



"EGYPT"  
THE SPHINX.

81. "THE SPHINX," EGYPT.—Sphinx is a Greek word signifying the squeezer or strangler applied to certain symbolical forms of Egyptian origin. In the Egyptian hieroglyphs the Sphinx bears the name of Neb or Lord and Akar, or Intellect, corresponding to the account of Clemens that these emblematic figures depicted intellect and force. It is sculptured out of a spar of rock itself, to which masonry has been added in certain places to complete the form, and measures 172 feet 6 inches long by 56 feet high. This was symbolical form of the monarch considered as a conqueror, the head of the reigning king being placed on a lion's body, the face bearded and the usual dress drapery being suspended before it. Thus used, the Sphinx was generally male, but in case of female rulers the figure has a female head and the body of a lioness.

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