

England's Obelisk.—Cleopatra's Needle.

RESTORED INSCRIPTIONS, TRANSLATION, AND NOTES.

INSCRIPTIONS ON PYRAMIDION.

The figures and hieroglyphs enclosed in the four squares on the pyramidion represent, invariably, on the right side, couched upon a standard, king Thothmes III., in the shape of a sphynx, presenting offerings to a god seated opposite him, viz: on sides I. and II., Tum, and on III. and IV. the hawk-headed Sun-god¹ bearing the solar disk.

Above the sphynx are three vertical lines of hieroglyphs reading left to right: "Great god, lord of both countries²; (Ra-men-kheper)³; giver of life eternal."

Under the sphynx the inscription is: [The-Strong Bull, crowned in Uas⁴; Son of the Sun, (Thothmes.)]

The lines above the god read, on sides I. and II.: "The great god, lord of the great temple; chief of the gods; Tum, lord of On⁵; giver of water." On sides III. and IV.: "Lord of earth; lord of heaven; great god; Harmachis⁶; giver of life eternal."

The hieroglyphs before the standard appear to mean, on side I.: "A gift of pure water." Side II.: "A gift of wine." Sides III. and IV.: "A gift of frankincense."

INSCRIPTIONS ON SHAFT.

SIDE I.—RIGHT.

Horus.⁷ [Strong Bull, Son of Tum.] King of the two countries.² (Rameses⁸)⁹. Watcher over both countries.² Lord of the diadems. Chastiser of foreign nations. Son of the Sun.¹⁰ (Rameses). Who extends the south to the Great Sea; the north to the four poles of heaven. Lord of the two countries.² (Rameses).⁹ Son of the Sun.¹⁰ (Rameses).⁹ Giver of life like the sun.

MIDDLE.

Horus. [Strong Bull, crowned in Uas.⁴] King of the two countries. (Ra-men-kheper). He made this tribute to his father Harmachis. These two obelisks he built and stood up, and tipped them with gold, at the time of his first Thirty-years'-festival. As he desired it, he did it. Son of the Sun. (Thothmes).

LEFT.

Horus. [Strong Bull, beloved of Ra.] King of the two countries. (Rameses). Lord of the festivals, like his father Ptah-Tanen Son of the Sun. (Rameses). The Strong Bull, like the son of heaven, against whom none can stand. The Illustrious. Lord of the two countries. (Rameses). Son of the Sun. (Rameses).

The small inscription on the extreme left reads: King of the two countries. (Ra-user-kheper-ra) King (Seti, *i.e.* the Second) &c.

SIDE II.—RIGHT.

Horus. [Strong Bull, son of Kheper-ra.] King of the two countries. (Rameses). The golden Horus, director of years; the most great and powerful. Son of the sun (Rameses). The eyes of men behold what he has done. Nothing has been said against him. Lord of the two countries. (Rameses). Son of the sun. (Rameses). Lustre of the sun, Ra.

MIDDLE.

Horus. [Strong Bull, crowned by Thoth.] King of the two countries (Ra-men-kheper). He multiplied, lord of the gods, festivals of the Persea tree in the midst of the temple of the Phoenix; he is his son; he is the sacred and divine body whose limbs extend everywhere. Son of the sun. (Thothmes) of Harmachis beloved.

LEFT.

Horus. [Strong Bull, beloved of Thoth.] King of the two countries. (Rameses). Son of Ra, born of the gods, holding the two countries. Son of the Sun (Rameses). He places his frontiers and sets up his throne-house where he likes, by his victories and strength. Lord of the two countries (Rameses). Son of the sun. (Rameses). Lustre of the sun, Ra.

SIDE III.—RIGHT.

Horus. [Strong Bull, beloved of Ra.] King of the two countries. (Rameses). Lord of the festivals, like his father Ptah. Son of the sun. (Rameses). Son of Tum, of his flesh; beloved of his father; born of Athor; guide of the two countries. Lord of the two countries. (Rameses). Son of the sun. (Rameses). Giver of life like the sun.

MIDDLE.

Horus. [Strong Bull, beloved of Ra.] King of the two countries. (Ra-men-kheper). His father Tum set up his name within the precincts, in the palace of On giving him the seat of Seb, the dignity of Kheper-ra. Son of the sun. (Thothmes). Of the spirits of On beloved—eternal.

LEFT.

Horus. [Strong Bull, son of Ptah.] King of the two countries. (Rameses). Watcher over both countries. Lord of the diadems. Chastiser of foreign nations. Son of the sun. (Rameses). He goes daily into the house of Tum, and is seen in the house of his father. Lord of the two countries. (Rameses). Son of the sun. (Rameses). Like the sun.

SIDE IV.—RIGHT.

Horus. [Strong Bull, beloved of Thoth.] King of the two countries. (Rameses). Son of Ra; born of the gods; holding the four countries. Son of the sun. (Rameses). Victorious by his strength; valiant victor; bull of princes; king of kings. Lord of the two countries. (Rameses). Son of the sun. (Rameses); beloved of Tum and of On, &c.

MIDDLE.

Horus. [Beloved of Truth.] King of the two countries. (Ra-men-kheper); making offerings beloved of the gods; placing offerings on the altar of the spirits of On; making offerings to their majesties both times; that he might repose through them with a sound life hundreds of thousands of thirty-years' cycles, and very many festivals. Son of the sun. (Thothmes); of Harmachis beloved; everliving, &c.

LEFT.

Horus. [Strong Bull, son of Ptah.] King of the two countries. (Rameses). The golden Horus; director of years; the most great and powerful. Son of the sun. (Rameses). Out of their countries he led captive the Rutennu and Peti to the throne of the house of his father. Lord of the two countries. (Rameses). Son of the sun. (Rameses). Beloved of Shu; the great god; like the sun, &c.

NOTES.

1. Whose usual name is "Ra."
2. Upper and Lower Egypt.
3. The readings of the cartouches or name-scrolls are enclosed in curved brackets, and those of the square standards in square brackets.
4. Thebes.
5. On or An is the Egyptian appellation of the city better known as Heliopolis (the city of the sun), the original site of this obelisk.
6. Represented by a hawk bearing the solar disk.
7. Represented by a sparrow-hawk with a regal crown.
8. This is Rameses II., called "The Great."
9. The insignia of a king are one standard and two cartouches.
10. This phrase is equivalent to "king."

The inscriptions on the lower part of the obelisk have been mostly obliterated, and the obelisk is fractured as indicated on side IV.

In trying to arrange the above translations so as to bring out as clearly as possible the connection between the hieroglyphs and their meaning, we have been greatly assisted by the scholarly translation of DR. BIRCH, of the British Museum.

An Elegant Model of this Obelisk has been designed, and can be obtained, price 2s. 6d., of the London Stereoscopic and Photographic Company, 54, Cheapside, and 108 & 110, Regent Street, London.