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written language older than the remotest forms of Aryan speech, writing the first attempts to convert the elements of sound into a pictorial form. In arts and sciences the inventions of mechanical contrivances, tools, weapons and the simpler machines, can be traced step by step. The loom, the plough and the press are first seen at work. Painting, sculpture and architecture appear in their earliest forms, while the arts of chemistry and mechanics evidently underlie them, as the principles of mathematics, abstract and mixed, ideal and physical, are clearly involved in the eminence at which the productions arrived. The great length of antecedent time necessary for the experiences which lead to invention has also to be borne in mind, as the discoveries had apparently to be made in Egypt itself, which at its earliest period does not appear to have received its civilization from external sources, the arts of Asia being neither so old in point of time, nor so excellent in regard to execution. Hence Egypt stands alone as the source from which all are derived, and in which the evidences of their derivation have most happily survived; and it is a sacred duty to preserve with fidelity and transmit without injury these heirlooms of the human race. Whether they will last for the same length of time as they have already survived, under the exceptional circumstances from which they have been removed to those under which they are at present placed, is questionable. They will have to follow the vicissitudes of modern civilization and a climate adverse to the frailer materials. Protected by neglect, unheeded in the depths of darkened sepulchres, they have now been brought up to the light of the outer world and owe their preservation to the interest inherent in themselves from their relation to the present condition of knowledge and research.

His Grace the Duke of Northumberland, desirous that the contents of this valuable collection should be known and pub-