

OXYRHYNCHUS AND ITS PAPYRI.

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at 9 p.m. after dinner to stow away the papyri in some empty packing-cases which we fortunately had at hand. The task was only finished at three in the morning, and on the following night we had a repetition of it, for twenty-five more baskets were filled before the place was exhausted.

This was our last great find of papyri. We had by this time tried all the mounds of the Roman and Byzantine periods, and dug the most fruitful part of them. The low ground, with the exception of a patch to the west of the large stone building, did not yield papyri, and some of the rubbish mounds consisted entirely of ashes, while others, especially the southern mounds, did not contain the right sort of earth for finding papyri. We continued the excavations, however, for nearly a month longer, being engaged in finishing less productive ground which we had temporarily passed over, and investigating the Arabic mounds. Our search for Arabic papyri opened auspiciously with a large find of rolls in the first hour, but afterwards complete Arabic papyri became very rare, though Arabic paper was plentiful. Much of the Arabic ground could not be dug owing to the number of burials in it.

The miscellaneous *anticas* other than papyri which we found were not remarkable, nor are rubbish mounds the places for discovering complete objects of any size or great value. Broken ostraca, chiefly Byzantine, were frequent, complete ones (second century to Arabic) rare, except for a find of 150 together, which are nearly all very clearly written and well preserved. Of this find all but two or three are orders for payment of wine to various persons connected with horses and racing, addressed by a certain Cyriacus or Cyracus about the time of Diocletian. I give a copy of one as a specimen.

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| Κυρακὸς Θε- | "Cyracus to Theon greeting. |
| -ωνι χα(ίρειν). δὲς Ἀμμω- | Give Ammon the |
| -νι ἱπποκόμῳ ἡμε- | groom one jar (1 jar) of wine for |
| -ρῶν ἐ οἶνον κεραμι- | five days from |
| -ον ἔν, κερ/α, Φαρ- | Pharmouthi 1st to |
| -μοῦθι α ἕως ε. | the 6th. Signed |
| Κυρακὸς σεσ(ημεῖωμαι). | Cyracus." |

The coins, most of which require much cleaning before they can be made out, are being examined by Mr. J. G. Milne, who reports provisionally that there are about 40 early empire bronze, about 100 later empire billon, and 300 fourth century bronze and 100 Byzantine bronze, besides many pieces which are worn smooth.

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