

THE
HISTORY
OF
CHAROBA,
Queen of Ægypt.

TAKEN FROM A
HISTORY OF ANCIENT ÆGYPT,
ACCORDING TO THE
TRADITIONS OF THE ARABIANS.

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OF
CHAROBA,
Queen of Egypt.

CHAROBA, was the only daughter and heir of *Totis* king of *Egypt*; who was likewise called *Pharaon*, and *Pheron*, by other nations.

In the reign of *Totis*, *Abram* the beloved of God came into *Egypt*; and it is written, that he would have corrupted *Sarah* the wife of *Abram*, but God punished the king, and delivered his servants. Afterwards *Totis* shewed them great respect, and offered them gold and treasures, but they refused them.

them. Then he recommended *Sarab* to his daughter *Cbaroba*, and desired her to shew her some tokens of respect. *Cbaroba* was a young and blooming Virgin, handsome, ingenious, and of a generous spirit, she took *Sarab* into her friendship, shewed her all kinds of honour, and sent her many rich presents.—*Sarab* brought them all to *Abrabam*, and asked his advice concerning them; he ordered her to restore them, and to say that they had no need of them.—*Sarab* therefore returned them all to *Cbaroba*, who was surpris'd, and acquainted her father with all that had pass'd, which increased his admiration of them; seeing they refused all those things, which others the most eagerly sought, and used every means to obtain. And he said unto his daughter,—“ These are persons of high estimation, who are full of holiness and sincerity, and are not covetous of perishable goods;—*Cbaroba* do whatever you can to shew them honour, that they may leave their blessing with us when they depart our country.

After

After this, *Charoba* gave *Hagar* unto *Sarab*, who was in due time the mother of our father *Ishmael* (God's peace be with him!)—*Hagar* was a beautiful young maiden, a Coptess by nation. When she was presented to *Sarab*, *Charoba* said—“ Behold thy recompence,” therefore *Sarab* called her *Agar*.

When *Abrabam* had resolved to return out of *Ægypt* into *Syria*, *Cbaroba* provided many baskets of provision of all kinds, with preserved fruits and many excellent things to eat by the way; saying “ these things are only for your accommodation by the way, and not to enrich you.”

Sarab told *Abrabam* of this, and he permitted her to accept this present, saying, “ there was no harm in receiving it from the generous princefs.” *Totis* requested of *Abrabam* that he would pray to God for his benediction of his country.—*Abrabam* therefore prayed to God for *Ægypt* and its inhabitants.—He also gave his benediction to the *Nile*, and told *Totis* that his family should reign there for many ages.—Likewise he gave his

his benediction to *Charoba*, and *Sarab* gave her the hand of friendship, and they departed out of *Ægypt*.

Charoba caused mules to be loaden with her provisions, and sent her own people to conduct them till they were gotten quite out of *Ægypt*.

Being got a good way on their journey, *Abraham* said unto *Sarab*, " Give us to eat " some of those provisions which the princess " of *Ægypt* gave unto you." Then *Sarab* ordered the baskets to be set before them, and they, and their companions also, eat of the provisions.—And they did so many days.—But when they came to the last basket, they found it full of precious jewels, and curious things, and changes of garments.—Whereupon *Abraham* said, " this princess hath deceived us, and obliged us to accept of her " treasures.—Great God give her subtilty to " deceive her enemies, and to vanquish all " those who shall arise to do her harm, and " to strive with her for her land!—Bless her " in her country, and in her river, and make " that

" that country a place of plenty, safety, and " prosperity! "

When the beloved of God was come into the land of *Syria*, he spent those gifts in pious works,—in lodging and feeding pilgrims, and in making many wells, which he ordered to be common. He also bought flocks and herds, which he set apart for all travellers,—for the poor and needy,—for the lame and the blind: and God gave him his benediction, and caused his riches to increase and multiply. Also God gave him children after a long time, and in his old age:—first *Hagar* bore him a son which was our father *Ishmael*; and after some years *Sarab* likewise bare a son.—And *Hagar* and her son left *Syria* and went into *Arabia*.—And *Hagar* sent a messenger to *Charoba*, to acquaint her that she had borne a son,—whereat *Charoba* rejoiced, and sent her abundance of gold, and jewels, and fine *Ægyptian* linen, to dress her son withal. Out of these treasures *Hagar* provided ornaments for the square temple at *Mecca*, and she also established a porter in the same temple.

