

**STORIES OF THE HIGH PRIESTS
OF MEMPHIS: THE DETHON OF
HERODOTUS AND THE
DEMOTIC TALES OF KHAMUAS**

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Stories of the High Priests of Memphis: the Dethon of Herodotus and the Demotic tales of Khamuas by F. Ll. Griffith

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F. LL. GRIFFITH

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HIGH PRIESTS OF MEMPHIS

THE SETHON OF HERODOTUS
AND
THE DEMOTIC TALES OF KHAMUAS

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PREFACE

IN editing these demotic stories I have endeavoured to advance by a step that not insignificant branch of Egyptology which counts an Englishman, Thomas Young, among the chief founders of its study, but which since his time has been neglected entirely in this country. The decipherment of demotic, inaugurated by Akerblad's famous letter to De Sacy in 1802, and continued by Young and Champollion in 1820-1830, was most successfully cultivated by Heinrich Brugsch in the first half of his brilliant career, from 1847 to 1868, when he finished his dictionary of hieroglyphic and demotic. With such completeness did he triumph over the crabbed script that it remains for his successors only to perfect his work, at least for the later periods. Brugsch had for long been practically the sole reader of demotic when Revillout attacked the subject as a student of Coptic. By his multitudinous works the latter has certainly thrown light on the interpretation of the legal documents—some of which belong to the early period—and on the metrology. Demotic is, however, a subject which requires above all things care and accuracy if satisfactory results are to be obtained by the student. The recent work of W. Max Müller (commencing in 1886, but unfortunately never extending

beyond brilliant discussions of single words and groups), of Krall, Hess, and Spiegelberg, augur well for the future of the study, and it is certain that it will progress rapidly as the results of Coptic and hieroglyphic research are brought to bear in a scientific manner upon this intermediate stage of the Egyptian language.

In spite of all that has been accomplished in demotic, there is much to be done that is almost of a pioneer character, and much that has been conjectured or contested must be either established or overthrown by positive proofs. This is the main apology for the voluminousness of the philological notes in Part II; though many of them are due chiefly to the bad writing or bad preservation of the second tale.

