

described in two Catalogues marked P. E., for the use of such persons as shall from time to time succeed me as Professors of Political Economy, to be by such Professors used and held in like manner as the Library attached to the Professorship of Modern History."

A PENTATEUCH scroll has been presented by Lieut. Prideaux, of Aden, to the Society of Biblical Archæology, at whose invitation certain "Rabbis and Doctors" inspected the gift. Their collective opinion seems to have been favourable to certain of its portions being of considerable age.

M. LITTRÉ has just published a new work, entitled, 'Médecine et Médecins,' consisting of a series of articles written by him for the periodical press. Amongst the topics of which M. Littré treats are, the Dæmon of Socrates, Toxicology amongst the Ancients, Pascal's Amulet, the Death of Alexander, and the Death of Henrietta of England.

A NEW work, entitled 'Modern Turkey,' in one volume, from the pen of Mr. J. Lewis Farley, the Consul of the Porte at Bristol, will shortly be issued by Messrs. Hurst & Blackett.

SCIENCE

Astronomy and Geology Compared. By Lord Ormathwaite. (Murray.)

THE author of this book, in a few lines of Preface, apologizes, on the ground of decayed eyesight, for any inaccuracies or mistakes that dictation may have occasioned. We do not see that he needs any excuse on this score, or that the most perfect bodily vision would have enabled him to express with more lucid and well-bred tediousness the store of platitudes which he has arranged in the three essays constituting the volume before us. The first of these—the title of which has been somewhat strangely given to the whole book—contains a selection of facts fairly suitable for a provincial lecture, adorned with generalizations, reflections, and comparisons worthy of an intelligent school-essay. We are invited to observe that astronomy is much older than geology; that "geology has its being only in the past, but astronomy exists in the present"; that the latter has a wider sphere than the former; that "fixity seems to govern the one, change appears to guide the other," &c. If these remarks are scarcely illuminative as to the relation of the sciences, still less can we recommend Lord Ormathwaite's novel views on method. "There are," he tells us, "three roads on which the human mind travels in the acquisition of knowledge. The first of these is the study of the abstract and exact sciences; . . . the second is the accumulation, observation, comparison, and analysis of the evidence of facts, and the deduction from them of uniform laws of nature and fixed relations of cause and effect; the third is the system of experimental philosophy which is coupled with the great name of Bacon as its inventor." What Bacon would have said to this severance of his "system" from the observation and analysis of facts may be imagined; but Lord Ormathwaite was probably reluctant to attribute deduction of uniform laws to the author of the 'Novum Organon.' Again, we cannot quite follow him in fixing the limits of the exact sciences within the sphere of astronomy, and holding that "we leave behind us the resources afforded by pure mathematics" when we pass beyond the solar system. This view of the essential triplicity of method is so important to our author, that he repeats it in the second essay, which is chiefly devoted to a refutation of Darwinianism. He insists—we admit, in the politest manner—that we must consider Mr. Darwin as a professed atheist, in spite of his protests to the contrary,—a pious Darwinian would be a contradiction in terms." Lord Ormathwaite accordingly offers, with an air of discovery, some

of the more obvious and trite general arguments against the theory of evolution by natural selection. But the climax of complacent commonplace is reached in the third essay, in which the author explains how entirely progress and civilization have been confined to the European branch of the human race. "Asiatic nations," he mildly observes, "never seem to have been inspired by any of the loftier motives which animate Europeans." We cannot "recognize among them patriotism, or honour, or moral principle." It is true that "their attachment to their religion is very tenacious, and would be an ennobling sentiment but that the religions themselves are so inherently false and corrupt. . . . They never appear to have possessed any body of works worthy to be termed a literature." It does occur to our author that Judæa is in Asia; he observes, however, that "the seed of Christianity never germinated there," but had to be transplanted to the more genial clime of Europe. At this point it becomes his duty to correct a popular error:—"It is, I think, a mistake to suppose that the writings or the influence of the Greek philosophers were hostile to the introduction of Christianity. On the contrary, they prepared the way for it, and there is much in the teaching of Socrates not far removed from the spirit of the Gospel." We need not quote further, and comment is superfluous. On the outside of the volume we find the stamp of a coronet, indicating a delicate appreciation of the intrinsic value of its contents. Probably the class of readers to which it is suited would really prefer the platitudes of a peer—even a recently created one—to those of a commoner; and we can assure them that the platitudes are not unpleasantly put. The dullness of these essays arises entirely from the matter, and is in no way enhanced by the form and manner of exposition.