Tetis

Totis king of *Ægypt*, lived till after that time, and *Hagar* sent him word that she had a strong and valiant son; but that they lived in a barren land, and prayed him to supply them with provisions.

To this end, *Totis* caused a channel to be made on the Eastern side of *Ægypt*, and brought into it the water of the *Nile*, so that it carried vessels into the salt sea, which is the channel of the red Sea.—By this way he caused Wheat to be sent to *Hagar* and her son, and many other presents.—They went by water as far as *Gedde*, and from thence were carried to *Mecca* on the backs of beasts.—By these means God preserved the inhabitants of *Mecca*, and relieved their wants;—therefore the *Arabians* spoke well of *Totis*, and called him the *just*, as having performed the promises he made them, and given proofs of his good will to them.—Nevertheless, *Totis* was more feared than beloved in his own Country, for he did many unjust and cruel actions. Moreover he put many people to death, and particularly those of his own family,

family, even his nearest relations; and this he did out of jealousy of them, lest they should deprive his daughter of the crown after his death:—but *Charoba* was of a mild and gentle disposition, always endeavouring to prevent the shedding of blood. She was also of a great capacity and ingenuity:—she concealed a near kinsman from the King's cruelty, and preserved him and his family; one of which she afterwards appointed to succeed her on the throne, as we shall shew hereafter.

Totis in his old age, was hated and feared by all the nobility; and even *Charoba* dreaded his cruelty. She also suspected that they would take away the Crown from his posterity; therefore, it was surmised, that she connived at the conspiracy against his life; for he was poisoned, but no man knew by what means, or by what persons.

After *Totis* was dead, the people could not, at first, agree about a successor:—Some said they would have the race of *Abribas*, one of their ancient princes,—others would have a

new family called to the throne:—most of them objected to the government of a woman.—While they were thus undetermined, one of the Viziers rose up, and spoke thus to them.

“ My friends,—*Charoba* is a woman of great understanding, she is likewise of a mild and merciful disposition;—there is no reason why she should be excluded from the succession:—moreover the good man that came from *Syria* and his wife have given her their benedictions:—she is beloved by all that are acquainted with her noble qualities, and if you take the crown from her and give it to another, you will certainly have cause to repent of your precipitation.”

The people on better consideration, inclined to this good advice, and the grandees of the kingdom by degrees came into it: so they deputed this Vizier to go to *Charoba*, and in their name, intreat her to fill the vacant throne. So that Vizier placed *Charoba*, in the royal seat.—The first time she sat on the royal

royal throne, she gave great sums away to the people; shewing great liberality, and promising much happiness to all her subjects,—she doubled the pay of the soldiers,—she honoured the priests and sages, and the chiefs of the nobility.—She likewise countenanced the magicians and their fraternity,—she caused the temples to be repaired and enlarged, and built many public edifices. She reigned many years wisely and happily; and she remembered the benediction of *Abraham*, and believed that by the protection of his God, she subdued all her enemies, and was respected by her people.

After a long time, it happened that *Gebirus* the *Metaphequian* heard of her fame; and he was minded to pay her a visit, and oblige her to marry him.—*Gebirus* was of a gigantic stature, and descended from the race of the *Gadites*,—and when he sat on the ground seemed as high as the tallest men,—he was strong of body, and fierce of disposition,—he had a distemper in his body that gave him constant pain;—his physicians advised him to seek out another country, the

foil of which, with the air and water were more suitable to his temperament.

They gave him such an account of the land of *Ægypt*, that he resolved to go and take up his abode there.—He called together all his people,—he distributed money and arms among them, and then declared to them his design of taking possession of the land of *Ægypt*; and flattered them with the hopes of victory, reward, and a settlement, in a country that was the garden of the world.—Soon after he began his march, and took with him five thousand *Gadites*, men of great stature and strength; every one of which carried a large stone upon his head, and was completely armed. He travelled till he came to the borders of *Ægypt*, and then sent a message to the Queen, desiring to know in what place she chose he should enter *Ægypt*; for he was unwilling to oppose her in any thing, but would appear to be obedient to all her commands.—His design was to marry her, and make himself King of *Ægypt*; or, in case she refused him, to dam up the course of the *Nile*, with the stones his people

people brought upon their heads,—to turn the channel into another country and so make the *Ægyptians* die of famine, and to ruin their country. He sent a splendid Embassy to *Charoba*, bragging of his strength and riches, and offering himself to be her husband.

