

ABSTRACT
 OF CRIMINAL PROCEEDINGS IN
 A CASE OF CONSPIRACY
 IN THE TIME OF RAMESES III.

TRANSLATED BY
 P. LE P. RENOUF.

THE following is the translation of a hieratic text contained in a papyrus belonging to the Royal Museum at Turin, and known to scholars under the title of *Le Papyrus Judicatoire de Turin*, given to it by M. Devéria, who first published it in the *Journal Asiatique* of 1865, with a translation and dissertation extending over several numbers of the journal. The whole has also appeared as a separate publication. The document is unfortunately imperfect; the first page, which certainly set forth the nature of the case, being almost entirely destroyed. This defect is the more to be lamented because the pages which have been preserved throw but little light upon the nature of the crimes of the accused

persons. There was undoubtedly a conspiracy against the person of the sovereign, but we are left in the dark as to the kind of mischief intended by the conspirators. The text abounds in other difficulties which our present imperfect acquaintance with Egyptian archæology does not enable us to overcome. One of the criminals, for instance, is "Fan-bearer of the Auit." I confess that I do not yet know of any satisfactory translation of the word *Auit*, which represents a corporation of some kind. M. Devéria connected the word with the notion of slaughter, but M. Chabas has shown how utterly erroneous is this supposition. Nor am I able to explain the exact nature of the *Pa-chent*, which was apparently a part of the royal palace or court. It is certainly a gross error to translate the word by "harem," as M. Devéria has done. "Women of the Pa-chent" no more imply an Egyptian harem than "Ladies of the Bedchamber" imply an English institution of the same nature. We must be content for the present with leaving certain Egyptian words untranslated, till we are sure that the right English equivalent has been discovered.

The most faulty portion of M. Devéria's translation is the royal declaration at the commencement.

According to it Rameses handed the accused over to a tribunal, not for trial but for execution, as if the judges were but the instruments of the despot's arbitrary will. M. Chabas has, in a most valuable dissertation on the subject (*Mélanges Egyptologiques, 3ème série, 1ère livraison*), shown that such a translation is in direct opposition to the original text, according to which the Egyptian monarch, far from asserting the criminality of the accused, declares that "as to the talk which men hold he knows it not," that the judges are to find out the truth, to punish the guilty, but to beware of inflicting chastisement upon those who do not deserve it.

The name of one of the criminals, the major-domo, Paibakakamen, occurs on a contemporary document of which three fragments remain.¹ This latter text, which was also an abstract of criminal proceedings, dealt with a case of sorcery. A book of magic receipts, wax figures and love charms are mentioned, and a hand is said to have been paralyzed. Paibakakamen is named as having received the wax figures and prescriptions for paralyzing human limbs.

¹ Two of these fragments are called the *Lee Papyrus*, and a facsimile of them is given in Sharpe's *Egyptian Inscriptions*, Part II., Plates 87 and 88. The third is called the *Papyrus Rollin*, and the facsimile of it was published by M. Devéria, in his dissertation on the Turin Papyrus.

It will be remarked that no less than three of the persons named in the earlier part of the following document as members of the judicial commission (Paibasat, the scribe Mai, and the fan-bearer Hora) appear later on in the position of accomplices in the conspiracy, and are condemned to death.

The expression *âu-f mut-nef tēsef*, which I have translated "he suffered death," is a very remarkable one. The pronoun *tēsef* has a reflexive force, and very emphatically marks the agent of the deed or the efficient cause of the state expressed by the verb. As *χεper tēsef* signifies *αὐτογενής*, "self-existent," so *mut tēsef* has the sense of *αὐτόθανατος*, "dying by one's own hand."

The grammatical reasons are sufficient to convince me that all the criminals here condemned to death suffered by their own hand. There ought, surely, to be nothing startling in this if we remember that in the most civilized state of Greece (and indeed of all antiquity) persons condemned to death were ordinarily obliged to be their own executioners.

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PAGE 2.

