INSCRIPTION OF AAHMES,  
SON OF ABANA.  

TRANSLATED BY  
P. LE PAGE RENOUFF.  

THE following inscription occurs in a tomb of the  
period of the XVIIIth dynasty, at Elkab or Eilei-
thyia, and has been published by Lepsius, Denkmaeler  
Abth. III., Bl. 11, and Champollion, Notice descriptive,  
fo., Paris, 1870, p. 655. It has been translated in part  
by M. the late Vte. Emmanuel de Rouge, Mémoire sur  
l’inscription du Tombeau d’Ahmès chef des nautoniers  
in the Mémoires de l’Institut de France, Prem. serie,  
Tom. III., 4to. Paris 1851, but not entirely, and partly  
by Professor Brugsch-Bey in his Histoire d’Égypte, 4to.  
Paris, 1859, p. 80, 81, 86, 90, although not together,  
nor in continuous order. The present is the first  
continuous and complete translation of the whole  
inscription, the only remaining part of the text being  
the statement of the amount of land presented to  
Aahmes, amounting to 60 sta, and the list by name of
the slaves obtained by Aahmes in the course of the campaigns. It is one of the most important of the historical inscriptions as it gives the account of the campaign against the Hykshos at the commencement of the XVIIth dynasty, and the siege of their stronghold, Avaris. Born in the days of Sekenen-Ra the Egyptian monarch, contemporary with the later Shepherd kings, Aahmes served under Aahmes or Amasis I, Amenophis I, and Thothmes I. These monarchs, it will be seen from the inscriptions, had personally entered the field, and Aahmes was witness of their prowess in some of the actions in which they had been engaged. Like all the great Egyptian officers he had seen active service both on the Northern and Southern frontiers of Egypt. It was one of the most critical periods in the history of Egypt, and this inscription together with the 1st Sallier Papyrus throws great light on the comparatively obscure events of the time of the Shepherd kings. The names of some of the places are obscure especially those of the localities in the neighbourhood of Avaris. The name Teta-an that of the chief of the Hykshos is not elsewhere found; it appears after the siege of Avaris and final expulsion of the Shepherds.

S. B.
INSCRIPTION OF AAHMES.

The Captain-general of Marines, Aahmes, son of Abana, the justified,
1 He saith: I speak to you, all men, in order that I may inform you of the honours which have fallen to my lot. I have been presented with gold seven times in the face of the whole land; and with slaves both male and female. I have acquired very many landed possessions. The warlike name which he hath made shall not perish ever in this land. He saith: I came into existence in the city of Eilethiya; my father was an officer of King Sekenen Ra; Baba son of Re-ant was his name. I performed the duties of an officer in his place on board the ship called the Calf in the days of King Neb-pehti-ra, the justified.
4 I was (then) too young to have a wife, and I was clad in the uniform of the Shenu. But as soon as I had a house I betook myself to the ship called the North, for the purpose of taking part in the war. And it was my duty to follow the Sovereign on foot when he went out on his chariot.
5 We laid siege to the city of Avaris and I had to fight on foot in presence of His Majesty. I was promoted to the ship called cha-em-Mennefer. We fought upon the canal of Patetku of Avaris. Here I obtained prizes;
6 I carried off a hand, mention of which was made to the Reporter Royal, and there was given to me the golden

1 Aahmes I.
2 "Je couchais dans le lit Réserve," Chabas.
3 Literally, "Crowned in Memphis."
(collar) of valour. I fought a second time at this place and a second time I took prizes
there. I carried off a hand and there was given to me a second time the gold of valour. There was fighting at Takamit, at the south of this city
and I carried away prisoner a live man. I plunged into the water far in bringing him off; in order to avoid the road to the
town, I crossed over with him through the water. Mention of this was made to the Reporter Royal and I was presented with gold once more. We
took Avaris, and I carried off as captives from thence one man and three women, in all four heads; and His Majesty gave them to me for slaves. We
laid siege to Sharhana in the year 5, and His Majesty took it. I carried off from thence captives, two women and one hand. And there
was given me the gold of valour. Likewise there were given me the captives for slaves. But as soon as His Majesty had slaughtered the Asiatic barbarians
he returned to Chent-hen-nefer for the purpose of destroying the Anti of Nubia, and His Majesty made a great slaughter of them.
I carried away captives, two live men and three hands, and I was presented once more with the gold and likewise the two slaves were given to me. Then came
His Majesty down the river, his heart dilated with valour and victory; he had conquered the people of the South and of the North. Then came the Pestilence of the South
introducing its devastation, and profaning the gods of the South in its grasp. It was found by His Majesty at Tent-ta-qabu and His Majesty carried off

1 Identified by M. Chabas with the "Shepherds."
2 A place determined by water.
all his men as living captives. And I brought off two
officers whom I had seized on the ship of the Pestilence.
And there were
given to me five heads for my share and five sta of land
in my own city. It was done to all the company of the
mares in like manner. Then that enemy
named Teta-an came, and rebels joined him. But
His Majesty slaughtered him and his slaves even to
extinction. And then were
given to me three heads and five sta of land in my own
city.
It was my lot to convey King So-r-ka-ra on his
journey up to Kush for the purpose of extending
the frontiers of Egypt. His Majesty smote that Anti of Nubia in the midst of his troops; taken by assault
they escaped not . . .
so as not to exist. Behold I was at the head of
our soldiers, and I fought as it behoved me. His Majesty was witness of my valour as I carried off two
hands and brought
them to His Majesty. We pursued his people and his
cattle. I took a living prisoner and brought him to His Majesty. In two days I brought His Majesty back to
Egypt
from the Upper source. And I was presented with the
gold, received two female slaves besides those which I
had brought
to His Majesty, and was raised to the dignity of
"Warrior of the King."
It was my lot to convey King Aa-cheper-ka-ra on
his journey up to Chent-hen-nefer

\[7\] Amenophis I.
\[9\] Name of hostile tribes on the southern boundaries of Egypt.
\[3\] Thothmes I.
for the purpose of chastising the guilty among the tribes and of exterminating the . . . . . . I fought upon the river . . .

the ships at the stranding; and I was raised to the dignity of Captain-general of the marines. His Majesty . . . . .

[Another portion of the inscription proceeds as follows:]

1 His Majesty became more furious than a panther, and he shot his first arrow, which stuck in the knee of that wretch . . . . fainting before the asp. Then was
2 made of them in an instant . . . . their people were carried off as live captives. His Majesty returned down the river, all the regions being in his grasp. That
3 vile Anti of Nubia was kept with his head down on the royal ship when he landed at the Apet.4

4 After this he went to the Rutennu5 for the purpose of taking satisfaction upon the countries. His Majesty arrived at Naharina,6 where he encountered that enemy, and organised an attack. His Majesty made a great
5 slaughter of them; an immense number of live captives was carried off by His Majesty. Behold I was at the head of our soldiers, and His Majesty saw my valour
6 as I seized upon a chariot, its horses and those who were on it as living captives whom I took to His Majesty. I was once more presented with the gold.

7 I have grown up and have reached old age; my honours are like . . . . (I shall rest in the tomb) which I have myself made.

1 A well-known part of the city of Thebes: the modern Karnak.
2 Syria.
3 Mesopotamia.
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