

THE EXODUS.

AMONG the four or five papers on the Exodus in your last *Quarterly Statement*, I am greatly pleased at the contribution by Mr. C. Pickering Clarke. He accepts, at page 23, as distinctly even as I have done myself, what I have so long contended for, viz., that the fifth and sixth Anastasi papyri are distinctively papyri of the Exodus : that is to say, that masses of Semitic people are described therein as flitting backwards and across the scene. Mr. Clarke (p. 23), talking of the marshy country east of the fortress set up by the Regent Hotep-hi-ma, or Bai-n-Ra, says, "The administration of the eastern marshes is clearly set forth in the Egyptian papyri, having its bureau at the royal city Pi-Rameses ; and the foreign people again were under the control of regularly appointed officers of their own, who were responsible, we may suppose, to the central government of the country."

The reason, however, why I can hardly quite agree in this flowery description is that when the Semites rose in insurrection, the government was no longer central, but anarchical. Both Rameses II and Seti II died blind (see Pliny, Herodotus, and Diodorus), and practically everything fell into the hands of the great regent Bai-n-Ra, who died tributary to the Hittites, and thus eventuated the Exodus. Unfortunately, to the best of my knowledge, only two people in England would be able to read off Hieratic. There may be others, of course. Let them tell us, yes or no, was the military earthwork Tabnet cut out in twenty-three days, or was it not ? Was it or was it not dug out avowedly for the accommodation of the foreigners in the temple of Nebt-hotep ? Was or was not a four days' journey arranged for the Semites ? Were 178 royal robes given or loaned out by Egyptian officers to the foreigners for the occasion ?

These things are not quite clear, and it is curious that from about the middle of the papyrus (6th Anastasi) the Regent and his friendly Shasu are brought forward from Edom. Perhaps it is a symptom of the last struggle that poor old Seti sent down an architect from Thebes to put things right. Truly, however, let us allow he was probably the greatest architect that this world has ever known, viz., Bek-n-Chonsu.

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VARIETIES.

I WISH to point out one or two points in Captain Conder's recent observations :—

1. In incorrectly saying (1883, p. 102) that I seem to identify *Ephron* with *Ephrath*, he has confused the former name with