

KARNAK.

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*View of the Great Temple from the North-West.*

THE last view of Karnak is from the north-west, which perhaps exhibits the method of lighting the Grand Hall better than any one preceding. The remains of the clerestory are clearly shown, rising to the same height as the great central columns above the smaller. Near the site whereto the picture was taken are a variety of ruins of different periods, so buried, however, as to be scarcely distinguishable. The débris of more modern dwellings has formed mounds over them, in some cases of many feet in depth. In them we find, as at Medinet Haboo, an accumulation of fragments of old pottery, wonderful for its quantity. Before bidding adieu to Karnak, one cannot but regret that more steps have not been taken to preserve the grand old masonry from the decay which is slowly increasing through the annual influx of the waters. It would not cause a great outlay, if protection were afforded to it in some simple manner. If also it were possible to prevent ignorant tourists from incising their ignoble names on the walls and columns, which should be sacred to the sculptures which beautify them, the pleasure which these ruins excite in a cultivated mind would be largely enhanced. For instance, it detracts from the glamour cast by the majestic columns of the Grand Hall, when the eye meets the names of Brown and Smith, or their foreign similarities, cut on them. A crowning indignity has been offered to one splendid monument by some nonentity, who, anxious to hand his initials down to immediate posterity, has painted them on the obelisk of