

that it pointed out, for example, the position of the solstitial point; and, secondly, that the state of the heavens represented, was precisely that which took place at the epoch when this monument was constructed; two suppositions, which of themselves evidently suppose many others.

In fact, are the figures of these zodiacs constellations, the real groups of stars which now bear the same name, or simply what astronomers call signs;

ward; the Scarabæus precedes it, and this latter is headed by the Twins marching in the same direction. The Bull, on the contrary, meets them, going in an easterly direction; but the Ram and the Fishes take the direction towards the bottom, or towards the west.

At the band on the northern side, the Aquarius is near the bottom, or the west, advancing towards the entrance, or the east, their feet turned towards the wall, preceded by the Capricorn and the Sagittary, which are going in opposite directions. The other signs are lost; but, it is evident that the Virgin should go at the head of this band on the side of the entrance.

Amongst the accessory figures of this small zodiac, we must remark two winged Rams, placed crosswise, the one between the Bull and the Twins; the other between the Scorpion and the Sagittary; and each nearly in the middle of its band, the second, however, rather more advanced towards the entrance.

It was thought, at first, that in the great zodiac of Esne, the division at the entrance was made between the Virgin and the Lion, and that of the bottom between the Fish and the Aquarius.

But Mr. Hamilton, and MM. de Jollois and Villiers have imagined that they discovered in the Sphynx, which preceded the Virgin, a repetition of the Lion, analogous to that of the Cancer in the great zodiac of Dendera; so that, according to them, the division should be made in the Lion. In fact, without this explanation, there would be only five signs on one side, and seven on the other.

As to the small zodiac at the north of Esne, we cannot tell if there be any emblem analogous to the Sphynx, because this part is destroyed.*

* British Review, February, 1827, p. 136; and the end of the Critical Letter on Zodiacomania, p. 33.