

PREFACE.

IN presenting this, the first volume of the Archæological Survey, to the public, the author desires to make the following observations.

The object of the Survey publications is to give a faithful record of the monumental remains of Egypt, as well as all local information about them that can be gathered on the spot. That such work is needed for even the most frequented and best known monuments is proved by the present volume. The tombs of Beni Hasan had been illustrated and described by more than a dozen distinguished Egyptologists, and it was thought, before the Archæological Survey Expedition started, that little that was new would result. Yet the existence of three hitherto unnoticed tombs was thereby for the first time made known to science, a large quantity of unpublished scenes and inscriptions were copied, and concurrently many errors were detected in the published texts.

In order to know exactly what had been previously done, I examined all the published matter referring to these tombs as well as the manuscript copies of the inscriptions and scenes made by Burton, Champollion, Rosellini, Hay, Nestor de l'Hôte, and Sir Gardner Wilkinson. Of these, the collection of Hay, consisting of innumerable drawings, tracings, and extracts, with plans, have been found to be the most accurate and valuable. About the year 1830 complete copies of the Tombs 2 and 3 (excepting the shrines) were made by his practised hand, aided by the *camera lucida*, and reproductions of them were coloured under his guidance by a French artist: much has thus been recorded that is now faded and indecipherable. As to Tomb No. 3, several of the scenes published in the present volume have necessarily been derived from this excellent source. The remaining plates of paintings and inscriptions have been reproduced from full-sized tracings or hand copies made on the spot.

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