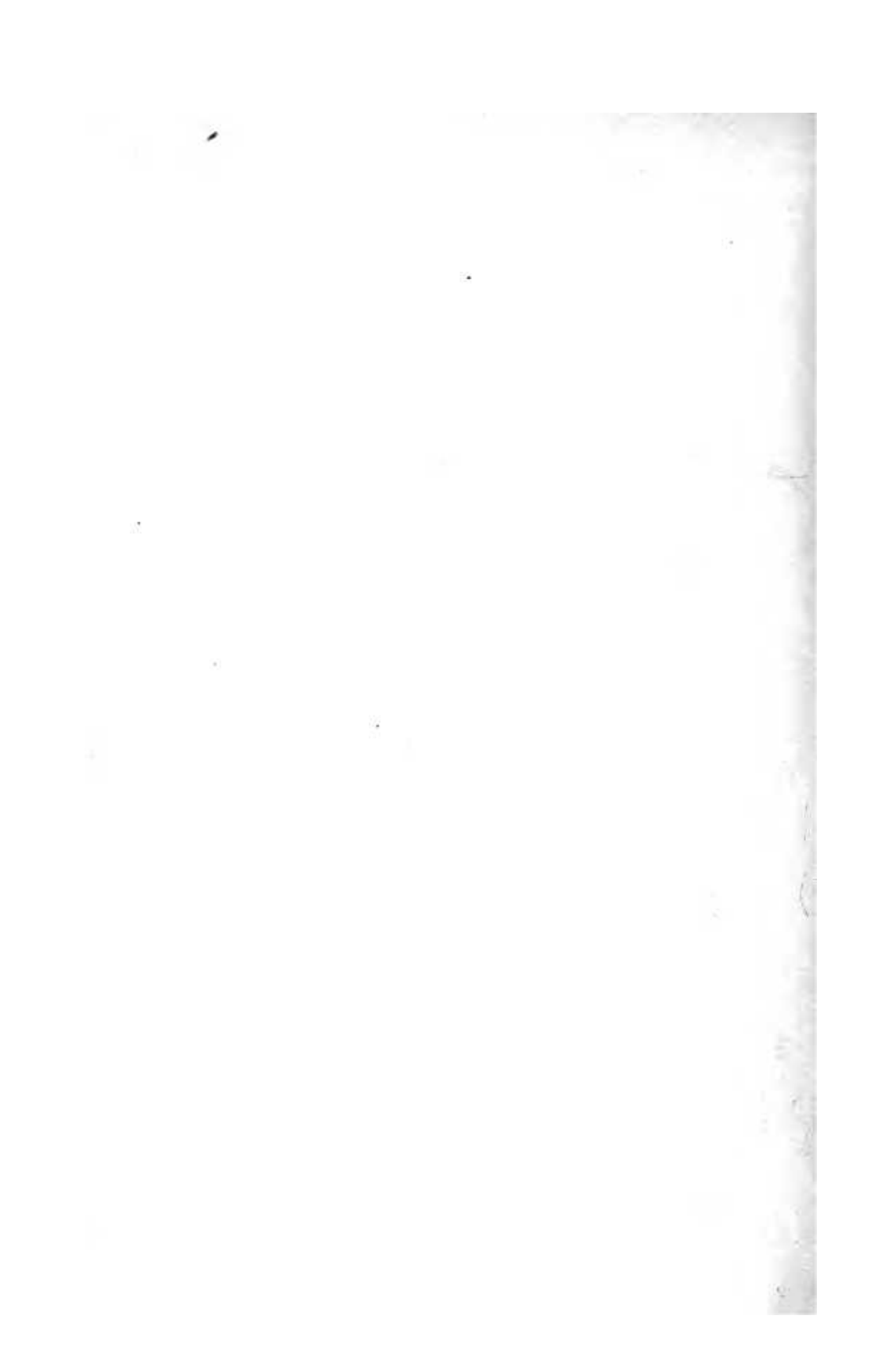
I may here be allowed to express my great obligations to the authorities of the department of MSS. in the British Museum for permission to publish the demotic text of the second story, and to the Delegates of the Clarendon Press for undertaking the serious expense of printing this book. My thanks are also especially due to the Rev. E. M. Walker, of Queen's College, for encouragement and advice; the Provost of Queen's College, Oxford, for introducing and supporting my application to the Delegates of the Clarendon Press; Mr. Cannan, the Secretary of the Delegates; Mr. Horace Hart, the Controller of the Press; and last, but not least, Mr. F. G. Kenyon of the British Museum, by whose kindness I was amongst the first to see the newly unrolled 'Papyrus DCIV,' and enjoyed every facility for studying it. The particulars furnished by him in regard to the history of the papyrus and to the Greek text upon the *recto* will be found in a subsequent page.

A glossary of the two demotic stories has been pre-

pared, and it is intended to publish it later, when the work may have had the benefit of the criticism of fellow-students. A photographic facsimile and a hand-copy of the new tale are issued herewith. The first tale has long been accessible in a good facsimile, but negatives of the original papyrus in the Gizeh Museum have been taken at my request by Émile Brugsch-Bey, brother of the great demotist, and are now deposited with Mr. R. C. Murray, 8 Garrick Street, Covent Garden, London, W.C., to whom applications for prints should be addressed.

This volume must not go to press without a word acknowledging its special indebtedness to the great work of Professor Sethe on the Egyptian Verb, which appeared last autumn at the moment when I was engaged in the final shaping of the materials for the book. By his masterly historical treatment of the verbal forms in Hieroglyphic and in Coptic, Sethe has made it possible here to begin classification, on the lines laid down by him, of the remarkable forms which the verb assumes in demotic.

May, 1900.



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