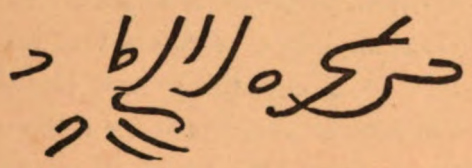
was discovered, excepting some rude and unconnected Arabic words and characters[2] scrawled with something like chalk on various parts of the walls, and on the inside of the sarcophagus.[3] The only words that could be made out were Mahomet Rasoul over the entrance. The sarco-



phagus is supposed to have been originally placed in the centre of the chamber, to which its proportions were very similar, but it had been moved, and was found

[2] As soon as these writings were discovered, I sent to the Shereef of Mecca to request permission for the Cadi to examine them, who, on the 2d of July, had explained those found in the Fifth Pyramid. The Cadi was at Alexandria, but the Shereef was so good as to send two other persons on the 3d inst., as will subsequently be seen, but they could only make out the above words; and, I was afterwards informed, thought proper to say, that I had myself written them. I then endeavoured, but without success, to procure persons from Cairo who understood antient Arabic characters. From the desultory manner in which these writings are scrawled over the walls and ceilings, I do not however believe that they have any connected meaning. They are probably the names of visitors or of workmen, or, perhaps, a few phrases from the Koran. I tried in vain to copy them; they were extremely faint, and could not be made out.

[3] As the sarcophagus would have been destroyed, had it remained in the pyramid, I resolved to send it to the British Museum. The difficulties with which Mr. Raven had to contend in this operation, were not trifling. One of the ramps in the inclined passage was to be removed in order to get it into the large apartment, where it was placed upon trucks, and the blocks in the anteroom having been got rid of, it arrived at the bottom of the entrance passage. By means of a number of men, and of a crab at the mouth of the pyramid, it had been conveyed half way up, when, owing to the roughness of the bottom, the trucks on one side

Generated through HathiTrust on 2025-08-19 08:24 GMT
https://hdl.handle.net/2027/njp.32101073396473 / Public Domain, Google-digitized
Digitized by Google
Original from PRINCETON UNIVERSITY