

much of my leisure time, and contains a more detailed account of the former and present state of Egypt; but whether it will ever be deserving of publication must depend on circumstances—though from the little interest generally felt about that country, it is probable such materials will never be required.

If in the same chapter I have not given all my authorities for the manners and customs therein introduced, it may be concluded that in those cases I have drawn my inferences from the subjects in the tombs, to which constant reference would have been tedious and unnecessary. But if some difference is observed in the statements given in this work from those in my *Materia Hieroglyphica*, in a few points of Egyptian history, and other intricate subjects, I beg the indulgent reader to consider that the study of hieroglyphics is still in its infancy and obscured by the difficulties of a long-lost language. And if I was once led to form other conclusions, I must rely for my excuse on the intricacy of the study; but having availed myself of the first opportunity of correcting them, the acknowledgment of my errors will, I trust, clear me of the suspicion of an attempt to maintain any favorite theory, and prove it to be the result of repeated and more matured investigation.