

The existing sculptures represent the wars and conquests of the Thothmes, the Rameses, Shishak, &c., the offerings to, and the representations of the different gods they worshipped, together with their funereal ritual and other mysteries, and they also afford us an interesting and detailed representation of the pursuits, trades, arts, and amusements of this ancient people. Their palaces and temples are still the admiration of travellers; and the paintings in their tombs exhibit to us the splendid and elegant furniture, which they used. Chairs more magnificent than any of the present day, luxurious couches, and beautiful vases, and services, convey to us a correct idea of the opulence and luxury of the great and wealthy among them.

The pictorial decorations are not merely evidence of the magnificence of the Egyptians: their private life is also so faithfully and minutely depicted on the walls of the sepulchres, that we may, as it were, follow them even to the retirement of their