

beside the Nile. Northern or Lower Egypt consists of the Nile delta, a region about one hundred forty miles in length and maybe one hundred miles in width, where the Nile divides into a large number of different mouths, thus producing a wider area of extremely great fertility. As a result of Egypt's very dry climate, archeological remains have lasted better in Egypt than almost anywhere else in the world. Its colossal ruins form a great outdoor museum. Roman tourists visited the pyramids and other great monuments of Egypt, and pondered over their meaning. During the Middle Ages the land was regarded as an area of mystery and enchantment. Naturally it was one of the first regions where archeology made great advances.

Another feature that is important in the history of Egypt is its isolation. The wilderness protected it on both sides. To the south lay a barren desert, broken only by the course of the Nile. To the north was the Mediterranean Sea. Only from the northeast was it vulnerable, and the few successful attacks in its history usually came from that direction. The very great fertility provided by the constant waters of the Nile and by their annual overflow provided a high level of prosperity which could support a great civilization, while the comparative isolation of the land made possible a long and continuous development of civilization, such as is hard to parallel elsewhere.

B. Egyptian Remains.

The ancient kings of Egypt erected enormous monuments to retain their memory, including many statues, obelisks, and temples. Careful and systematic examination of these monuments began in 1798 when Napoleon took a large group of French scientists to Egypt and set them at work to prepare a description of the wonders of Egypt, which was later published. Since that time many scholars