DIRGE OF MENEPHTAH.

TRANSLATED BY
S. BIRCH, LL.D.

THE following short poetical eulogium of a king, apparently of Menephtah or Seti II of the XIXth dynasty, is found in Papyrus Anastasi 4 of the British Museum. It is published Select Papyri, Pl. lxxxiv, l. 2–9, lxxv, l. 1. Although not divided by red dots it is clearly poetic in style, and is accordingly given in paragraphs. From the final line it appears to be addressed to the monarch after his death. Although the titles do not exactly correspond with those of Ramses II or Menephtah.
it appears to relate to him, as the papyrus is of his reign and that of Seti II of the same dynasty. It may indeed refer to this later monarch, but as no cartouche is given and the titles after the palatial or so called Horus ones are doubtful, it is uncertain who the monarch is to whom it refers. It has been translated by M. Chabas, *L'Égypt aux temps de l'exode*. Chalons 1873, p. 118.
DIRGE OF MENEPHTAH.

1 Amen gave thy heart pleasure,
2 he gave thee a good old age,
3 a life-time of pleasure followed thee
4 blessed was thy lip, sound thy arm
5 strong thy eye to see afar
6 thou hast been clothed in linen.¹
7 Thou hast guided thy horse and chariot
8 of gold with thy hand
9 the whip in thy hand, yoked were the steeds
10 the Xaru,² and Nahsi,³ marched before thee
11 a proof of what thou hadst done
12 thou hast proceeded to thy boat of ās³ wood
13 a boat made of it before and behind
14 thou hast approached the beautiful tower which
15 thou thyself made
16 thy mouth was full of wine, beer, bread and flesh
17 were slaughtered cattle and wine opened:
18 the sweet song was made before thee
19 thy head anointer anointed thee with kami⁴
20 the Chief of thy garden pools brought crown
21 the Superintendent of thy fields brought birds
22 thy Fisherman brought fish

¹ Or gone to the gap to which the dead went to in the Sun boat.
² Syrians as prisoners of war.
³ Negroes.
⁴ Cedar or acacia.
⁵ A kind of balsam.
thy galley came from Xaru' laden with good things
your stable was full of horses
thy female slaves were strong
thy enemies were placed fallen
thy word no one opposed
Thou hast gone before the gods the victor the justified!

1 Syria. 2 Or cattle. 3 Or industrious, rat. 4 Dead or departed.
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