

any other way, equip himself with a just fore-knowledge of the kind of people he is going to meet. Indeed, as customs change and the spread of civilization and modern ideas reduce all surviving races of men to a uniform level of culture, the novel and delightful impressions associated with the earlier days of travel and exploration can be achieved only by an excursion in a museum.

Each museum must have its special character to govern its operations and define the scope of its interests. At the University of Pennsylvania where, during the last twenty years, steps have been taken for providing in this community all those advantages which belong to a public museum, and which in other cities have been granted by the municipality, plans are being gradually developed for building up a series of collections that will, in their full development, illustrate the history of mankind. These collections, although they are the property of the University and maintained by private contributions, without expense to the city, afford the public all the advantages of a municipal institution such as the great museums in New York. They are free to the public, and with the power for primary education that is developed in them by trained specialists they are at the service of the public schools.

The principal function of the modern museum, then, is to promote the increase of knowledge and the cultivation of taste. It has become from every point of view a necessary instrument in modern education. How this condition is going to be met is a matter of the gravest importance to which the public welfare directs immediate attention. The work that the University Museum, in common with other institutions of its kind, aims to accomplish in building up collections to illustrate the course of human history, must be done now or not at all. The materials of archæ-

ological research, the witnesses to the history of antiquity are fast being appropriated by the museums of the world, and the time has come when a reasonably equal distribution of this common inheritance of the race is demanded by the educational necessities of the age in which we live and of the generations to come. The objects that illustrate the evolution of the arts and the industries, the growth of culture and the progress of civilization are becoming rarer every day. Many a clue to the history of our race will be lost with the passing of the native cultures of the more primitive populations of the world. Their methods of travel and transportation on land and sea, their implements and weapons, the objects connected with their religious and ceremonial life, their dress and decorative art, their very myths and legends, in short all that is left of their device and all that remains of their message to the world must be gathered now or lost forever. To save these human documents for the uses of science and of posterity is a service which the present generation owes to the human race and the instrument by which this service must be done is the modern museum.

G. B. G.

EGYPTIAN SECTION.

PHILAE, THE FORSAKEN.

THE modern books of travel in Egypt never fail to praise the beauty of Philae. The nineteenth century traveller on the Nile found in this green islet, set like an antique gem in the midst of the rude waters of the first cataract, a charm on which his memory seemed especially to linger, and which called forth many a tribute of admiration even from those whose interest in the pyramids was expressed in meters and from those who stood without emotion in the hall of Karnak.

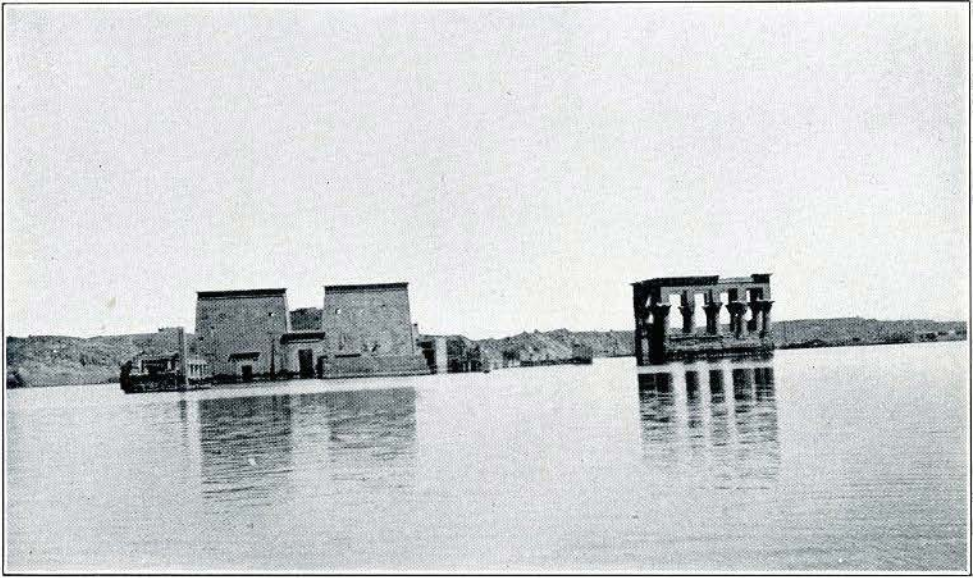


Fig. 1.—Philae. Temple of Isis and Kiosk from the south.



