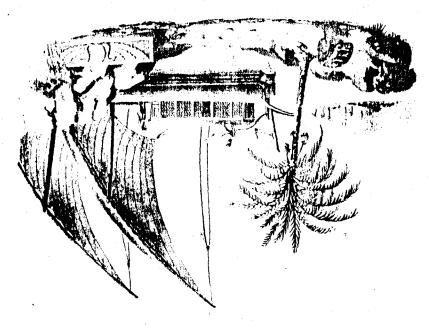


## JOHN MERRYK VERRUVRER ZERREET



BU FREDERICK HENNIKER, BART.

A

## DEROSVEEM.

ONY

WODNL SINVI' ECKEL' NOBIV' LHE OVSIS'

DURING A VIETT TO

S I L O N

COFFINS

occupied by the Arab and his family, the remainder by cows, goats, dogs, corpses, and other curiosities; in some are to be found ten or twenty mummies; the plain is strewed with broken bones, the coffins are used for firewood, and the amomum \* or bitumen offends the nose wherever there is a fire.— A munimy may be bought for five or ten shillings, and in consequence of traffic, many of these Troglodytes are become men of property, worth five or six hundred sixpences. On this, the W. side, is the necropolis, and here are found all the relics; the mountains are hollowed into cemeteries, where gaping sepulchres appear like the mouths of a man of war-the Arabic chain is too far from the scite of the town, to have been used as a burial place—no Egyptian was buried where vegetation could live, and those who died on the eastern side, were ferried over by the Charon. The trouble that the Egyptians took to preserve their bodies causes their destruction, and "the race of Nilus barters for their kings." I was standing by when the resurrection men found a sepulchre, they offered me the haul, unopened, for four guineas. It proves to be Grecian-Egyptian, the first of its kind hitherto discovered; three chambers, fourteen coffins, on each of which was placed a bunch of sycamore branches; these branches fell to atoms at the touch—there are also coffinless bodies, having the appearance of

cotting

\* Hence the word Mummy.

GRECO-EGYPTHIN TOMB 400110 -FIRST OF 175 KIND

B.H. STROOD C (YDL. 23) P. 31

THE OASIS, MOUNT SINAI, ETC.

TE GOTO

leather, dried in the same manner as is still practised by the Capuchin friars in Sicily: one of these stood erect at the entrance, the others were prostrate on benches; the heads were shaved; the beards were of a few days growth; on the principal coffin is the following inscription:

## сотир коринают полают митрос $\Phi$ наоптосархои $\Phi$ нвои $\Upsilon$

the hieroglyphical figures testify to the degeneracy of the art; the papyrus found in this case,\* is not, as is usual, rolled up, but folded flat; the body was enveloped in thirty linen wrappers, the hands and mouth gilt:—from another I copied an inscription, which attests the coffin to be about sixteen hundred and fifty years old—some long earthenware jars were in the tomb, but empty.

The women and children pester us to death, demanding becksheesh; the former give us in exchange relies of the dead, such as idols and small figures, the latter collect in crowds behind one's back, and cry out "merchant give me half a farthing," and on turning round even to comply with their request, they all run away, as if their nurses had taught them to dread a Franc as a devil.

Among the relics that I procured, are earthenware rings, scarabees, pocket idols, and representations of the devil playing the harp; also various animals. These little deities were probably, when in

\* The ease and papyrus presented to the British Museum.

CHILD. PESTS