I I made for thee great tablets at thy treasury plated with good gold with coverings of precious stones the great board hinge of silver having coverings of gold touching the floor.
- 2 I gave thee ten of tens of thousands of bushels of corn to supply thy divine offerings continually for transporting to Thebes⁶ every year to fill thy granaries with corn and barley.
- 3 I brought thee captives of the Nine bows and prisoners of the countries of the foreigners for thy court I made the road to Thebes like a foot leading to thy presence having numerous offerings.
- 4 I added to thee festivals in the yearly festivals to offer before thee at each of thy celebrations. They were pre-

pared with bread, beer, cattle, geese, wine, incense, fruit innumerable. They were contributed anew of the Chiefs and workmen and in addition to all the honours I gave

thy form.

5 I constructed for thee thy grand barge Userha of 130 cubits on the river, (made) of great cedar trees and rivets of brass plated with gold moving through the water like the boat of the Sun going to the land of Bakh giving life to

all who have sight at

6 its appearance, its great cabin within of good gold (adorned) with settings of all kinds of precious stones, like the place of "The God whose face is terrible," of good gold from front to back having a cornice of *urwi* bearing the *atf* crown.

7 I lead to thee *Punt*, with its fragrance to go round thy divine abode in the morning, I planted incense trees in thy front court never seen again since former times.

- 8 I made for thee gallies transports, and ships of war with soldiers equipped with their arms on the Great Sea or Mediterranean. I gave them Captains of the bowmen, and Captains of gallies provided with numerous crews without number to bring the things of the land of Taha² and the hinder parts of the earth to thy great treasuries in Uas³
- 9 I gave thee flocks of the South and North having cattle, geese and beasts in hundreds of thousands, having superintendents, herdsmen, keepers, officers, workmen and numerous keepers behind carrying fodder for the cattle to sacrifice Oh Lord of the gods! to thy image in all thy festivals. Thy heart is at peace through them.
- 10 I gave thee numberless gardens 4 of wine in Southern Ut and Northern Ut, 5 likewise others in the South in
 - ¹ Arabia or the Regio Barbaria. ² Northern Palestine.
 - Western Thebes.

 Gardens of wine, i.e., "vineyards."

 The Marcotis.

their numerous reckoning, in the land of the North as it were hundreds of thousands. I provided them with numerous gardeners from the captives of all lands having a pond for my watering

- 11 prepared having lotuses having spirits and wine, bringing water to lay before thy face in powerful Thebes.
- 12 I planted thy city of Uas¹ with groves, and meadows, asi flowers, and scented flowers for thy nostril.
- 13 I built a house for thy son Khonsu in Thebes of good hewn stone of sandstone and black basalt, I plated its folding doors of the gate with gold, and overlaid it with electrum like the horizon of heaven.

PLATE 8.

- r I ornamented thy images in the place of the gold hall with all noble precious stones which my hands brought.
- 2 I made to thee a noble quarter in the city on the North, established as thy place of service for ever and ever, the house of "Rameses-hek-An, living greatest of the powerful" it belongs to him for ever and ever!
- 3 I assigned to it the lands of Egypt, having their tributes the men of every country, to assemble within it, provided with great gardens, and places planted with all fruit trees loaded
- 4 with their fruit, and a divine pathway covered with flowers of every land, with asi² and tufi⁵ plants and seeds like sands.
- 5 I made for thee the support of Egypt overflowing by the lands of every country, great olive trees having olives enveloped by walls, all round like parasangs⁶ planted in great
- ¹ Western Thebes.
 - ³ The name of the palace.
 - ⁵ The reed or papyrus.
- ² A kind of lilly or water plant. ⁴ Or "walks."
- ⁶ Or stadia, a great length.