Fig. 2.—Temple of Isis from the south-east.



Fig. 3.—The Kiosk from the north-east.

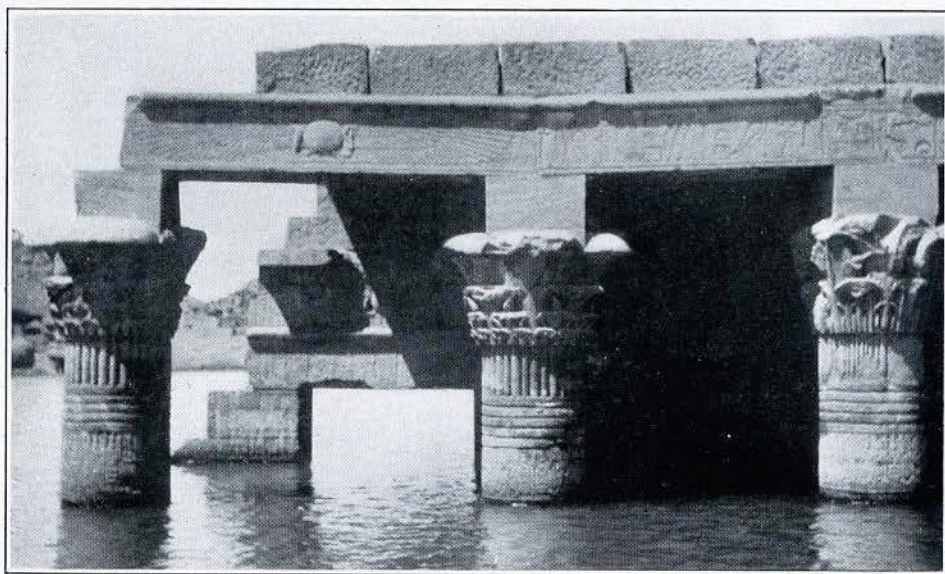


Fig. 4.—Temple of Isis. Part of the west colonnade of the outer court.

of Negs. 32645 etc

The peculiar appeal of Philae seems to have depended partly on its situation, rising as it did from the flood like an enchanted isle; partly on its leafy sweetness with which it greeted the traveller on the Nile, weary of long stretches of sand; partly on the exquisite architec-

ture at present standing, however, is the temple of Neetanebus II, a king of the thirtieth dynasty. Under the Ptolemies and the Roman Emperors, Philae was newly dedicated to sacred uses and adorned by a group of temples worthy alike of their imperial builders and of the

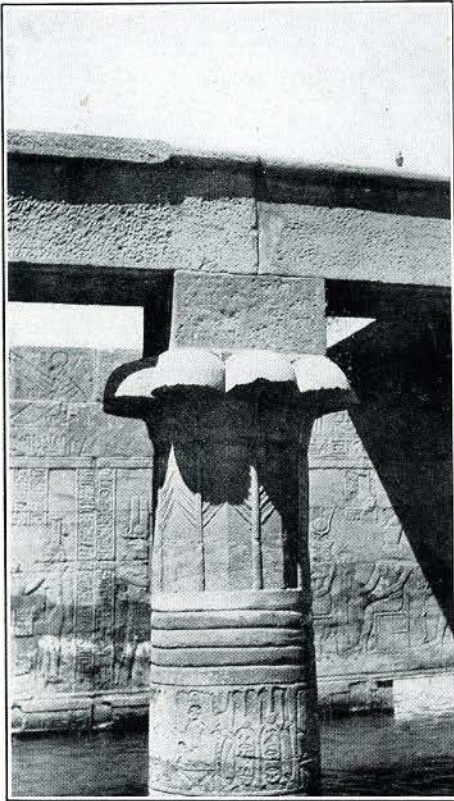


Fig. 5.—Temple of Isis. The west colonnade of the outer court. Detail of palm capital.

ture that crowned it like a diadem; and partly, no doubt, on the sentiment that attached to its unbroken story of three thousand years or more.

