



Fig 707

[From the Philadelphia Saturday Courier.]

## THE ANCIENT EGYPTIANS.

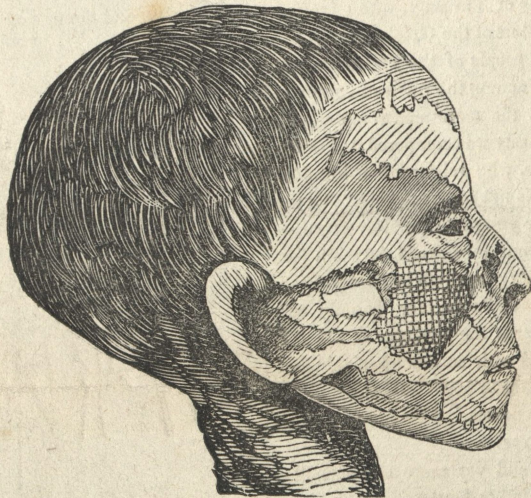
By the kindness of Dr. Samuel George Morton, of this city, we are permitted to present our readers with some specimens of his new and interesting work, entitled, "CRANIA ÆGYPTIACA, OR OBSERVATIONS ON EGYPTIAN ETHNOGRAPHY, DERIVED FROM ANATOMY, HISTORY, AND THE MONUMENTS"—[Dr. M. has furnished us with the embellishments, and permitted us to make the extracts contained in this article. We inadvertently said last week that he had furnished the article, when we should have said the materials for it.]

The object of the work is to determine to what race or races of the human family the inhabitants of ancient Egypt belonged. The materials for investigation were a hundred skulls of ancient Egyptians taken from the Catacombs; drawings of all the known Monuments of Egypt, furnished by Rosellini and

others; and the notices of ancient historians and modern travellers.

Our limits will only permit us to give short specimens of the mode in which the inquiry is conducted, and the results at which the learned and accomplished author has at length arrived.

We first select a figure and description of one of the mummied heads, accurately drawn. The reader will observe that the skin is partially removed from the forehead and nose, and that a piece of mummy cloth adheres to the cheek. "It illustrates a remarkable head, which may serve as a *type* of the genuine Egyptian conformation. The long, oval cranium, the receding forehead, gently aquiline nose, and retracted chin, together with a marked distance between the nose and mouth, and the long, smooth hair, are all characteristic of the monumental Egyptian."



Our second extract refers to a group of monumental heads, from a tomb in Thebes, which strikingly correspond with the real head figured above.

"The monuments from Meroe to Memphis present

a pervading type of physiognomy, which is every where distinguished at a glance from the varied forms which not unfrequently attend it, and which possesses so much nationality both in outline and expression, as to give it the highest importance in Ni-



lotic ethnography. We may repeat that it consists in an upward elongation of the head, with a receding forehead, delicate features, but rather sharp and prominent face, in which a long and straight, or gently aquiline nose, forms a principal feature. The eye is sometimes oblique, the chin short and retracted, the lips rather tumid, and the hair, whenever it is represented, long and flowing.

"This style of features pertains to every class—kings, priests, and people—and can be readily traced through every period of monumental decorations,

from the early Pharaohs down to the Greek and Roman dynasties. Among the most ancient, and, at the same time, characteristic examples, are the heads of Amunoph the Second, and his mother, represented in a tomb at Thebes, which dates, in Rosellini's chronology, seventeen hundred and twenty-seven years before our era. In these effigies, all the features are strictly Egyptian; and a similar physiognomy preponderates among the royal Egyptian personages of every epoch, as will be manifest to any one who will turn over the pages of Champollion and Rosellini."



Our next extract refers to the Pelasgic race—i. e. the aboriginal inhabitants of Thessaly, who migrated south, and were the ancestors of the Greeks.

"The proofs that the people of the Pelasgic stock were also, in early times, among the rulers of Egypt, is attested by history and the monuments. Manetho states that the XVIth dynasty was composed 'of thirty Hellenic Shepherd Kings, who reigned five hundred and eighteen years.' It is not to be supposed that the number of either kings or years is accurately given.—All that is necessary to our purpose is the main fact of Hellenic dominion in Egypt, which is moreover sustained by monumental evidence, for happily the tombs and temples preserve the portraits of the Nilotic sovereigns, executed with so much individuality of feature and expression, as to leave little doubt of the general fidelity of the likenesses. The features of all conform to the Grecian type.

"I repeat the remark, and yet more emphatically, in reference to the admirable battle scene of Abou-simbel, of the age of Rameses III., wherein eighty soldiers are depicted in a single group, each one bearing a shield and spear,—are they mercenaries from one of the Hellenic tribes? I select the two subjoined examples, for a close resemblance pervades them all. Here again every line is Grecian; and yet when these paintings were executed, the wandering Pelasgii

had hardly begun to associate themselves in civilized communities, and the arts of Greece were unknown."



