

## OBELISK OF ALEXANDRIA.

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TRANSLATED BY  
FRANÇOIS CHABAS.

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THIS Obelisk is one of two which were originally erected before the temple at Heliopolis, by the famous Thothmes III., and his titles are engraved in the central column of each side. During a period of no less than three centuries the monument existed with the inscription of Thothmes alone, till Ramses II. appropriated it to himself by the addition of two lateral columns, which were subsequently carved when the monolith was still erect.

About the year B.C. 27, Augustus Cæsar having completed the conquest of Egypt, removed this and its companion obelisk to adorn the entrance, or water-gate, of the Cæsareum at Alexandria; and there it,

subsequently remained, surviving all the vicissitudes of time and the changes of empire which have taken place around it for the last 1800 years.

The Obelisk has been repeatedly engraved, notably by Denon in his *Égypte*; Lepsius in the *Denkmäler*; and Burton and Bonomi in the *Excerpta Hieroglyphica*; from which latter work this text has been translated and first published in Cooper's *History of Obelisks*, 1877.

The Obelisk was dedicated to Hor-em-akhou,<sup>1</sup> a form of the god Ra, or Phra,<sup>2</sup> to which was also consecrated the great sphinx at Gizeh. The pyramidion represents a square vignette in which is figured the king seated upon a throne before the sphinx of Hor-em-akhou upon a pedestal.<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Harmachis, or the sun at the two horizons.

<sup>2</sup> The sun.

<sup>3</sup> The copy by M. Burton is not perfectly reliable: therefore the translation may possibly require a few amendments in some passages. Moreover two of the sides are in a very bad state of preservation, and the script there is undecipherable.

OBELISK OF ALEXANDRIA.

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CENTRAL COLUMNS.<sup>1</sup>

- A. THE kingly HORUS, lifting up the  
*Hat*;<sup>2</sup>  
 the King of Upper and Lower Egypt,  
 Golden Hawk, . . . .<sup>3</sup>  
 who has struck the Kings of  
 all lands approaching him;  
 after the commandment  
 of his father RA,<sup>4</sup>  
 Victory over the entire world,  
 and valiance of sword are at the mouth  
 of his hands,<sup>5</sup>  
 for the extension of the limits  
 of Egypt,  
 the Son of the Sun,  
 THOTHMES, Vivifier.
- B. The kingly HORUS,  
 Strong Bull, crowned in Thebes,  
 the Lord of Diadems,  
 whose royalty is expanded,  
 like (that of) the sun.  
 (Beloved of TUM,<sup>6</sup> Lord of Heliopolis,

<sup>1</sup> Of Thothmes III.

<sup>2</sup> White Crown.

<sup>3</sup> Lacuna.

<sup>4</sup> The sun.

<sup>5</sup> "The mouth of the hand," is an expression similar to "the mouth of the blade."

<sup>6</sup> Tum, or Atum, is a name of Har-em-akhou.

Son of his loins,  
 THOTH created him, THOTHMES.)<sup>1</sup>  
 They<sup>2</sup> created him in the great abode,  
 from the perfection of their limbs,  
 so that he will make an extended royalty for centuries.  
 The King of Upper and Lower Egypt,  
 RA-MEN-KHEPER  
 Beloved of TUM, the great god,  
 and the gods of his circle,  
 giving all life, stability, and happiness,  
 like the sun for ever.

C. The kingly HORUS,  
 Strong Bull, crowned in Thebes,  
 the King of Upper and Lower Egypt,  
 RA-MEN-KHEPER.<sup>3</sup>

[D. The same as C. Nothing further can be read.]

<sup>1</sup> This cartouche is very curious and interesting, as the phrase is calculated to form the name of Thothmes with the last word of each column.

<sup>2</sup> Thoth and Tum.

<sup>3</sup> The remainder is illegible.

