

OPERATIONS
CARRIED ON AT
THE PYRAMIDS OF GIZEH

IN 1837:

WITH AN ACCOUNT OF
A VOYAGE INTO UPPER EGYPT,

AND

An Appendix.

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THE THIRD PYRAMID.

[For a description of the Interior, see p. 72, &c. Vol. II.]

In order to obtain a level for the site of this Pyramid, instead of lowering the rock towards the westward, a substruction, more than ten feet in depth, has been laid in the opposite direction, and particularly towards the north-eastwards, where the rock falls considerably. This foundation is composed of two tiers of immense blocks, and extends to a considerable distance beyond the

north-eastern angle, where it forms a sort of pavement, and has, no doubt, been covered over with finer masonry.

The bulk of the pyramid has been more carefully and compactly built than the two larger, and the stones have been better finished, and are of a greater size. It has been carried up in steps or stages, diminishing towards the top like those in the Fourth and Sixth Pyramids; and the angular spaces have been afterwards filled up, so as to complete the pyramidal form.

The casing has been taken away at various times: some of it was removed a few years ago to assist in the construction of the arsenal at Alexandria; and it was afterwards intended to remove the whole structure, as material for the projected barrage.

The lower part of the casing consisted of polished granite, as the antient historians have described;¹ but the eleven or twelve courses² towards the bottom are not worked smooth, but form a sort of rusticated base, inclining like the rest of the pyramid.

It is most probable that both the chasms in the northern front were made by the Mamelucs: but Mr. Perring was informed, that the lower was the work of M. Jemel, and that that gentleman had made several unsuccessful attempts to discover an entrance on the southern and eastern fronts, and also in the pit before the centre of the northern.

The entrance into this pyramid does not appear to have been concealed; indeed it is said that the name of the monarch, for whom it was intended, was inscribed over it.³

TABLE OF DIMENSIONS.

	Feet.	Inches.
Base	354	6
Present height, perpendicular	203	0
— inclined	261	4
Former height, perpendicular	218	
— inclined	278	2
Angle of casing, 51°.		
Square of platform at top, about	16	0
Present height of granite, perpendicular from the base.		
On the western side	36	9
On the northern side	25	10
Upper excavation made by the Mamelucs.		
Height from the base	71	3

¹ As far as C in vertical section.

² The antient historians say fifteen.

³ Diodorus Siculus, lib. i. p. 164.

	Feet.	Inches.
Average breadth - - - - -	12	0
Depth from the face of pyramid - - - - -	38	0
Lower excavation.		
Height from the base - - - - -	35	3
Average breadth - - - - -	11	0
Depth from the face of pyramid - - - - -	31	0
Height from the base to the gallery, began by M. Caviglia at the southern end of excavation made by the Mamelucs - - - - -	77	6
Extent of excavation made by M. Caviglia from November 1836 to 13th February, 1837 - - - - -	6	0
Extent to which that excavation was carried from thence by Colonel Howard Vyse, to centre of the first shaft	52	0
Depth of the first shaft - - - - -	29	0
Horizontal passage to centre of second shaft - - - - -	11	6
Depth of second shaft to the rock at the bottom of the pyramid - - - - -	49	6
Extent of gallery between first and second shafts towards the centre of the pyramid - - - - -	18	6
Extent of gallery at the bottom of second shaft towards the centre of the pyramid - - - - -	22	0
<i>Note.</i> — Both these latter excavations intersect the centre of the pyramid.		
Excavation eastward at the bottom of the second shaft	13	0
Depth of pit sunk at bottom of second shaft into the rock - - - - -	4	6
Entrance-passage in centre of northern front.		
Perpendicular height from bottom of passage to base	13	0
Angle of passage 26° 2'.		
Length of granite sides and floor - - - - -	28	2
Length of granite roof - - - - -	29	8
Total length from entrance to bottom of incline - - - - -	104	0
Breadth - - - - -	3	5½
Height perpendicular to incline - - - - -	3	11½
From bottom of incline to anteroom - - - - -	4	3
Anteroom, length north and south - - - - -	12	0
Breadth east and west - - - - -	10	5
Height - - - - -	7	0
From anteroom to end of the three portcullises - - - - -	13	5
Passage from portcullis to large apartment.		
Length - - - - -	41	3
Breadth - - - - -	3	5½
Height - - - - -	5	10
Angle of passage 4°.		