- 1 Those whom the land accuseth I give them in charge of
the Overseer of the Treasury MENTU-EM-TAUI, the Over-
seer of the Treasury PAIF-RE-UT,
2 the Fanbearer KARE, the Comptroller PAIBASAT, the
Comptroller KATENTEN, the Comptroller BARMAHAR,
3 the Comptroller PA-ARISENNU, the Comptroller TAHUTI-
RECH-NEFER, the royal Reporter PEN-RENNU, the Scribe
MAI,
4 the Scribe PA-RA-EM-HEB of the Library, HORA the Fan-
bearer of the Auit ;
5 to wit : As to the talk which men hold I know it not ;
go ye and judge them,
6 going and judging and inflicting death upon their bodies
who have inflicted death with their hand.
7 I know them not¹ and chastising the others . .
. . .¹ in very truth I know them not. Now then
8 go¹ take heart and beware of inflicting chastise-
ment
9 upon²

¹ Lacunæ.

² The gap here destroys the context. M. Chabas translates, "Gardez vous de faire châtier quiconque serait prévenu de délit. Et sur qui cela ne tombe pas, relativement à eux. Ne résistez pas."

PAGE 3.

- 1 As to all that hath been done, those who have done it,
 2 let all that they have done be upon their head.
 3 I am a protector and a defender for ever. I am
 4 with the Kings of Justice who are in presence of
 5 AMEN-RA, the King of the gods and in presence of the
 watchful one, the everlasting King.

PAGE 4.

- 1 Persons brought up for the high crimes which they had
 committed and presented at the seat of judgment in pre-
 sence of the high magistrates of the seat of judgment in
 order that they should be judged by the Overseer of the
 Treasury MENTU-EM-TAUI, the Overseer of the Treasury
 PAIF-RE-UT, the Fanbearer KARE, the Comptroller
 PAIBASAT, the Comptroller KATENTEN, the Comptroller
 BARMAHAR, the Comptroller PAARISENNU, the Scribe
 MAI, the Scribe PA-RA-EM-HEB of the Library, HORA
 the Fanbearer of the Auit, who judged them and
 found them guilty and caused their chastisements to
 be inflicted upon them and their crimes were done
 away with.¹
- 2 The great criminal PAI-BAKAKAMEN, a Major-domo. He
 was brought up on account of his offence which he com-
 mitted for the sake of TAIA and the women of the Chent.
 He had made one with them. He had carried abroad
 their words to their mothers and sisters who were there to
 stir up men and incite malefactors to do wrong to their
 Lord. He was presented before the great Magistrates of
 the seat of judgment. They investigated his crimes and
 found the verdict, that he had committed them and that

¹ Expiated. (?)

his crimes had been consummated by him. The Magistrates who judged him caused his punishment to be inflicted upon him.

- 3 The great criminal MEST-SU-RA, a Comptroller. He was brought up on account of his offence which he committed for the sake of PAI-BAKA-KAMEN, the Major-domo, with the women in stirring up malefactors to do wrong to their Lord. He was presented before the great Magistrates of the seat of judgment. They investigated his crimes and found the verdict, that he had committed them and that his crimes had been consummated by him. The Magistrates who judged him caused his punishment to be inflicted upon him.
- 4 The great criminal PA-AN-AUK, royal Overseer of the royal¹ of the Pa-chent on service. He was brought up for having made one with PAI-BAKA-KAMEN and MEST-SU-RA. He was presented before the great Magistrates of the seat of judgment. They investigated his crimes and found the verdict, that he had committed them and that his crimes had been consummated by him. The Magistrates who judged him caused his punishment to be inflicted upon him.
- 5 The great criminal PEN-TUAUU, royal Scribe of the Pa-chent on service. He was brought up for having made one with PAI-BAKA-KAMEN and MEST-SU-RA, and the other criminal Overseer of the royal¹ and the women of the Pa-chent. He was presented before the great Magistrates of the seat of judgment. They investigated his crimes and found the verdict, that he had committed them and that his crimes had been consummated by him. The Magistrates who judged him caused his punishment to be inflicted upon him.
- 6 The great criminal PA-NIFU-EMTA-AMEN Examiner of the

¹ The sign which occurs here is doubtful.