If we may believe the statements of the Priests of Philae in an inscription found at Sehel, the island was identified from very early times with the religious life of the ancient Egyptians. The most venerated

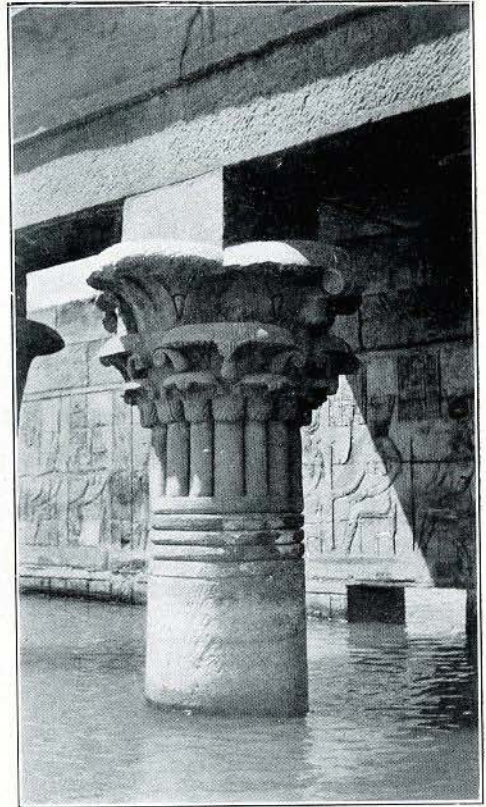


Fig. 6.—Temple of Isis. The west colonnade of the outer court. Detail of composite lily capital.

Egyptian gods in whose honor they were raised.

The last stronghold for the worship of the Egyptian trinity, Isis, Osiris and Horus, tradition holds the island to have been especially sacred to Isis, who has thus become the guardian of the last hieroglyphic writings of the Egyptians, carved

in many a line on the latest monuments of their religion at Philae.*

Two miles below Philae stands the great barrage, to-day one of the wonders of Egypt. It has been erected by the British engineers to store the waters of the Nile for supplying the thirsty land. The great natural advantages which the region at the first cataract offered for an undertaking of this kind, weighed so heavily with the engineers and with those who have to deal with the regeneration of Egypt, that considerations of sentiment counted for little when the preservation of an ancient monument, however beautiful, was opposed to the practical ends in view.

The reservoir, computed to be more than twice the size of Loch Lomond, contains a promise of plenty for the land of Egypt. By bringing great areas under cultivation it gives new life to her increasing population, but before this blessing could be invoked upon the land a sacrifice had to be made, and no other victim than Philae would suffice. There are those who say that the noble offering was worthy of so great a cause, and there are those who call it a disgrace, but in either case the leafy freshness of Philae will never again greet the traveller on the Nile.

From December of each year to April, the island is submerged and one sails over it in a boat, passing through the flooded courts of the temple of Isis and between the walls of the kiosk. In May, at the rising of the Nile, the great sluices in the dam are opened and the river thus unbound goes on its unobstructed way to fertilize the lands of lower Egypt as it has done since the days before the first Pharaohs; and from then till December

* I am indebted to Miss Caroline L. Ransom, of the Metropolitan Museum, for her kindly criticism of the historical references in this article, as well as for an exact identification of each of the photographs.

the sacred island of the Egyptians is largely out of water, but the palms are gone, the pleasant freshness of the place is gone, the colors are gone and the dampness and the mold seem to be eating the heart out of the stone.

