

Chemistry or Geology or any other scientific field, it is natural to expect that Archaeology will have far more contact with the Bible than have these other fields. The result is, of course, that it is impossible in a short article even to mention the great majority of the contacts. All that can be done is to survey the field in general, to give a few important principles, and to illustrate these by examination of some particular instances.

#### Evidence from Egypt.

The bulk of the archaeological material which bears relationship to the Bible comes from three particular areas. One of these is Egypt, a land which looms large in the mind of every reader of the Bible because of the dramatic passages in the first half of the book of Exodus which tell of the forcible deliverance of the Israelites from oppression. This event colored the imagination of all subsequent periods and there are many allusions to it. Both earlier and later there are occasional historical contacts with Egypt, but comparatively little of the remaining Biblical narrative takes place in that country.

A century and a half ago Egypt was regarded as a land of mystery and of magic. Little was known about its history in ancient times. It was clear that a great civilization had once existed there, because of the great monuments which stood in many parts of the land. Many of these had on them long rows or columns of pictures of men, snakes, household implements, and other things, arranged in such a way as strongly to suggest that they formed inscriptions, but there was no clue as to how they might be read. Then in 1798, Napoleon's engineers discovered in the Rosetta mouth of the Nile a large stone slab with an inscription in three different kinds of writing. The first of these, which was only partially preserved, was in hieroglyphic writing similar to that on the monuments. The third type of inscription, most of which was intact, could be easily read, since it was in Greek. It contained a decree made by Egyptian priests in the second century before Christ, and ended with an instruction that the decree should be inscribed in hieroglyphic, demotic, and Greek characters. This made it clear that the hieroglyphic inscription would parallel the one in Greek, and furnished the clue to its decipherment. However it took many