

epoch in which this statement was made (1350 before Christ.)

After these kings came Sesostris, who carried his conquests even to Colchis;(1) and in all, there were to Sethos 341 kings and 341 high priests, in 341 generations, during 11,340 years; and in this space, as if to corroborate their genealogy, these priests asserted that the sun had risen twice where he sets, without effecting any change in their climate or the productions of the country; and previously to them no deity had appeared or reigned in Egypt.

To this improbability, which, in spite of all the explanations which have been given, proves so gross an ignorance of astronomy, they add concerning Sesostris, Phero, Helenus, and Rhampsinitus, the kings who built the pyramids, and an Ethiopian conqueror, named Sabacos, tales equally preposterous.

The Theban priests did better; they pointed out to Herodotus, and had previously shown to Hecateus, 345 wooden colossal figures representing 345 high priests, who had succeeded father to son, all men, all born one from the other, who had been preceded by gods.(2)

Other Egyptians told him that they had correct registers, not only of the reign of men, but of that of the gods. They reckoned 17,000 years from Hercules to Amases, and 15,000 from Bacchus. Pan was even earlier than Hercules.(3)

These people evidently mistook for history some

(1) Herodotus thought that he had detected similarities of figure and colour between the Colchians; but it is infinitely more probable that the black Colchians of whom he speaks, were an Indian colony attracted by the commerce anciently established between India and Europe by the Oxus, the Caspian, and the Phasis. See Ritter, *Vestibule*, chap. i.

(2) *Euterpe*, chap. cxliii.

(3) *Ibid.* cxliv.