- 6 groves in all the numerous paths, the oil from them like the sand of the shore to be brought for thy support to the powerful Thebes, jars of wine likewise innumerable I offered to thy face continually.
- 7 I built for thee thy divine abode in the midst of its area, fabricating and making the construction of square stone, its doors and its lintels were of gold, nailed together by brass, I inlaid it with precious stones like the bolts of heaven.
- 8 I carved in it thy noble figure crowned like the Sun who illuminates the world with rays, "AMEN of RAMESES-HEK-AN the living," was its great noble name, I filled its house with male and female slaves, I brought from the lands of the East:
- 9 the horoscopers of the divine abode, who were taken by selecting the children of the Chiefs, I caused its treasury to overflow all with things, with things of every land were its granaries heaped up on high, its herds in the stalls, were multiplied like the sand
- 10 its cattle was sacrificed to its honour, divine offerings continually full and pure were before thee. Its barns³ had fatted geese, its poultry yards had fowls of heaven.⁴
- II The gardens had vines bearing fruit, plants and flowers.
- I made thee a grand house in the land of Khent; I inscribed in it thy noble name, like the heaven above, the "house of Rameses-hek-An the greatest of the powerful," fixed and with thy name for ever!

PLATE 9.

r I built for thee a sacred abode in the land of Taha⁶ like the horizon of heaven which is above, the temple

¹ Or "benevolent indeed." ² "Ornamented."

³ Or "poultry yards."

⁴ Such as doves and pigeons.

⁵ Situation unknown.

⁶ Northern Palestine.

- of Rameses-hek-An, the living, in the land of Kanana ¹ 2 in the quarter ² of thy name, I carved thy image reposing ³ in it, the house of Amen of Rameses-hek-An the living. The nations of the Rutennu ⁴ came to it
- 3 bringing their tribute before it to its gods, I brought the entire land to thee, having their products to bring them to Thebes, thy holy city,
- 4 I made to come to thee the hearts of the nomes of Egypt, they were inclined to thee, the company of the gods were for thee, making that land well,⁵ I built for them temples, gardens having trees,
- 5 fields, cattle, herds. Numerous slaves were thine for ever, thy eye was upon them, thou art their guide for ever!
- 6 I produced 6 thy very great images which are in the nomes of the land of Egypt, I made to be sculptured thy temples
- 7 which were in ruins. I doubled the appointed offerings for their eminence besides the continual increase of those which were before them.
- 8 Lo such was the collection of all (things) which I made before thee, noble divine father, Lord of the gods, men and gods see my glorious actions which I did for thee, and my energy while upon earth.

PLATE 10.

- The collection of things, cattle, gardens, fields, gallies, repositories, cities, which the living King gave to the house of his noble father
- 2 Amen Ra, King of the gods, Mut, Khonsu and the gods of Western Thebes, as property for ever:
- 3 The house 8 of the King RA-USER-MA, beloved of AMEN

T Canaan.

Thebaid.

Thebaid.

Or "laid," "placed."

Syrians, or Mesopotamians.

Or "protecting."

Bak, "served."

Ka, "service," "dignity," or "person."

S Thebaid.

Bak, "served."

the living, in the house of Amen, at the South and North side, under the Chiefs of that temple, provided with all its things: heads, 62,626.

4 The house of RA-USER-MA, beloved of AMEN, the living, in the house of AMEN, at the South and North side, under

the Chiefs, equipped with all things, 970.

5 The house of RAMESES, the Ruler of An, the living, in the house of AMEN, at the South and North side, under the Chiefs equipped with all its things, 2623.

6 The house of "Rameses the Ruler of An the living connecting joys" in the house of Amen, under the High

Priest, equipped with all its things, 49.

7 The cattle herds of RA-USER-MA, beloved of AMEN, the living, in the house of AMEN, which are belonging to the Sun abounding in truth, beloved of AMEN, the living, captured from the rebels on the great river, 113.

8 The herds of the Sun, abounding in truth, beloved of AMEN, the living, taken's from the Mashauasha on "The water of the Sun" under Piai the Superintendent of the

House, of the Mashuasha, 971.

. 9 The herds of RAMESES, the Ruler of An, the living, in the house of AMEN, on the great river, 1867.

- 10 The herds of Ra-user-ma, beloved of Amen, the living, in the house of Amen, given by the men of the great river, under the Governor of the South side, 34.
- II The herds of RAMESES, Ruler of An, in the house of AMEN, under KAI the Superintendent of oxen, 279.
- 12 The house of "RAMESES Ruler of An, the living, the most powerful" the cities which His Majesty gave thee in the South and North, in the district of the house of AMEN-RA, King of the gods called "the victory," which thou hast made. It is established for ever, 7872.
 - The prenomen of Rameses III.

 3 Xef, "stripped" "plundered," or "caught."

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