ANTIQUITIES OF EGYPT.

Among the monuments brought from Egypt by the officers of the army of Gen. Bonaparte, is a valuable one found at Rosetta, which, say the French journals, "will go near, perhaps, to change our ideas, to revive our lost hopes, and enable us, at length, to resolve a problem, the solution of which had been judged impossible." This monument bears three inscriptions, the copy of which has been drawn upon the stone itself, by a particular process, invented by the Citizens Marcet and Gallard, one the Director, and the other the Corrector of the National Press, established at Cairo. General Dugua sent the copy to the National Institute of France, who referred it to Citizen Ameilhon, to enter among his first labours on Greek inscriptions. The three inscriptions of the monument, are written, the first, in hieroglyphic or sacred characters; the second, in characters of the language of the country, that is to say, such as was then vulgarly spoken in Egypt; and the third, in Greek characters. This last informs us, that they are all one and the same decree, expressed in three languages. From the circumstance of the authors of the decree having ordered it to be engraved on a stone of that kind. which is distinguished for its hardness, being of granite, according to the report of Gen. Dugua, it should seem that they wished to secure to this monument an unalterable existence. Notwithstanding this wise precaution, however, time, which devours every thing, has gnawed the stone in many of its parts, so that not one of the inscriptions is entire! That in hieroglyphic characters, which we are the most interested to know, is mutilated in every part, and what remains does not exceed half of the volume which it ought to have.

The inscription in the vulgar language of the country, and which likewise merits the particular attention of learned Orientalists, is the least injured. The Greek inscription has suffered much more than the preceding one. Of forty-four lines which it contains twenty four have been, more or less, corroded. Some have lost more than a quarter of their length, which disfigures the text so as to render it sometimes quite unintelligible.

Although this inscription is defective, enough appears to attest that it is a monument erected in honor of Ptolomy Epiphanes, son of Ptolomy Philopater, and of Arsinoe. Ptolomy Epiphanes was the fifth of fourteen sovereigns, who reigned in Egypt, after the death of Alexander, from Ptolomy, son of Lagus surnamed Soter, or Saviour, to the famous Cleopatra. This monument was erected by virtue of a decree issued by the priests, who had assembled from all parts of Egypt, at Memphis, to celebrate the feast of inauguration of the new king, son of Ptolomy Epiphanes. The name of Ptolomy, who is the object of the inscription, is hardly ever repeated without being accompanied by the words—ever living or immortal; beloved son of the God Ptha, or Vulcan; God Epiphanes, and most gracious. He is compared in it to Vulcan, to the Great Hermes, and to Orus, son of Isis and of Osiris. His father, his grandfather, and the other Ptolomies, his ancestors, partake with him of the honors of this pompous preamble, after which comes the first part of the decree. The priests here alledge the motives on which it is founded; the motives are, in general, the piety of the prince towards the gods, and his beneficence towards men.

The inscription purports, that Ptolomy Epiphanes had made great donations in silver, wheat, and other largesses of every kind, to the temples and to the priests who served them; that he had restored by force of arms, tranquility to Egypt; that he had afterwards fought to repair the evils of war, and to re establish the domestic comforts of the people, by remitting, either in whole, or in part, the taxes that were in arrears, and by diminishing the weight of those which were in force, on his accession to the throne. The inscription adds, that he had caused the prisons to be opened to those confined in them, and discharged a great number of accused persons who had been long expecting their sentence; that he had ordered all the duties and rents which constituted the domain of the temples, and all those which, under the reign of Ptolomy Philopater, his father, were collected, either in silver or in kind, every year, on the vines and on the gardens, to the profit of the gods, should continue to be exactly paid, as in the time preceding, and that the priests should pay no more for their personal imposition, than what they had been required to pay at the commencement of the reign of his father.

The inscription here refers to a particular fact, which is worthy of remark. It informs us that there were manufacturers of linen cloth, designated under the name of *byssus*, and dependent on the temples, and that every year a certain quantity of this merchandise was deducted partly for the service of the marine, and partly for the private service of the prince; and that Ptolomy Epiphanes, in one circumstance, ordered the remission of a part of this right or duty, and that in another he suspended the collection of it. This prince made other decrees in favor of the people and of religious worship, to dwell on which would exceed the limits prescribed in this extract. In the eighth year of the reign of Ptolomy Epiphanes, there was a great inundation of the Nile. This prince ordered dykes to be constructed to contain the river in its bed, and to prevent it from spreading over the plain country, as it generally did every year.

The inscription speaks also of the siege and capture of Lycopolis (city of Wolves) which this Prince took by assault. History comes here in support of the inscription. It informs that Lycopolis had revolted against Ptolomy Epiphanes, and that after having entered it as a conqueror, he treated the inhabitants with much severity; but if he punished with an extreme rigour the rebels who persisted in their revolt, he generously pardoned those who returned to their duty, and even ordered them to be re-established in their properties. The ox Apis, and the ox Mnevis, two of the greatest divinities of the antient religion of the Egyptians, had also a part in his pious liberalities.