LATERAL COLUMNS.<sup>1</sup>

A 1 The kingly HÖRUS,  
 Strong Bull, Son of TUM,  
 the King of Upper and Lower Egypt,  
 the Lord of Diadems,  
 who protects Egypt and chastises the nations,  
 Son of the Sun,  
 RAMESSOU MERIAMEN,  
 King, warlike,  
 who has acted with his own hands  
 in the face of the whole earth,  
 the Lord of the two lands,  
 RA-OUSOR-MA-SOTEP-EN-RA,<sup>2</sup>  
 Son of the Sun,  
 RAMESSOU MERIAMEN,  
 the stable.<sup>3</sup>

A 2 The kingly HORUS,  
 Strong Bull, Beloved of the goddess MA,  
 the King of Upper and Lower Egypt,  
 RA-OUSOR-MA-SOTEP-EN-RA,  
 Lord of panegyries like his father <sup>4</sup>  
 PTAH TOTANEN,  
 Son of the Sun,  
 RAMESSOU MERIAMEN.  
 RA <sup>5</sup> has generated him  
 to adorn festively Heliopolis,

<sup>1</sup> Of Rameses II.

<sup>2</sup> Prenomen of Rameses II.

<sup>3</sup> The rest erased.

<sup>4</sup> "Lord of Festivals," *i.e.*, the sacred feasts of the triaconterides.

<sup>5</sup> The sun.

to furnish abundantly the temples  
of him who generated him.  
The Lord of the two lands,  
RA-OUSOR-MA-SOTEP-EN-RA,  
Son of the Sun,  
RAMESSOU MERIAMEN,  
(invested with life) stability and happiness.

B 1 The kingly HORUS,  
Strong Bull, Beloved of MA,  
the King of Upper and Lower Egypt,  
RA-OUSOR-MA-SOTEP-EN-RA,  
(who is) a sun, generator of gods,  
Possessor of the two lands,  
Son of the Sun,  
RAMESSOU MERIAMEN,  
a noble youth of kindness  
like ATEN<sup>1</sup>  
blazing from the horizon.  
Lord of the two lands,  
RA-OUSOR-MA-SOTEP-EN-RA,  
Son of the Sun,  
RAMESSOU MERIAMEN,  
the splendour of OSIRIS,  
Vivifier.

B 2 The kingly HORUS,  
the Strong Bull, son of KHEPER-RA,<sup>2</sup>  
the King of Upper and Lower Egypt,  
RA-OUSOR-MA-SOTEP-EN-RA,  
Golden Hawk,  
of abundant years,  
(very) victorious,  
Son of the Sun,  
RAMESSOU MERIAMEN,

<sup>1</sup> The solar disk.

<sup>2</sup> The creator.

who issued from the womb,  
 to take the crowns of the sun ;  
 whom the sun generated to be (the)  
 sole Lord, Lord of the two lands,  
 RA-OUSOR-MA-SOTEP-EN-RA,  
 Son of the Sun,  
 RAMESSOU MERIAMEN,  
 the splendour of OSIRIS,  
 like the sun.<sup>1</sup>

C 1 The kingly HORUS,  
 Strong Bull, Beloved of MA,  
 the King of Upper and Lower Egypt,  
 RA-OUSOR-MA-SOTEP-EN-RA,  
 (who is) a sun, generator of gods,  
 . . . . .<sup>2</sup>  
 Lord of the two lands,  
 RAMESSOU MERIAMEN . . . . .<sup>3</sup>

C 2 The kingly HORUS,  
 Strong Bull, Son of the Sun,  
 the King of Upper and Lower Egypt,  
 RA-OUSOR-MA-SOTEP-EN-RA,  
 Golden Hawk,  
 . . . . .<sup>2</sup>  
 Son of the Sun,  
 RAMESSOU MERIAMEN, . . . .<sup>4</sup>

[D 1 Erased.]

D 2 The kingly HORUS,  
 Strong Bull, Beloved . . . . .<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> It is to be observed that the final groups of the three columns are combined to form a horizontal line running thus: "Giving life for ever like the sun." This is observable in three sides, the fourth being erased.

<sup>2</sup> Lacunæ.

<sup>3</sup> The remainder is illegible.

<sup>4</sup> Erased.

the King of Upper and Lower Egypt,  
RA-OUSOR-MA-SOTEP-EN-RA,  
Lord of panegyries  
like his father PTAH, Lord of . . . . .<sup>1</sup>  
RAMESSOU MERIAMEN.

[Some words are still distinguishable, but nothing worth mentioning can be read in the remainder of the text.]

<sup>1</sup> Lacuna.





# END OF SAMPLE TEXT



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