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THE GREAT PYRAMID

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GIVING MAPS, PLANS, ELEVATIONS, AND SECTIONS
OF ALL THE MORE DIFFICULT AND CRUCIAL
PARTS OF THE STRUCTURE

BY

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ASTRONOMER-ROYAL FOR SCOTLAND

"O LORD GOD OF HOSTS . . . THE HEAVENS ARE THINE, THE EARTH ALSO
IS THINE; AS FOR THE WORLD, AND THE FULLNESS THEREOF, THOU HAST
FOUNDED THEM."

PSALM LXXXIX. 8, II.

"BECAUSE THAT WHICH MAY BE KNOWN OF GOD IS MANIFEST IN THEM;
FOR GOD HATH SHOWED IT UNTO THEM. FOR THE INVISIBLE THINGS OF HIM
FROM THE CREATION OF THE WORLD ARE CLEARLY SEEN, BEING UNDERSTOOD
BY THE THINGS THAT ARE MADE."

ROMANS I. 19, 20.

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darkness, even then; while onwards and above them, a continuation of the glorious gallery or upward rising hall of seven times, leading them on, as they expected, to the possession of all the treasures of the great ones of antediluvian times. Narrow, certainly, was the way—only 6 feet broad anywhere, and contracted to 3 feet at the floor—but 28 feet high, or almost above the power of their smoky lights to illuminate; and of polished, glistening, marble-like, cyclopean stone throughout. (See Plate XIII.)

That must surely, thought they, be the high-road to fortune and wealth. Up and up its long-ascending floor-line, therefore, ascending at an angle of 26° , these determined marauders, with their lurid fire-lights, had to push their dangerous and slippery way for 150 feet of distance more; then an obstructing three-foot step to climb over (what *could* the architect have meant by making a *step* so tall as that?); next a low doorway to bow their heads most humbly beneath (see Plates XIV. and XVI.); then a hanging portcullis to pass, almost to creep, under, most submissively; then another low doorway, in awful blocks of frowning red granite both on either side, and above and below. But after that, they leaped without further let or hindrance at once into the grand chamber, which was, and is still, the conclusion of everything forming the Great Pyramid's interior; the chamber to which, and for which, and towards which, according to every subsequent writer (for no older ones knew any fragment of a thing about it), in whatever other theoretical point he may differ from his modern fellows,—the whole Great Pyramid was originally built. (See Plate XVII.)

And what find they there, those maddened Muslim in Caliph Al Mamoun's train? A right noble apartment, now called the King's Chamber, roughly 34 feet long, 17 broad, and 19 high, of polished red granite

throughout, both walls, floor, and ceiling; in blocks squared and true, and put together with such exquisite skill that no autocrat Emperor of recent times could desire anything more solidly noble and at the same time beautifully refined.

Ay, ay, no doubt a well-built room, and a handsome one too; but what does it contain? Where is the treasure? The treasure! yes, indeed, where are the promised silver and gold, the jewels and the arms? The plundering fanatics look wildly around them, but can see nothing, not a single *dirhem* anywhere. They trim their torches, and carry them again and again to every part of that red-walled, flinty hall, but without any better success. Nought but pure, polished red granite, in mighty slabs, looks calmly upon them from every side. The room is clean, garnished too, as it were; and, according to the ideas of its founders, complete and perfectly ready for its visitors, so long expected, and not arrived yet; for the gross minds who occupy it now, find it all barren; and declare that there is nothing whatever of value there, in the whole extent of the apartment from one end to another; nothing, except *an empty stone chest without a lid*.

The Caliph Al Mamoun was thunderstruck. He had arrived at the very ultimate part of the interior of the Great Pyramid he had so long desired to take possession of; and had now, on at last carrying it by storm, found absolutely nothing that he could make any use of, or saw the smallest value in. So being signally defeated, though a Commander of the Faithful, his people began plotting against him.

But Al Mamoun was a Caliph of the able day of Eastern rulers for managing mankind; so he had a large sum of money secretly brought from his treasury, and buried by night in a certain spot near the end of his own quarried entrance-hole. Next day he caused the