

View of North-west End of the Inner Court.

ON the north-west and south-east sides of the second area are colonnades, formed by square pillars, with osiride figures, facing towards the main entrance, and by circular bud-headed columns facing towards the Sanctuary. Though each originally were eight in number on the north-west side, of pillars and columns but four remain. Three flights of stairs led through this colonnade to the Great Hall, the northern one of which can be traced in the photograph (the summit of it being occupied by a group of Arabs). Beyond the fourth pillar was the grand central staircase, of which but débris remains at present. In the original building came another set of three pillars, then another staircase, and again another pillar. Beautiful as the colonnade is now, it must have been surpassingly impressive when the whole of it was standing and the sculptured figures intact. Behind it we see the Hypostyle, or Grand Hall, as it is called, the former name "being derived from having over the lateral columns what in Gothic architecture would be called a *clerestory*, through which the light is admitted to the central portion of the hall" (Fergusson's History of Architecture). Here we gain a good idea of this clerestory, portions of which are in a fair state of preservation. The bud-headed columns should be remarked, this form of capital being of a different style to that adopted for the central columns.