Pa-chent on service. He was brought up for giving ear to the conversation held by the men conspiring with the women of the Pa-chent and not bringing it forward against them. He was presented before the great Magistrates of the seat of judgment. They investigated his crimes and found the verdict, that he had committed them and that his crimes had been consummated by him. The Magistrates who judged him caused his punishment to be inflicted upon him.

7 The great criminal KARPUSA Examiner of the Pa-chent on service. He was brought up for giving ear to the conversation held by the men conspiring with the women of the Pa-chent and not bringing it forward against them. He was presented before the great Magistrates of the seat of judgment. They investigated his crimes and found the verdict, that he had committed them and that his crimes had been consummated by him. The Magistrates who judged him caused his punishment to be inflicted upon him.

8 The great criminal CHA-EM-APT Examiner of the Pa-chent on service. He was brought up for giving ear to the conversation held by the men conspiring with the women of the Pa-chent and not bringing it forward against them. He was presented before the great Magistrates of the seat of judgment. They investigated his crimes and found the verdict, that he had committed them and that his crimes had been consummated by him. The Magistrates who judged him caused his punishment to be inflicted upon him.

9 The great criminal CHA-EM-MAA-EN-RE Examiner of the Pa-chent on service. He was brought up for giving ear to the conversation held by the men conspiring with the women of the Pa-chent and not bringing it forward against them. He was presented before the great Magistrates of

the seat of judgment. They investigated his crimes and found the verdict, that he had committed them and that his crimes had been consummated by him. The Magistrates who judged him caused his punishment to be inflicted upon him.

10 The great criminal SETI-EM-PA-TAHUTI Examiner of the Pa-chent on service. He was brought up for giving ear to the conversation held by the men conspiring with the women of the Pa-chent and not bringing it forward against them. He was presented before the great Magistrates of the seat of judgment. They investigated his crimes and found the verdict, that he had committed them and that his crimes had been consummated by him. The Magistrates who judged him caused his punishment to be inflicted upon him.

11 The great criminal SETI-EM-PA-AMEN Examiner of the Pa-chent on service. He was brought up for giving ear to the conversation held by the men conspiring with the women of the Pa-chent and not bringing it forward against them. He was presented before the great Magistrates of the seat of judgment. They investigated his crimes and found the verdict, that he had committed them and that his crimes had been consummated by him. The Magistrates who judged him caused his punishment to be inflicted upon him.

12 The great criminal UARMA, a Comptroller. He was brought up for having given ear to what was said by the Major-domo. He turned away from it but concealed it and did not report it. He was presented before the great Magistrates of the seat of judgment. They investigated his crimes and found the verdict, that he had committed them and that his crimes had been consummated by him. The Magistrates who judged him caused his punishment to be inflicted upon him.

- 13 The great criminal ASH-HEBS-HEB a servant of PAI-BAKA-KAMEN. He was brought up for having given ear to what was said by PAI-BAKA-KAMEN, he conversed with him, and did not report it. He was presented before the great Magistrates of the seat of judgment. They investigated his crimes and found the verdict, that he had committed them and that his crimes had been consummated by him. The Magistrates who judged him caused his punishment to be inflicted upon him.
- 14 The great criminal PA-RAKA Comptroller and Scribe of the double house of life. He was brought up for his offence which he committed for the sake of PAI-BAKA-KAMEN, for he heard words from him but did not report them. He was presented before the great Magistrates of the seat of judgment. They investigated his crimes and found the verdict, that he had committed them and that his crimes had been consummated by him. The Magistrates who judged him caused his punishment to be inflicted upon him.
- 15 The great criminal REBU-ININI, a Comptroller. He was brought up for his offence which he committed for the sake of PAI-BAKA-KAMEN for he heard words from him but did not report them. He was presented before the great Magistrates of the seat of judgment. They investigated his crimes and found the verdict, that he had committed them and that his crimes had been consummated by him. The Magistrates who judged him caused his punishment to be inflicted upon him.

PAGE 5.

- 1 The wives of the men of the gates of the Pa-chent when in company with the men had communication in words. They were brought up before the high Magistrates

of the seat of justice who found them guilty and caused their chastisements to be inflicted upon them.

