TABLET OF ALEXANDER ἌΕΓUS II,
SON OF ALEXANDER THE GREAT.

TRANSLATED FROM THE GERMAN BY
S. M. DRACH.

In the Zeitschrift f. Ägypt. Sprach., Jan., 1871, M. Brugsch has given an inscription on a slab of black basalt, covered with Egyptian representations and texts, which was found in excavating the foundations of a ruinous house in Cairo. On the top of the tablet is represented a diadem-crowned king, bestowing on Horus, lord of the land of Pe, a field on his left hand, and to the right paying homage by food and drink to Buto, the lady-goddess of the cities of Pe and Tep. The inscription is dated in the seventh year, month Thoth, of Alexander the second, by his satrap Ptolemæus, who afterwards

1 The capital of the XIXth nome of Lower Egypt.

2 Alexander ἌΕgus reigned from B.C. 317 to B.C. 311, when he was murdered by Cassander (Birch).
ruled as the actual king, and in it he restores the regions about those two towns to the deities Horus and Buto, whom Xerxes had impiously deprived of their temple revenues. The king Khabash, or Khabas, who is mentioned in the tablet, was a native prince, and the opponent of Xerxes I.

The king here recorded, Alexander Ægus, was the unhappy son of Alexander the Great and Roxana. After his father's death, his mother fled with him to Cassander, who in concert with Olympias, put both of them to death in 309 B.C., when the Prince was about twelve years old. This tablet recognises his succession to his father's general rule though himself yet a minor.


¹ According to Brugsch-Bey.
DECREE OF PTOLEMY LAGIDES, THE SATRAP.

1 In the year seven, beginning of inundation, and the Holiness of Horus,
2 the youthful, rich in strength, Lord of the diadems, loving the gods
3 (who) gave him his father's dignity, the golden Horus, the ruler
4 in the whole world, King of Upper and Lower Egypt, Lord
5 of both lands, delight of Amen's heart, chosen by the sun,¹ Son
6 of the Sun, of Alexander the immortal, of the gods of the city Pæ (and) Tep
7 the friend. He being as King in the stranger's world, as was His Holiness
8 in Inner Asia, so there was a great Viceroy in Egypt, Ptolemaeus
9 was he called. A person of youthful energy was he, strong in both arms,
10 prudent of mind, powerful amidst men, of firm courage, steady foot,
11 repelling the raging, not turning his back, striking the face
12 of his foes amidst their combat. When he had seized the bow
13 not a shot is from the opponent² a flourish of his sword in

¹ "Joy of Amen, the choice of the sun," an allusive compliment to his father, Alexander the Great being the son of Jupiter Ammon.
² The meaning is, his bow was so unerring that his opponent was at once shot down, and his fencing so good it killed his adversary.
14 the fight no one could stand his ground, of mighty hand, nor
15 was his hand repulsed, nor repented he of what his mouth utters,
16 none is like him in the stranger's world. He had restored the sculptures
17 of the gods, found in Asia, and all the furniture and books of the temples
18 of Northern and Southern Egypt, he had restored them to their place. He had made
19 as his residence the fortress of the King, "Loving the name of Amen the sun-chosen
20 the Son of the Sun, Alexander," as it is called on the shore of the great sea
21 of the Ionians. Rakotis was its former name. He had gathered Ionians
22 many and their cavalry (and) their numerous ships, with their crew.
23 When he marched with his men to the Syrians' land, who were
24 at war with him, he penetrated its interior, his courage was as mighty as
25 the eagle amongst the young birds. He took them at one stroke, he led
26 their princes, their cavalry, their ships, their works of art, all to Egypt.
27 After this, when he set out for the region of Mermerti, he took

1 This long title is the name of the city of Alexandria.
2 The Mediterranean Sea.
3 Vulture.
4 This refers to the defeat of Demetrius at Palai Gaza (Old Gaza) by Ptolemy, B.C. 312.
5 The ancient Marmarica.
it in one time, he brought home their folk, men, women,
with their horses, as revenge for what they did to Egypt.
When
he arrived in Egypt, his heart was rejoicing on what he
had done,
he solemnized a holiday, (and) this great Viceroy
seeking
the best for the gods of Upper Egypt (and) Lower
Egypt. Spoke to him
his Sidesman,¹ and the Elders of Lower Egypt, the
maritime land
called land of Buto, whereto the King had an Image of
Tanen²
chosen by Ptah, Son of the Sun, Khabash, ever-living,
to the gods
of Pe (and) Tep after His Holiness had gone to Pe-
Tep to
investigate the littoral,³ all in their domain, to go into
the inner marshes, to see each arm of the Nile, that
goeth into
the great sea, to keep back Asia’s fleet from Egypt.
Spake
His Holiness to his Sidesman,¹ This littoral country I
wish
to learn about. They spoke before His Holiness, The
sea-land, the land of
Buto is its name, was from old the property of the gods
of Pe-Tep, it was overthrown