Just now the Egyptian Government is engaged in raising the dam to such a height that when the work is complete in

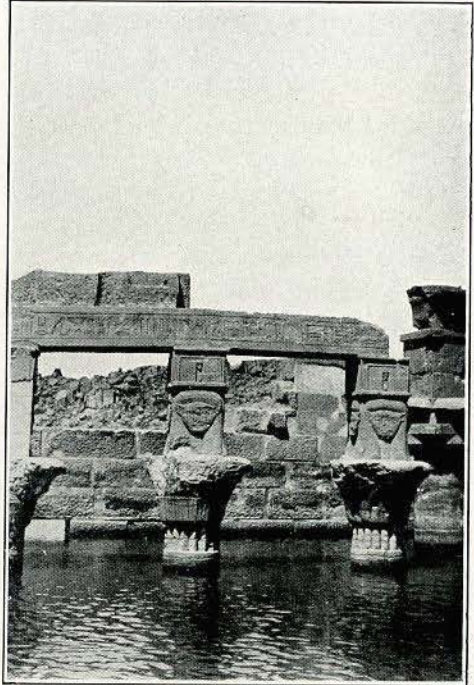


Fig. 7.—Temple of Nectanebus II.

1912 the general level will be so much higher than at present that with a full reservoir the temples will almost entirely disappear beneath the water.

For the present, during the winter months, the noiseless visit to Philae by boat is by no means without its charm. Temple and pylon and colonnade and column, rising in most graceful lines from the water, have the unearthly look attributed to supernatural things; for the spectator approaching the charmed portals of Isis, feels, with something like the appre-

hensive prescience known in dreams, that when the spell that raised them has been broken, the whole beautiful fabric will fade away and leave him waking on this magic lake.

The photographs reproduced on these pages, showing the scenery of Philae as it now presents itself to the tourist during the winter months, acquire a special interest from the fact that after the season of 1912 the temples will never again be seen under these conditions, for after that, during the winter season, owing to the raising of the dam, the buildings will be nearly all submerged. These photographs have been made by Mr. Eckley B. Coxe, President of the Museum, and are published in the *JOURNAL* by his kind permission. They were taken during the winter of 1909 while the President was on his way to Halfa to visit the excavations of the expeditions sent out by the Museum. These expeditions, inaugurated and carried forward by Mr. Coxe, and now brought to a close, worked far to the south of the first cataract. Philae itself was visited in the winter of 1910-11 by Prof. W. Max Müller, of the University of Pennsylvania, who spent several months copying the inscriptions on behalf of the Carnegie Institution.

G. B. G.

AMERICAN SECTION.

A TRIP TO CHICHEN ITZA.

THE first description of Chichen Itza is to be found in the notes of Diego de Landa, Bishop of Yucatan, which are supposed to have been written in the year 1566. It is as follows:

'Chichen Itza is very well situated 10 leagues from Izamal and 11 from Valladolid, and the elders among the Indians say that they remember to have heard from their ancestors that in that place there once reigned three Lords who were

brothers and who came to that land from the west. And they brought together on the sites a great number of towns and people, and ruled them for some years with justice and in peace.

'They paid much reverence to their God and on this account they raised many and fine buildings, and of one in particular, the greatest of them all, I will here draw the plan, as I drew it when I was standing on it, so that it may be the better understood.*

'These Lords, they say, came over without any women, and they lived chastely, and all the time that they thus lived they were held in high esteem and obeyed by all. Then, as time went on, one of them disappeared, and doubtless he must have died, although the Indians assert that he left the country in the direction of Bacalar.

'The absence of this Lord, however it may have come to pass, caused such a change in those who ruled the State that soon they split into factions, so wanton and licentious in their ways, that the people came so greatly to loathe them that they killed them, laid the town waste and themselves dispersed, abandoning the buildings and this beautiful site which is only ten leagues from the sea, and has much fertile land around it. The plan of the principal building is the following:

'This building has four stairways which look to the four quarters of the world, each is thirty-three feet in breadth and has ninety-one steps, and it is killing work to ascend them; the steps have the same height and breadth which we give to ours. Each stairway has on a level with the steps two low balustrades, two feet in width, of good masonry, as indeed is the whole edifice. The building is not square cornered, for from the edge of the ground

*Landa's plan is omitted here for consideration of space.