

figures that we now use, but arranged in a peculiar manner. It has been thought that this distribution represents the state of the heavens at the moment when these monuments were delineated, and that it would be possible thence to decide on the date of the building of the edifices which contain them.(1)

(1) Thus, at Dendera (the ancient Tentyris,) a city above Thebes, in the portico of the great temple which faces the north,\* there are on the ceiling the signs of the zodiac marching in two bands, one of which is along the east side, and the other on the opposite side; they are each held in the embrace of a female figure of similar length, whose feet are towards the entrance, the head and arms towards the bottom of the portico, and consequently the feet are towards the north, and the head towards the south.

The Lion heads the band which is in the western side; he is directing his course towards the north, or the feet of the female figure, and his feet are towards the eastern wall. The Virgin, the Balance, the Scorpion, the Archer, and the Capricorn, follow in the same line. This latter is towards the bottom of the portico, and near the hands and head of the large female figure. The signs of the eastern band begin at that extremity when those of the other band finish, and are consequently directed towards the bottom of the portico, or towards the arms of the tall figure. They have their feet towards the lateral wall of their own side, and the heads in the contrary direction to the opposite band. The Aquarius (Verseau,) is advancing foremost, followed by the Fishes, the Ram, the Bull, and the twins. The last of the series, which is the Cancer, or rather Scarabæus (or beetle,) for this insect is substituted for the Cancer of the Greeks in the zodiacs of Egypt, is thrown on one side on the legs of the great figure. The place it should occupy is filled by a globe placed on the apex of a pyramid composed of small triangles which represent a kind of rays, and in front of its base is a large female head, with two small horns. A second Scarabæus is placed sideways and across on the first band in the angle which the feet of the large figure form with the body, and in front of the space where the Lion is advancing, which is rather behind. At the other end of the same band, the Capricorn is very near the bottom, or the

\* See the great work on Egypt, Antiq. v. lv. pl. xx.