

KARNAK.

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The Sanctuary and Grand Hall from the South-East.

FROM a point a little more to east a very fair view is obtained of the Sanctuary, the Obelisks, and the Grand Hall. The nearest obelisk in the photograph is a monolith of gigantic size, rising to a height of ninety-two feet. It bears the name of Amun-nou-het or Hatasoo, the daughter of Thothmes I., from which circumstance it is supposed that this monarch erected that portion of the temple on which site it stands. Its date probably would be about the 16th century B.C.

This is the second finest obelisk that is known to exist, the largest being the Lateran obelisk (so designated from being erected in the piazza of the Lateran) which bears the name of Thothmes. Regarding obelisks, Fergusson says, "Their use seems to have been wholly that of monumental pillars, recording the style and title of the king who erected them, his piety, and the proof he gave of it, in dedicating these monoliths to the deity whom he especially wished to honour." On the obelisk of Amun-nou-het is an inscription (which Wilkinson has translated), showing that only seven months were employed in its erection, including the time required for its transport from the quarry at Assouan, near the first Cataract.