

OUR INHERITANCE IN
THE GREAT PYRAMID

NEW AND ENLARGED EDITION

INCLUDING ALL THE MOST IMPORTANT DISCOVERIES UP TO
THE PRESENT TIME

With Seventeen Explanatory Plates

BY

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ASTRONOMER ROYAL FOR SCOTLAND

"BECAUSE THAT WHICH MAY BE KNOWN OF GOD IS MANIFEST IN THEM;
FOR GOD HATH SHEWED 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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by a curious hand ;” and in the great French work some efforts in a high class of design are engraved in line, to represent perspective views looking both upward and downward in the Grand Gallery ; but they are all of them to some extent failures. The circumstances are above the scope of orthodox pictures by reason of the narrow breadth, the lofty vaulting height, and the very peculiar sloping angle of the long floor ; a floor, when one looks from its north end southward, ascending, and ascending through the darkness apparently for ever ; and with such steepness, that no artist’s view of it, painted on a vertical plane, could ever hope to represent more than a small part of that floor, rising upward through the whole canvas and going out at the top. While on looking northward from the south end of the gallery, you lose the floor instantly, and see on the level of your eyes in the distance, part of the steeply descending ceiling ; descending, too, still further and going out at the bottom of the picture, if your means of illumination extend so far. (See Plate XII.) Otherwise, it is the solemn overlappings of the high dark walls, passing you by on either side, to draw together in dim and unknown perspective beyond, which encase you in on every hand ; but all on an uneasy slant, speaking of toil in one direction, danger in another, and a mountain of strength for a prison house, if so required, everywhere.

Modern Measures of the Passages.

In the first edition of this book, I was positively puzzled to make out, let alone the mysterious Grand Gallery, the simple sizes of the smaller passages ; and erred considerably in choosing among the conflicting testimonies of former travellers. But a four months’ residence on the spot, most completely settled all that class