

they had papyrus; more fortunate than in Mesopotamia/- they were more fortunate, but we are less fortunate, - because the Egyptian writing - it was ~~cheap~~ cheaper probably to use papyrus than/clay ~~tablets~~ tablets; there was a great deal of writing in Egypt, but practically all of it has disappeared. Suppose that bombers were to attack the U.S° and to destroy the roofs of all of our houses, and that the people were all driven away, and that nobody was here for 500 years. If you came back 500 years from now and wondered what kind of people lived here you would probably decide they were quite illiterate. The only trace you would find of writing - if you went to Washington of course you'd find quite a few words written on the walls of buildings - and on monuments. I don't know that you'd find very many of them in Philadelphia - ~~because~~ they'd probably decide the people of Philadelphia were almost entirely illiterate - because our newspapers - ~~even is~~ inside of 30 years are just ready to drop to pieces - and our books inside of a couple of hundred years - particularly if exposed to weather, would disintegrate pretty badly. ~~Inside~~ Inside of 500 years there'd probably be nothing at all left of them.. And so in Egypt during this thousand years there was a very extensive literature written, but it was written on ~~papyrus~~ papyrus, which is not more than twice as good as ~~of~~ our paper, and consequently wouldn't last more than twice as long as our paper would last. And all of the papyrus written in Egypt during that thousand years and there was a tremendous lot of it, has disappeared, except for what was buried. And, ordinarily, there'd be no reason to bury it. But ~~if~~ Egypt is a much drier climate than almost/~~any other place~~ any other place in the world. Almost anywhere else in the world, ~~is~~ even if buried it would disintegrate and go to pieces. But it's a very dry climate, and there were a few school children who had copied texts in school of some of the great masterpieces of ancient Egypt, and then the child died. And the parents, in a few cases, decided to bury with the child his school writings. And so some of the great masterpieces of ancient Egyptian literature are preserved because beside a buried ~~child~~ school boy there is his school copy that he made himself as he learned to ~~write~~ write - of some Egyptian literary masterpiece, and