

CHAPTER II.

DESCRIPTION OF THE TOMBS.

8. THE TOMB OF ZET, pl. lxi. This tomb consists of a large chamber twenty feet wide and thirty feet long, with smaller chambers around it at its level, the whole bounded by a thick brick wall, which rises seven and a half feet to the roof, and then three and a half feet more to the top of the retaining wall. The exact dimensions of these tombs are all given together in sect. 16.⁹ Outside of this on the north is a line of small tombs about five feet deep, and on the south a triple line of tombs of the same depth. And apparently of the same system and same age is the mass of tombs marked as "Cemetery W," which are parallel to the tomb of Zet. Later there appears to have been built the long line of tombs which are marked partly Z, partly W, placed askew in order not to interfere with those which have been mentioned. And then this skew line gave the direction to the next tomb, that of Merneit, and later on that of Azab. Such seems to have been the order of construction; but as the great mounds of rubbish, which I have not yet moved, stand close to the east of Zet and Cemetery W, there may be other features beneath them which will further explain the arrangement.

The private graves around the royal tomb are all built of mud brick, with a coat of mud plaster over it, and the floor is of sand, usually also coated with mud. The steles found in the graves around Zet are shown in pls. xxxiii., xxxiv., and the copies pl. xxxi., Nos. 1-16. The places of such as could be at all identified with the graves, are shown on pl. lxi. by the

name from each being written on the chamber plan. Beside these steles there were often the names inscribed in red paint on the walls; these names are drawn in pl. lxiii., and are written close to the south walls of the plans. These painted names are always on the south wall of the chamber, close to the top of it. A patch of whitewash about eight or ten inches square was roughly brushed on the mud plaster of the wall; on that the hieroglyphs were painted with a broad brush. Some lines are pink, owing to the whitewash working up with the red in the brush. On a few are traces of black also. The form of inscription is much simpler than that of the steles; the *ka akh*, "glorified ka," only once appears, and there are no titles or offices, only the name. The *ka* arms often appear; but whether this refers to the *ka* of Du, A, Si, &c., or is really a compound name, Ka-du, A-kat, Si-ka, is not clear. Probably the latter is true, as the feminine *t* is added to the *ka* in two cases, which points to its being in a name. Many of these names were illegible, only fragments of the plaster remaining. Three I succeeded in removing. The few contents of these graves, left behind accidentally by previous diggers, will be fully catalogued in the next volume; a few jars and beads, and two or three pieces of inscribed stone bowls (each marked with their source in pls. iv., vi.), are all that we found.

9. TOMB OF ZET, INTERIOR, pls. lxi., lxii., lxiii. The first question about these great tombs is how they were covered over. Some have said that such spaces could not be roofed,