

KAHUN PAPYRI.

PLATES I.-IV.

LITERARY PAPYRI. (LV. 1, VI. 2.)

KAHUN, LV. 1.

[Pls. I.-III., l. 20, Pl. IV.]

Found at Kahun, November, 1889. Length, 46 inches = 1.14 metres. Width, 12 inches = 30.5 cm. First leaf (from present edge), $20\frac{1}{4}$ in. = 51.5 cm.; second, $19\frac{1}{2}$ in. = 49.5 cm.; third, almost all torn away, but $6\frac{1}{2}$ in. = 16.5 cm. remain at the top. The right-hand edge of the papyrus must therefore be practically uninjured.

In spite of the fine writing, the largest also of any in the collection, the document appears to have been mutilated in ancient times in the usual way, square after square having been torn from the end to be used for notes and accounts. Like the hymn which it records, the MS. also in all probability dates from the reign of Usertesen III. Lot LV. contained several interesting pieces, but unfortunately none of them is dated.

Recto.—After 7 inches blank, the “Hymn to Usertesen III.” commences in columns and continues in pages of horizontal writing to the broken edge; presumably, at least one full page is lost at the end.

Verso (Pl. iv.).—The torn end shows an imperfect page of a story, which for convenience

we have labelled “Story of Hay”; a second page gives the end of the tale, and the remaining space of about 29 inches = 74 cm. is blank; presumably, at least one full page is entirely lost at the beginning.

The papyrus being of full width, while most literary compositions were written on half breadths, the scribe has often divided his page of MS. into two portions by a short interval of clear space, and this not only in the case of the ten-line stanzas (*Recto*, pp. 2, 3), but also apparently in the prose story on the *Verso*, p. 1, which seems to have contained practically two pages of 8 (?) lines each.

[Pls. I.-III., l. 20.]

Recto.—HYMN TO USERTESEN III.

Pl. I., l. 1. The first column contains the full official titles of King Usertesen III., followed by the words “who hath taken the two lands (of Egypt) by claim proved true (?).”

First Stanza. Pl. I., ll. 2-11, ten columns. The phrases are not written so as to terminate

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