Charoba had a woman servant, who had been her nurse,—an artful, subtle, contriving woman, and a great Enchantress.—*Charoba* consulted her in all affairs, and advised with her on this emergency.—She gave her advice to this effect.—“It seems to me that there is
“no probability of defeating these huge bo-
“dies by fighting, we must rather subdue
“them by stratagem: And to this end, we
“must manage our business so, that they may
“neither do harm to you, nor your sub-
“jects.—I will therefore, with your permis-
“sion, go myself to him and give an answer
“to his embassy in your name.”

The Queen bade her do what seemed best to her. She ordered many of her servants to wait upon the nurse, to do her honour in

the fight of the Prince, and to shew that she was highly esteemed by her mistress.

The nurse took with her, presents of the most valuable things in *Ægypt*,—precious stones, carved works, preserved fruits, costly garments, perfumes, arms, fine tempered swords, &c.—She presented all these rarities to *Gebirus*, which he willingly received, and afterwards enquired what answer she brought to his suit.—“Great King,” said she, “My mistress is sensible of your valor and merit, and is far from refusing so advantageous an offer; but she must wait for a proper time, before she can reward your love according to your deserts.—The nobility are jealous of a foreign prince; and she must manage with them so as to bring them to agree, and to receive you as their sovereign lord; in the mean time you must shew readiness to obey all her commands;—to reside where she shall appoint, and to do what she shall require, and she will take care to provide for you and your servants.” He returned for answer

answer.—“If she will receive me for her husband, I am ready to obey her commands in all things; and if the nobility refuse to accept me for a King, let her call upon me, and I will compel them to her will:—and tell her for a marriage gift, I will bring her whatever she pleases to ask of me.”—“My Queen,” replied this cunning ambassador, “needs not any thing of yours, seeing, that all the riches on both sides, will henceforward be in common between you: but while she is employed in promoting your interest and happiness, she desires that instead of a marriage present, you will cause a city to be built on that side next the great sea, that it may be an honorable mark of your affection to her even to the end of the world.—And that it may be a discovery of your great power, and strength, she would have you employ in this work, those great stones and pillars, which she is informed you brought to dam up the channel of the *Nile*;—by this you will give proof of your good intentions towards

" the inhabitants of *Ægypt*, and you will gain their love and duty towards you.— Moreover when this work is finished, she will over-rule all other difficulties, and make you her husband before all the world."

The King was exceeding glad at this proposal, and granted her request.—And so it was agreed between them that he should enter *Ægypt* on the west side, and that he should found a city there; which was in the same place where *Alexandria* now standeth. So he encamped his army on the sea-side, and *Charoba* sent provisions for him and his people.

Now there were the ruins of a city in that place, which city was founded by *Sedad* the son of *Gad*, who was a great King, and purposed to bring thither whatever was rare and precious in all parts of the world. But the destroyer of castles prevented him, even Death, which none can escape or avoid.— There were many remains of this ancient city, and *Gebirus* caused to be brought thither, all
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the stones and the pillars he had brought into *Ægypt*. And he assembled the engineers and the artists from all those parts, and they made a model for the new city; and *Charoba* sent him a thousand workmen. Now the nurse who was *Charoba's* confident, by her orders consulted the magicians; and they by their arts, employed certain demons of the sea, to obstruct the buildings; so that *Gebirus* spent a long time in building, and yet the city advanced very little: for whenever the buildings were nearly finished; while the workmen took their rest by night, the demons of the sea came and pulled down the buildings, and destroyed them; at which *Gebirus* was greatly troubled and afflicted, until he understood the reason, by means of a strange adventure that befel him.

Charoba had sent a thousand goats and sheep, which were milked every day for the King's kitchen. They were kept by a young shepherd to whom *Gebirus* gave the charge of them,—he had other shepherds under him,
and

and they led their flocks out to graze every day by the sea-side.