- 2 The great criminal PAI-ARI-SELMA Overseer of the Treasury. He was brought up for his offence which he committed for the sake of the great criminal PEN-HUI-BAN; he had made one with him in inciting malefactors to do wrong to their Lord. He was presented before the great Magistrates of the seat of judgment. They investigated his crimes and found the verdict, that he had committed them and that his crimes had been consummated by him. The Magistrates who judged him caused his punishment to be inflicted upon him.
- 3 The great criminal BAN-EM-USET, Captain of archers of Ethiopia. He was brought up on account of the message which had been sent by his sister of the Pa-chent on service, to this effect, Incite the men to commit crime, and do thou thyself come to do wrong to thy Lord. He was presented before KATENTEN, BARMAHAR, PAARISENNU, TAHUTI-RECH-NEFER, who judged him and found him guilty and caused his chastisement to be inflicted on him.
- 4 Persons brought up for their crimes and offences which they committed for the sake of PAI-BAKA-KAMEN, PAI-AS, and PEN-TA-URA. They were presented before the high Magistrates who judged them and found them guilty and disposed of them in the place of judgment. They suffered death,¹ no expiation was made for them.
- 5 The great criminal PAI-AS, Captain of archers; the great criminal MESSUI, Scribe of the Double House of Life; the great criminal PA-RA-KAMEN-EF, superior Officer; the great criminal I-ARI, Overseer of the libations of Sechet; the great criminal NEB-TEFAU, Comptroller; the great criminal SHAT-MESTER, Scribe of the Double House of Life.

¹ On this expression see the last paragraph of the introductory notice.

- 6 Persons brought up for their crimes to the seat of justice before KATENTEN, BARMAHAR, PA-ARI-SENNU, TAHUTI-RECH-NEFER (MERTI-US-AMEN), who judged them for their crimes, and found them guilty and disposed of them at the place. They suffered death.
- 7 PEN-TA-URA, who is also called by another name. He was brought up on account of his offence which he committed for the sake of TAIA his mother, when she communicated words with the women of the Pa-chent with intent of doing wrong to his Lord. He was presented before the Comptrollers that he might be judged, who found him guilty and disposed of him at his place. He suffered death.
- 8 The great criminal HAN-UTEN-AMEN, a Comptroller. He was brought up on account of the crimes of the women of the Pa-chent. He was on the premises and heard, but did not make a report. He was presented before the Comptrollers to be judged, who found him guilty, and disposed of him at his place. He suffered death.
- 9 The great criminal AMEN-CHAU, *Tennu*¹ of the Pa-chent on service. He was brought up on account of the crimes of the women of the Pa-chent. He was on the premises and heard but did not make a report. He was presented before the Comptrollers to be judged, who found him guilty and disposed of him at his place. He suffered death.
- 10 The great criminal PA-ARIU, Scribe of the royal of the Pa-chent on service. He was brought up on account of the crimes of the women of the Pa-chent. He was on the premises and heard but did not make a report. He was presented before the Comptrollers to be judged, who found him guilty and disposed of him at his place. He suffered death.

¹ *Tennu* is the title of an officer of exalted rank.

PAGE 6.

- 1 Persons who suffered punishment by amputation of noses and ears in consequence of the failure of the favourable evidence which they have given. The women departed, and arrived at the place where they now are and where they make a beer-house¹ together with PA-AS, and their crimes are done away with.
- 2 The great criminal PAIBASAT, a Comptroller. The chastisement was inflicted upon him, and he was disposed of. He suffered death.
- 3 The great criminal MAI, a Scribe of the Library.
- 4 The great criminal TAIJA-NECHTUTA, Officer of the Auait.
- 5 The great criminal NANAI, Superior of the Se-ashtu.
- 6 A person one with them who prevaricated with very evil words. He was disposed of, and no expiation was made for him.
- 7 The great criminal HORA, Fanbearer of the Auait.

¹ *Sic.* This was their occupation in penal servitude. Instead of *heket*, "beer," M. Devéria reads *heker* which he translates "torture."





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