

MEDINET HABOO.

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The Interior of the Small Temple.

THROUGH the last pylon may be seen another gateway, leading into a small hypæthral court (which can be identified in the plan), the pyramidal towers of which bear the name of the Pharaoh who defeated the Assyrian Sennacherib. Passing through this court and two others beyond, none of which possess much beauty, being destitute of marked features and rather sombre in appearance, a vestibule leading to the Sanctuary is reached. The Sanctuary is surrounded on three sides by a corridor, one portion of which (that in the east) we have chosen as the subject of our photograph, the fourth side being closed by a series of six small dark chambers, whose atmosphere is none of the pleasantest, their roofs being festooned with hundreds of bats.

The original founder of the Sanctuary was Hatasoo, who lived about 1400 B.C., and Thothmes II. and III. completed it. The name of Rameses III. also appears in the sculptures, together with that of one of the Ptolemys, who made some additions to the building.

The lowness of the roof of the peristyle gives a feeling of oppression to the visitor when he first enters, but there is a certain quaintness in design which gradually removes it, and leaves a favourable impression after a study of some short duration. Very modern hieroglyphics, drawn in charcoal, and due to the present natives, adorn the pillars and columns.

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