



Travels or observations relating to several parts of Barbary and the Levant Volume 2 ; illustrated with copperplates

Thomas Shaw

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This historic book may have numerous typos and missing text. Purchasers can download a free scanned copy of the original book (without typos) from the publisher. Not indexed. Not illustrated. 1808 Excerpt: ...is brought down with the wa'ter; and the bridges' (such, we may imagine, as were formerly built over the canals, when the Nile did not rise so high) ' are broken down, or 'covered,' (as we may again imagine, by the augmented impetuosity or height of the stream);' and 1 the Nile, by the appointment of the most high 'God, is reduced to these three states: the in'sufficient, which is sixteen cubits more or less; 'the middle, which is from seventeen to eighteen 'cubits or thereabouts; and the high, which is 'when it exceeds eighteen cubits; and somc'times it will rise to twenty.' Since the time therefore of Herodotus, by making twenty cubits only the standard, Egypt has gained two hundred and thirty inches of soil. And again, if we look back from the reign of Myris to the time of the deluge, and reckon that interval by the same proportion, we shall find the whole perpendicular accession of soil, from the deluge to A. D. 1721, to be five hundred inches. The land of Egypt therefore, agreeably to the rcra and conjecture above, and reckoning by a cubit of twenty-five inches only, has gained forty-one feet eight inches of soil in 4072 years. Thus, in process of time," the whole country may be raised to such a height, that Vtx. by reckoning according to Mr Bedford's Tables, from the Deluge to A. D. 1721, the year when I was in Egypt. t the river will not be able to overflow it; and Egypt consequently, from being the most fertile, wiH, for want of this annual inundation, become one of the most barren parts of the universe. The objections that have been made to this hypothesis will be hereafter considered. However, among the many doubts and difficulties that have been already mentioned, or may be hereafter raised upon this subject, there will always be room to ma...

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