

Osiride Columns in the First Court of the Great Temple.

THIS photograph shows the eastern side of the same court: seven rectangular pillars, with osiride figures, all, alas! sadly mutilated, form the interior supports of the corridor. Crowning it are the remains of the sun-burnt brick houses, which but a few years ago were inhabited by the Arabs. The whole of the area is covered with débris, and it was on a crumbling mound of such that the camera was planted to take this view. It seems probable that the osiride figures were destroyed, to the extent they are at present, by the early Christians, whose church, as we shall see, was erected in the next splendid court. From a careful examination it would appear as if the whole area had been converted into dwellings, the joists for the first story being supported upon the shoulders of these figures, the heads and top projections being cut away for convenience sake.

It should be remarked that whilst the number of pillars on this side of the court is seven, that of the columns on the western side, referred to before, is eight. The total disregard of symmetry, so apparent in most Egyptian temples, is here well demonstrated.