Extending his foresight, says the inscription, further than his predecessors, he assigned considerable funds to defray the charge of their funerals and sepulture, and to support the expence of their worship and the maintenance of their temples. And thus, continues the inscription, the Gods, to recompence him for these beneficent actions, have given him health, strength, victory, and every other advantage which can render a prince happy. The priests then pass to the arrete or conclusion of their decree.

This second part of the inscription is unfortunately that which has suffered the most from the injuries of time. There appears on it nevertheless, clearly enough, so as to leave no sort of doubt, that the decree is to this effect. That the temples which had been constructed before, in honor of Ptolomy Epiphanes, and of four other Ptolomies, his predecessors, should be considerably augmented and embellished; that in each of the temples, a statue shall be erected to Ptolomy Epiphanes, which shall be called the statue of *Ptolomy, the defender of Egypt*; that before it shall be placed the principal divinity of the temple, presenting him with the attributes or trophies of victory; that the priests shall perform their service before these images, three times a day; that there shall be likewise placed in the sanctuary of the temple a small statue of the new God, inclosed in a little temple or shrine; that the little temple and the statue shall be carried, like those of the other Gods, in those great solemnities where it was usual to convey them from the tabernacle, and march them pompously in public, from which these solemnities obtained the name of *Exodus* or *departure from the Temples*. In spite of the ruins of this part of the inscription, and the disorganization of the text it is pretty evident that it refers to certain details relative to the worship of the new divinity; and also particularly to a grand festival which was to commence at the *neomenia* or new moon of the month Thouth, and to last five days, during which the priests were to carry crowns on their heads.

As to the date of this curious monument we may fix it, without fearing to be much mistaken, at the year 168 before the christian era. In effect, Ptolomy Epiphanes dying, according to the best chronologists, in the year 177 before the vulgar era, it follows that the inauguration of his son, which took place nine years after, must be referred to the year 161. But the inscription and inauguration of Ptolomy Philometer, son of Ptolomy Epiphanes, are of the same epoch, as the inscription attests.

This is the result of the first labour on the Greek inscription of Ptolomy Epiphanes, in which the learned interpreters did not push their scruples so far as not to finish a word commenced, or not to terminate a clause, the sense of which could not be obscure, as the words preserved necessarily re-call those which have disappeared; the second and third, it seems, present greater difficulties to overcome, and will require great efforts to arrive at the end proposed.

Latest Foreign Intelligence.

LONDON, August 15.

The following article is from a Sunday paper, said to be written by an unknown correspondent, but professing to come from authority. We give it of course, without committing ourselves for the truth of the assertion it communicates:

"The reports of the recal of Mr. Otto, which were so industriously propagated some days since, were entirely without foundation. There is no more truth in the rumor that the negociation with the French government was either broken off or suspended; on the contrary, it is continued with increased activity; and from the sentiments which the French government has within these few days expressed, the hope of a speedy termination to the war in a manner honorable to both parties, is more likely than ever."

OF PORTUGAL.

It still appears to be unknown, whether France or Portugal are at peace or not.

It is said that the troops on board the French squadron under admiral Linois, were destined to take possession of Lisbon. The greatest exertions were making at that place, by the last accounts, to equip a fleet—5000 men had been pressed. Among the conjectures respecting the object of this equipment is, to protect the Brazils.

It has been supposed that sir H. Popham's squadron was destined against the Brazils—it is now reported that it was to make an attack on the Isle of France.

The court of Portugal has sent an envoy to Russia, to induce the emperor to use his good offices in securing the independence of the country.

RUSSIA, FRANCE & HOLLAND.

The following circular letter, dated 19th of June, sent by the Russian government to all its diplomatic ministers and agents, for the regulation of their conduct with regard to foreign French ministers and ambassadors, has lately appeared:

"All the relations of policy, commerce, and correspondence with France, which were interrupted in consequence of the revolution in that country, have not yet been re-established in their full extent; but as at the present moment negociations are going on to effect a reconciliation with that power by every means consistent with the dignity of the emperor, and the interests of the people, his majesty has been pleased to charge his ministers to apprize his foreign ambassadors and agents, that he is willing to renew the usual course of connection with that government, and that the conferences respecting that object are in full activity.

"In the situation in which this matter stands, therefore, it is no longer proper that the ambassadors of his Imperial majesty should continue to observe any distance towards the ambassadors of the French government. It is therefore enjoined to you, sir, on all occasions to testify the ordinary and becoming respect for them which is usual between the ministers of powers that are in good understanding with each other, and to communicate with them on all occasions in which the interest of our most gracious sovereign may be concerned.

