

THE KARNAK LISTS OF THOTHIMES III, RELATING
TO NORTHERN AND SOUTHERN SYRIA.

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Introductory Remarks.

THESE very interesting Tribute-lists have been kept back till the present volume of Transactions for further study. I have thus been enabled to profit by the corrections of the text given by Prof. Maspero, in the *Recueil de Travaux*, and his studies on the Palestine lists published and forthcoming in the Transactions of the Victoria Institute.

The important travels of Prof. Sachau (*Reise in Syria und Mesopotamien, Leipzig, 1883*); and the new Map of Northern Syria, by Rey and Thuillier (*Paris, Hachette, 1885*), have been of the greatest use; and of course in preparing the list of Palestine I have constantly used the maps and volumes of the Palestine Exploration Fund. I have not willingly neglected any means of information within my reach, and my thanks are due to the constant kindness of Professors Sayce and Maspero and other scholars.

In appealing to Assyriologists, I little imagined that Upper Egypt itself would bring forth such surprising records as the cuneiform tablets of Tell el-Amarna, which promise so much light for our researches, and have already yielded not a little.

These despatches and reports in Babylonian cuneiform to Pharaohs of the XVIIIth dynasty shew us how completely the tide of conquest had swung back, how natural it was that the great fortified posts and emporia of the Euphrates should be garrisoned by Egypt; and moreover entirely account for the various Semitic forms in which we find many topographical names recorded. Take for instance

No. 122. Amātu, which I have held to be the name of Hamath as it stands in Assyrian annals. Many tributary returns may have been sent to Egypt in cuneiform, and transliterated into hieroglyphic for the mural inscriptions. Babylonian scribes as well as Egyptians were employed in such service, and doubtless Syrians, and the like.

This accounts for many interesting variants, and doubtless the reading and translation of these tablets will enlighten our eyes still more as time goes on.

Certain other studies of mine bearing on these Karnak Lists may be found in the volumes of Transactions of the British Association for Manchester (1887, Sect. H), and Bath (1888, Sect. E). These appear in more detailed treatment in the *Transactions of the Anthropological Institute* (Feb., 1889), and in the *Biblical and Oriental Record* (Vol. III. No. I and No. V), including a comparison of results drawn from Assyrian sources.

