

*If a small portion of the sums of money that, in the name of scientific research, have been spent in Egypt on treasure-hunting for antiquities, on uncovering monuments and exposing them to destruction, on unwatched excavations from which the limestone sculptures have gone straight to the kiln or the village stone-mason—if a small portion of this had been utilised in securing systematically throughout the country accurate and exhaustive copies of the inscriptions above ground and in danger, the most important part of all the evidence of her past that Egypt has handed down to our day would have been gathered intact, instead of mutilated beyond recovery.*

*If the remainder of those sums had been devoted to watching, and taking proper measures to preserve, the monuments of Egypt, the present century would not have been destined above all other periods to the maledictions of posterity on account of the searching and unrelenting damage of every kind done to these records, that had weathered so many centuries with hardly an injury, and that should have delighted mankind for so many ages to come.*

*Each year a vast amount of damage is done, but there is still much that can be saved. The resources of Egyptology are considerable for good as well as for evil, and there are perhaps signs to encourage those who cannot but take a gloomy view of the present state of things. Meanwhile my heartiest wish is that the present publication along with a hundred others equally imperfect will soon be superseded.*