(Signed)
"PRINCE A. KURAKIN."

The following circular letter has likewise been sent respecting the agents of the Batavian republic:

"As the emperor on his accession to the throne, found that the Batavian republic was recognized, and that a minister from the same had been accredited by the emperor his father, his majesty has thought it his duty not to innovate in the least upon their proceedings. As this resolution of the emperor, however, removes all the reasons of hostility, and the grounds of further interruption of correspondence between the two governments, you are therefore directed to communicate with the ministers of the said republic, who reside where you are respecting every object of policy, commerce or other relation, in which the interest or the service of the emperor, your master, is concerned.

I am,
A. KURAKIN.

COPENHAGEN, August 1.

On the 29th July, citizen Bourgoing and general M'Donald, his successor as minister plenipotentiary of the French republic at our court, had an audience of the king, the former on his taking leave, and the latter on presenting his credentials. On this occasion they delivered themselves to the following effect:

SPEECH OF CITIZEN BOURGOING,
At his audience on taking leave of the court the 29th of July.

"SIRE,

"Called by the French republic to represent it at another court, I quit your majesty's with real and unaffected concern. It is with real satisfaction I reflect that my mission has occurred during one of the most splendid periods of your majesty's reign.

"I depart from hence fully impressed with the attention and kindness shewn me during my short stay in Denmark, the limits of which I should have been happy to have had extended. I shall esteem myself fortunate, should my gratitude entitle me to a place in your majesty's remembrance; and still more so, should my new mission afford me an opportunity of proving to the Danish nation my attachment to its government, and high regard for its sovereign."

SPEECH OF GENERAL MACDONALD.
Minister plenipotentiary of the French republic, on his audience of presentation, the 29th of July.

"SIRE,

"The French nation, which had to contend with such numerous foes, in a long and bloody conflict, now so gloriously terminated, observes, with the most perfect satisfaction, the friendly connection adopted between France and Denmark.

"The first Consul of the republic, Sire, could give me no greater proof of his confidence, than entrusting me with the office of consolidating the good understanding which subsists between your majesty and France, and appointing me the interpreter of the French nation and the army, to express their admiration of the noble and glorious efforts of your majesty, and the Danish nation, for the preservation of their lost rights—efforts which will ever remain a monument of the renown of the Danish nation.

"It is, Sire, as agreeable as flattering to me, to assure your majesty on this occasion, that I personally participate in the same sentiments. It will be my happiness to become more intimately acquainted with that virtue, wisdom, and good faith, which actuate your government; and while they promote the interests of your people, give energy to your majesty's arms, and dignity to your throne."

PARIS, August 13.

The British gen. Hutchinson, has opened a passage to the sea from the lake of Aboukir to that of Sabacca, and has thereby deprived Alexandria of its supply of water. The inhabitants consider him as an object of horror.

SWITZERLAND.

The constitution prescribed to Switzerland not being agreeable to many of its inhabitants, a violent opposition is made to its establishment.

To be Sold,

On TUESDAY *the 27th of this instant, at the dwelling place of* Mary Jackson, *in Prince George's county, near Caldwin's Tavern, the following Property, viz.*

Six Negroes, consisting of one Negro man who is a very good carpenter, and two Negro women, and two lads about sixteen years of age, and one Negro girl, two Horses, Plantation Utensils, and many other articles too tedious to mention—the property of Fielding Belt, late of Prince George's county, deceased. A credit of nine months will be given, the purchaser or purchasers to give bonds or notes, as the case may require with approved security, with interest from the day of sale.

Also all persons having claims against the estate of said Fielding Belt, are desired to exhibit them to the subscribers, legally authenticated for settlement, on or before the 10th day of August next ensuing or they will be deprived of any benefit arising from the estate, and all persons indebted to said estate are requested to make immediate payment, otherwise suits will be instituted against them without respect to persons.

TOBIAS BELT and BEAL DUVALL, } Administrators

October 5. 3t

DISTRICT OF POTOWMAC, To wit:

(L. S.) BE IT REMEMBERED, That on the thirty first day of August, in the twenty sixth year of the Independence of the United States of America, AUGUSTUS B. WOODWARD, of the said District, hath deposited in this office the title of a book, the right whereof he claims as author, in the words following, to wit: "Considerations on the Substance of the Sun"; in conformity to the act of the Congress of the United States, entitled, "An act for the encouragement of learning, by securing the copies of maps, charts, and books, to the authors and proprietors of such copies, during the times therein mentioned." Witness GEORGE DENEALE clerk of the DISTRICT of POTOWMAC, the day, month, and year aforesaid.

GEORGE DENEALE, clerk.

September 9, 1801. w5t