Now the chief shepherd was a beautiful person, and of a goodly stature and aspect. One day when he had committed his flocks to the other shepherds, and wandered far away from them; he saw a fair young lady rising out of the sea, who walked towards him and saluted him graciously.—He returned her salutation and she began to converse with him.—“Young man,”—said she, “will you wrestle with me for a wager that I shall lay against you?”—“What will you lay, fair lady,” said the shepherd, “and what can I stake against you?”—“If you give me a fall,” said the lady, “I will be yours and at your disposal;—and if I give you a fall, you shall give me a beast, out of your flock.”—I am content,”—said the shepherd,—so he went towards her, and she met him, and wrestled with him, and presently gave him a fall. She then took a beast out of the flock, and carried it away with her into the sea.

She

She came every evening afterwards, and did the same, until the shepherd was desperately in love with her:—so the flock was diminished, and the shepherd was pining away with love and grief.

One day King *Gebirus*, passing by the shepherd, found him sitting very pensive by his flocks: so he came near and spoke to him.—“What misfortune hath befallen thee shepherd?—why art thou so altered and dejected?—thy flock also diminishes, and give less milk every day?”—Upon this the shepherd took courage, and told the King all that had befallen him with the lady of the sea.—Which when *Gebirus* heard he was astonished, and in doubt whether to believe him.—“At what time,” said he, “does this lady visit thee?”—“Every evening,” reply’d the shepherd, “when the sun is just ready to set.”—“Take off thy upper garment,” said the King, “and thy bonnet also,—give them to me, and retire thyself a little way out of sight.”—And the shepherd did so. So the

the King put on the shepherd's upper garment, and his bonnet, and sat down in his place.

At the accustomed time, the young lady came out of the sea, and saluted the King, who returned her salutation.—“Wilt thou wrestle any more with me upon the same terms?” said she.—“Yes with all my heart,” said the King. So he came towards her, and gave her a fall presently, and crush'd her very much.—She cried out to him to spare her, saying, “you are not my ordinary match.”—“No,” said the King, “I am his master.”—“Then,” said she, “put me into his hands, since I am taken; for he has treated me courteously, and I have tormented his heart with love and grief:—mean time he hath captivated me, as I have him, and I will at last reward his love.—If thou wilt resign me to my shepherd, I will in requital, teach thee how to compleat thy buildings, and the city which thou hast begun.” He then promised to give her to the shepherd, upon condition, that she would tell him from whence came

the

misfortunes that happened to his buildings, and the means whereby he might finish them.—“Know then Oh King!” said she, “that this land of *Ægypt*, is full of magicians and enchanterers; and that the sea is full of demons and spirits, which assist them to carry on their affairs,—to build, and to destroy. These are they who pull down thy buildings, and obstruct thy city.”—“And what must I do to prevent them?”—said the King.

So she taught him to make certain statues of copper, and stone, and earth, and wood, and set them along by the sea-side, and she taught him to set spells upon them; so that when the demons of the sea came up to destroy the buildings, they saw the statues and returned back into the sea.

So she went and abode with the shepherd every day, but every night she returned in to the sea.

From this time, the buildings of *Gebirus* advanced, and he compleated many structures

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as he had desired. Then *Gebirus* had another conference with the lady of the sea, and he spoke thus to her.

"Behold I have expended all the money
 "that I brought hither, and the city is not
 "yet finished, and I have no more money.
 "Canst not thou discover to me any hidden
 "treasures in this land, whereby I may finish
 "my city, and not leave off my work to my
 "disgrace and sorrow."—The lady replied—
 "There is much treasure in this ruined city
 "and I will instruct thee how to find it.—
 "On the north side of your buildings there is
 "a round place,—on the outside are seven
 "pillars, with a brazen statue on the top of
 "each of them.—Thou shalt sacrifice a fat bull
 "to every one of those statues, and cause the
 "pillar under it to be rubb'd with the blood
 "of the bull; then perfume it with the hair
 "of his tail, and shavings of his horns and
 "hoofs. Then thou shalt say unto it,—
 "Behold the offering I make to thee,—let
 "me have that which is under thee, and
 "about thee."—Having said and done thus
 "to every one of them measure from every
 "pillar,