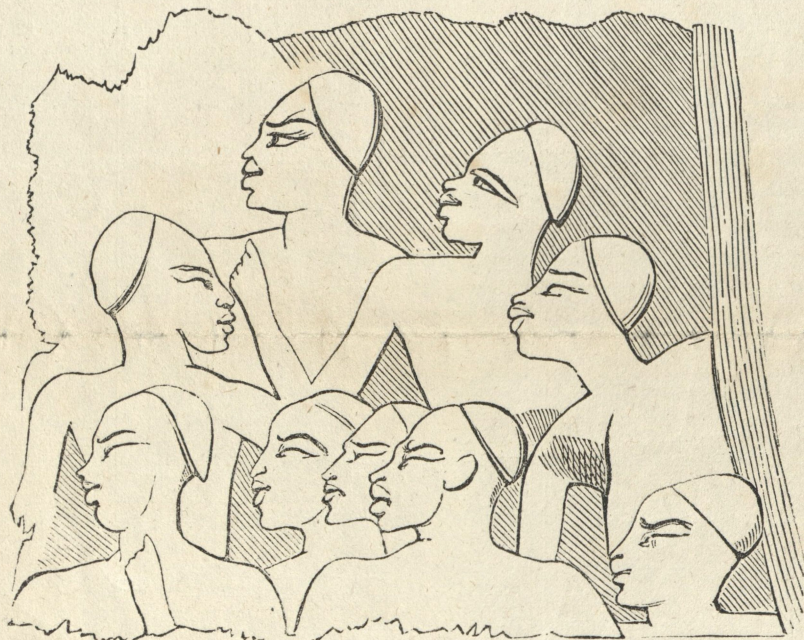
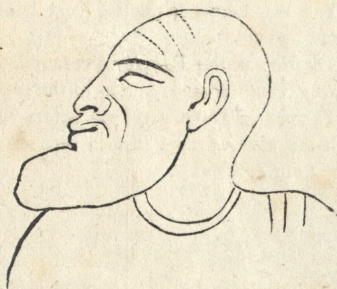
Our next extract refers to the Semitic race, which extended from the Mediterranean Sea on the west to the confines of Persia on the east. They derive their collective name from Shem, the son of Noah, and comprise the Syrians, Assyrians, Chaldeans, Hebrews, Arabs and Lydians.

"That the people of this great family were nume-



rous in Egypt, is amply attested both by sacred and profane history; and the proximity of their respective countries necessarily brought the Semitic and Egyptian communities into frequent contact for war or for peace. This fact is abundantly proved by the monuments. The *Jewish* people, however, appear, for the most part, to have been admitted into Egypt upon sufferance; for the Exodus, and all subsequent annals, are conclusive on this subject.

"Those peculiar lineaments which, from very remote times, have characterized some of the Semitic nations, have been already noticed. How many of these nations possessed these physical characters, cannot now be determined; but it is probable that all partook of them in some degree. It is in the temple of Beyt-el-Walee, in Nubia, in paintings of the age of Rameses II. (B. C. 1579) that we meet with one of the earliest unquestionable delineations of these people.



"An additional illustration is that given above. It is also preserved in the temple of Beyt-el-Walee, and is of the same date as the head above described.— These people are generally represented as enemies or bondsmen; nor have I any doubt that the figures in the celebrated *Brickmaker's Scene*, in the tomb of Rekshari, at Thebes, of the age of Thotmes IV., are those of a Semitic nation, and in all probability Hebrews. Their features obviously correspond with those of the latter people, and their scanty beards, which have been made an objection to this view of their nationality, may be regarded as a complimentary badge of captivity. Perhaps the most Hebrew portrait on the monuments, is that of Aahmes-Nope-Ari, Queen of Amunoph I., who is said, by the hieroglyphists, to have been by birth a Meroite."

The last specimen of graphic illustration which we shall select, refers to the Negroes, of whose slavery among the Egyptians, the monuments afford abundant evidence.

"For the purpose of illustration," says the author, "we select a single picture from the temple (Hemipeos) of Beyt-el-Walee, in Nubia, in which Rameses the Second is represented in the act of making war upon the Negroes, who, overcome with defeat, are flying in consternation before him. From the multitude of fugitives in this scene, (which has been vividly copied by Champollion and Rossellini, and which I have compared in both,) I annex a fac-simile group of nine heads, which, while they preserve the national features in a remarkable degree, present, also, considerable diversity of expression."



It only remains for us to give Dr. Morton's conclusions, respecting the ancient inhabitants of Egypt, and to remark that conclusions, drawn by such an authority, after such a course of investigation, will command the respect of the literary and scientific world.

#### CONCLUSIONS.

1. The valley of the Nile, both in Egypt and Nubia, was originally peopled by a branch of the Caucasian race.
2. These primeval people, since called the Egyptians, were the Mizraimites of Scripture, the posterity of Ham, and directly affiliated with the Libyan family of nations.
3. In their physical character the Egyptians were intermediate between the Indo-European and Semitic races.
4. The Austral-Egyptian or Meroite communities were an Indo-Arabian stock engrafted on the primitive Libyan inhabitants.
5. Besides these exotic sources of population, the Egyptian race was at different periods modified by the influx of the Caucasian nations of Asia and Europe,—Pelasgi, or Hellenes, Scythians and Phenicians.
6. Kings of Egypt appear to have been incidentally derived from each of the above nations.
7. The Copts, in part at least, are a mixture of the

Caucasian and the Negro, in extremely variable proportions.

8. Negroes were numerous in Egypt, but their social position in ancient times was the same as it now is, that of servants and slaves.

9. The national characteristics of all these families of Man are distinctly figured on the monuments; and all of them, excepting the Scythians and Phenicians, have been identified in the catacombs.

10. The present Fellahs are the lineal and least mixed descendants of the ancient Egyptians; and the latter are collaterally represented by the Tuariks, Kabyles, Siwahs, and other remains of the Libyan family of nations.

11. The modern Nubians, with a few exceptions, are not the descendants of the monumental Ethiopians, but a variously mixed race of Arabs and Negroes.

12. Whatever may have been the size of the *cartilaginous* portion of the ear, the osseous structure conforms in every instance to the usual relative position.

13. The Teeth differ in nothing from those of other Caucasian nations.

14. The Hair of the Egyptians resembled, in texture, that of the fairest Europeans of the present day.

15. The physical or organic characters which distinguish the several races of men, are as the oldest records of our species.

*old as*