¹ That is, the Chief Councillor, who stood at the side of the king.
² The Pigmy Pithah, called also Tatanen.
³ The littoral district of the Delta is called Patanu, known to Classics
and Copts, the Phutennu of Pliny, belonging to the great Pharumtiachian
mouth of the Nile. Hermopolis is the “Northern Unnu” (another Unnu is
in Southern Upper Egypt).
by foe Xerxes, who never gave anything to the gods
of Pe-Tep. Then spoke His Holiness to bring to him
the Priests
(and) Archons of Pe-Tep. They hastily brought (them)
to him.
His Holiness said, I wish to know the souls of the gods
of Pe-Tep
about this? What they did to the impious for the bad
action he had done?
They replied, The impious Xerxes had acted wrong-
fully to
Pe-Tep, he took away his possession. They spake to
His Holiness the King,
Lord and Horus, Son of Isis, Son of Osiris, Ruler of
Rulers, King
of Kings of Upper Egypt, King of Kings of Lower
Egypt, avenger of his father, Lord of Pe,
origin of the gods, there being afterwards no King like
him, threw away
the impious Xerxes from his palace with his eldest son,
making themselves known in the city Saïs of Neith on
this day at the side
of the Holy Mother. Thus spake His Holiness, This
mighty god amongst the gods,
there is no King after him, may he be bestowed on the
way of
holiness! I swear it. Then spake the Priests (and)
Archons of
Pe-Tep, May Your Holiness decree, to give the littoral,
the land
of Buto it is called, to the gods of Pe-Tep, with bread,
drinks, oxen, birds,
all good things, that it may be renewed in thy name for
its donation
to the gods of Pe-Tep a second time, as remunerating
the distinguishing
action of thine. Then answered this great Viceroy:
Let a decree be made
in writing at the seat of the King’s scribe of the audit
to this effect. Ptolemaus, Satrap of land of Buto, I
give
it to Horus the avenger of his father, Lord of Pe, (and)
to Buto, the Lady
of Pe-Tep, from this day and for ever, with its villages
all,
its cities all, all its inhabitants, all its meads, all its
waters,
all its oxen, all its birds, all its cattle herds,
(and) all things produced therein, what was (formerly)
and its additions (and) with the donation given by King,
Lord of both lands, Khabash, everliving. Its South
limit is domain of
the city Buto and Hermopolis, on the North against the
mouths of the Nile
on the North, the downs on the shore of the great sea,
on the West the mouths
of the oarsmen against the downs in the East
of the nome

1 This Khabas was the legitimate ruler of the country under the Persian
dominion, probably in the reign of Xerxes I, whom he revolted against
and expelled, together with his eldest son, from the town of Sais. According
to Lepsius, Khabash was the first king of the XXVIIIth dynasty;
the name occurs on one of the Apis sarcophagi in the Serapeum, but its
date is uncertain.
2 Possibly represented by the modern ruins of Kum el Aman and Kum
el Giz at the entrance of Lake Barullos.
3 In the XVth nome of Lower Egypt, probably represented by the ruins
of Kum Ferrain.
4 The city of Sekhur, or “the pliers of rudders;” this was situated on
the northern portion of the Borella branch of the Nile.
5 Lacuna.
74 of Sebennys, so that its calves may be for the Great Hawk, its oxen
75 for the face of Nebetaui-t, its cattle for the Living Hawk, its milk
76 to the Glorious Child,¹ its birds to him in Sa, who . . . .² life
77 his . . . . . .² is, all the fruits of its ground on the table of
78 Horus himself, Lord of Pe, and of Buto (lady) to the crown of Ra-Harmachis
79 for ever. All which is given to the utmost by the King, Lord of both lands,
80 Image of Tanen, chosen by Ptah, Son of the Sun, Khabash,
81 ever-living, (and the gift) is renewed by this great ruling Viceroy of Egypt,
82 Ptolemaeus, the donations to the gods of Pe-Tep for ever. In reward of this
83 for what he has done, may he receive victory and strength to his heart's content,
84 so that he may always be dreaded as now by strange people. The land of
85 Buto, whoever tries to plan its removal of any part
86 thereof, let him be excommunicated by those in Pe, let him
87 be cursed by those in Tep, that he may be in the burning breath of
88 the goddess Aptaui³ on the day of her dread, with neither a son nor a daughter to give him water.

¹ Horus Harpakhret. ² Lacunae. ³ One of the goddesses of the Akar, or hell.
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