"pillar, on that side the face of the statue
 "is turned towards, fifty cubits.—Then let
 "thy people dig there.—You shall do all this
 "when the moon is at the full.—After you
 "have digged thirty cubits, you will find a
 "great door; cause it to be rubb'd with the
 "gall of the bulls, and then take it away.—
 "You shall then descend into a cave, fifty
 "cubits in length. In it you will find a
 "storehouse made fast with a lock, and the
 "key will be under the threshold of the door;
 "take it and rub the door with the remain-
 "der of the bulls' galls, and perfume it with
 "shavings of the horns and hoofs, and the
 "hair of the tails, and then the door
 "shall open.—You shall then wait a while,
 "till the winds that are enclosed within
 "get vent; and when they are calmed, you
 "may enter. At the entrance, you will meet
 "with a statue of brass, having about its
 "neck, a plate of the same metal; on which
 "is written a catalogue of all the treasures in
 "these storehouses, of which you may take
 "what you please. You shall make no stay
 "before

“ before a dead person, whom you shall see
 “ there, laid upon a bed with regal orna-
 “ ments. Let not what is about him, of
 “ jewels and precious things, excite your en-
 “ vy or covetousness; but, having taken
 “ away what is sufficient for your occasions,
 “ depart immediately; making fast the doors,
 “ and covering the place with earth as you
 “ found it.—Know also that there are store-
 “ houses under every pillar and its statue; for
 “ they are the tombs of seven Kings, who
 “ are buried there with all their treasures.”

Gebirus was extremely satisfied with this account which the nymph gave him; he thanked her much, and went immediately, and did all things that she had ordered; and he found immense wealth and treasures, and many rare and admirable things.—By these means he completed the buildings of his city.

When *Charoba* heard that the city was almost finished, she was afflicted, and fell into great perturbation of mind; for she meant only to weary out the King, and to reduce him to an impossibility.

After

After the city was finished, *Gebirus* sent some of his chief men, with the tidings to *Charoba*; and invited her to come and see it.—She was almost overwhelmed with grief and apprehension, that she should now be compelled to marry:—but her nurse comforted her with these words.—“ Do not yet
 “ despair, my royal mistress!—give not your-
 “ self further trouble concerning this auda-
 “ cious man.—Leave him to me, and I will
 “ shortly put it out of his power to give you
 “ any further concern, or to do you mischief.”

She returned with the messengers to *Gebirus*, and carried with her fine tapestry of great value, as a present from her mistress.—“ Let this be put over the seat on which
 “ the King sitteth,” said she, “ then let him
 “ divide his people into three parties, and
 “ send them forward to meet the Queen, who
 “ will give them such treatment as they de-
 “ serve. When the first party shall be about
 “ a third part of the way, you shall send
 “ away the second; and when the second
 “ are got to their station, you shall send away
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“ the third:—thus they shall be dispersed
 “ about the country for the Queen’s safety,
 “ and she shall have no cause to fear the de-
 “ signs of her enemies,—she will be attend-
 “ ed by the King’s servants only, and when
 “ they return she will come with them.”

So *Gebirus* sent away his servants, accord-
 ing to her instructions, and she continued
 sending him rich presents every day, till such
 time as she knew that the first party were ar-
 rived at their station.

Then by her orders there were tables set
 before them covered with refreshments of all
 kinds; but they were all poisoned meats.—
 And while they sat down to eat; the Queen’s
 men and maid-servants stood all around them,
 with umbrellas and fans to keep them cool;—
 also their liquors were cooled. So while they
 sat at the tables they all died from the first to
 the last.—Then the Queen’s servants went
 forwards to meet the second party, which they
 treated in the same manner.—Then they re-
 moved to the third party, and served them as
 they had done the others.—So the Queen’s
 servants

servants went forward; and a part of the
 Queen’s army followed them, and they buried
 all the dead bodies.

Then the Queen, sent a message to the King,
 that she had left his army in and about her
 own city of *Masar*, and that she was coming
 to meet him speedily.—So she set forward with
 many attendants, and her nurse met her, and
 accompanied her to the city of the King.

When she drew near the palace, the
 King rose up, and went forward to meet
 her. Then the nurse threw over his shoul-
 ders a regal garment, which was poisoned,
 and which she had prepared for that purpose;
 afterwards she blew a fume into his face,
 which almost deprived him of his senses;—
 then she sprinkled him with a water that loo-
 sened all his joints, and deprived him of his
 strength; so that he fell down in a swoon at
 the feet of *Charoba*.—The attendants raised
 him up and seated him in a chair of state, and
 the nurse said unto him—“ Is the King
 “ well to night?”—He replied,—“ A mis-
 chief on your coming hither!—may you be

“treated by others as you have treated me?—
 “this only grieves me, that a man of strength
 “and valour should be overcome by the sub-
 “tilty of a woman.”—Is there any thing
 “you would ask of me before you taste of
 “death?” said the Queen—“I would only
 “intreat,” said he, “that the words I shall
 “utter, may be engraven on one of the pil-
 “lars of this palace which I have builded.

Then said *Charoba*, “I give thee my pro-
 “mise that it shall be done; and I also will
 “cause to be engraven on another pillar—
 “This is the fate of such men as would com-
 “pel Queens to marry them, and kingdoms
 “to receive them for their Kings.”—Tell us
 now thy last words.

Then the King said—“I *Gebirus*, the *Me-
 taphequian*, the son of *Gevirus*, that have
 “caused marbles to be polished,—both the
 “red and the green stone to be wrought curi-
 “ously; who was possessed of gold, and jew-
 “els, and various treasures; who have raised
 “ed armies; built cities; erected palaces;—
 “who have cut my way through mountains;
 “have

“have stopped rivers; and done many great
 “and wonderful actions;—with all this my
 “power, and my strength, and my valour.
 “and my riches: I have been circumvented
 “by the wiles of a woman; weak, impotent,
 “and deceitful; who hath deprived me of
 “my strength and understanding; and fi-
 “nally hath taken away my life:—Where-
 “fore, whoever is desirous to be great and
 “to prosper; (though there is no certainty
 “of long success in this world,)—yet, let
 “him put no trust in a woman; but let
 “him, at all times, beware of the craft and
 “subtilty of a woman.”

After saying these words, he fainted away,
 and they supposed him dead; but after some
 time he revived again.—*Charoba* comforted
 him, and renewed her promise to him.—Be-
 ing at the point of death, he said,—“Oh
 “*Charoba*!—triumph not in my death!—for
 “there shall come upon thee a day like unto
 “this, and the time is not very far distant.—
 “Then shalt thou reflect on the vicissitudes
 “of fortune, and the certainty of death.”—

Soon

Soon after this he expired.—*Charoba* ordered his body to be honorably interred in the city which he had builded.—Afterwards, she built an high tower in the same city; and caused to be engraven upon it her own name, and that of *Gebirus*: and an history of all that she had done unto him, and also those his last words.—So her fame went forth, and came to the ears of many Kings, and they feared and respected her. And she received many offers of friendship and alliance; but *Charoba* remained a virgin to the end of her life.

Now it happened about three years after the death of *Gebirus*, that *Charoba* having embarked on board a small vessel, in which she was wont to take her pleasure upon the *Nile* by moon-light; went on shore with some of her attendants.

As they were returning to the ship, with great mirth and jollity, it so happened that the Queen trod upon a serpent; which turned again, and stung her in the heel; the pain whereof, took away her sight.—Her women
comforted

comforted her,—saying, it would be nothing.—“You are deceived,” said she.—“The day is come with which *Gebirus* threatened me:—a day which all the great ones of the earth must meet and submit to.—Carry me home immediately, that I may die there.”

The day following *Charoba* died;—having first appointed *Dalica*, her kinswoman to succeed her.—She was the daughter of that kinsman, whom *Charoba* preserved from the cruelty of her father *Totis*.

So died *Charoba*, Queen of *Ægypt*; but her name died not with her, for it remaineth, and is honoured unto this day.

Queen *Dalica*, was endowed with beauty and wisdom.—She followed the example of her predecessor, and governed her kingdom with great prudence.—She did many great works in *Ægypt*,—and caused many castles to be erected on the frontiers of the kingdom, to repel her enemies on whatever side they should be attacked. She caused the body of *Charoba*, to be embalmed with camphire and spices; and it was carried into
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the city of *Gebirus*: for *Charoba* had caused her tomb to be prepared there in her lifetime, and embellished it with regal ornaments, and appointed priests to attend on it.

Queen *Dalica* solemnized the funeral of *Charoba* with great magnificence. She made her subjects rich and happy by her wise government; and, after reigning seventy years in *Ægypt*, died also a virgin, and was succeeded by her sister's son, *Ablinos*, whose posterity wore the crown of *Ægypt* for many generations.

P I N I S.

[Entered at Stationers Hall.]