THE MOABITE STONE.

II.

THE literature of the Moabite Stone threatens to become extensive. It was introduced by M. Charles Clermont Ganneau, Drogman-Chancellerie du Consulat Intérimaire du Consulat de France à Jérusalem, in a fac-simile and a letter to the Comte de Vogüé, "La Stèle de Mesa, Roi de Moab, 896 avant J.-C.," dated from his post, Jan. 16, 1870, with a terminal note by M. de Vogüé, Paris, Feb. 5. The owner followed up his announcement by articles in the *Revue Archéologique* (Nos. 3 and 4, for March and June, 1870) with a second and more valuable fac-simile. Finally, came 'La Stèle de Dhiban,' a brochure of sixty pages, with fac-simile and a useful "Carte pour l'Intelligence des Campagnes de Mesa" (Paris, 1870), completing the third recension. Meanwhile, a number of studies, exegetical and multilingual, appeared in the literary world. In France, M. Renan contributed a short article to the *Journal des Débats* (Feb. 25, 1870), which did not add laurels to his crown. Next appeared a notice of M. Ganneau's first pamphlet, by M. J. Derembourg, in the *Journal Asiatique* (January—February, 1870), and a longer article by the same scholar (April 8), based upon M. Ganneau's second and revised copy. The first of the German scholars to take the field was Prof. Schlottmann, of Halle (March 15); he published his translation in the *Times* (May 5), and corrected it in the *Zeitschrift der Deutschen Morgenländischen Gesellschaft* (xxiv. Band 8, and 11 Heft, May 13); a third recension afterwards appeared. Meanwhile, the inscription had been discussed by Prof. Ewald (*Göttingische Gelehrte Anzeigen*, April 20); and Dr. Neubauer, in the April number of Frankel and Grätz's *Monatschrift für Geschichte und Wissenschaft des Judenthums*, attempted a complete translation, which agreed closely with one that appeared in the *Times* of March 27. Rabbi Geiger, of Berlin, also discussed the subject in the *Zeitschrift* of May 15. Next appeared Prof. Lund, of Amsterdam; Prof. Korldeke, of Kiel (April 16), a treatise followed by a short notice in the *Göttingische Gelehrte Anzeigen* (May 4); Prof. Haugh, of Munich (*Beilage zur Allgemeinen Zeitung*, April 16); Prof. Schrader,

of Giersen (*Theologisches Literaturblatt*, June 1), and Dr. Abraham Halévy (*Kakud ha-Libnan*, Nos. 13, 14, and 15, of 1871). The United States are represented by *Scribner's Monthly* (April, 1871), and by the Rev. Howard Crosby (Palestine Exploration Society, July, 1871). England has spoken through Capt. Warren and others in the Palestine Exploration Fund (*Quarterly Statements*, Nos. 5 and 6, January 1 to March 31, 1870, and March 31 to June 30, 1870); through Mr. Deutsch (the *Times*, March 3, 1870); through Prof. D. E. Weir, of Glasgow (*Athenæum*, May 21, 1870); through Prof. Rawlinson* (*Contemporary Review*, August, 1870), and through Prof. W. Wright, of Cambridge (*North British Review*, October, 1870). Other notices are by the author of the anonymous article ('Capt. Wilson and Warren's Recovery of Jerusalem,' p. 496); by Dr. Ginsburg ('The Moabite Stone,' Longmans, 1870); by the *Journal of Anthropology* (Vol. I. No. 3, January, 1871); by the *Evangelical Review* (No. 1, February, 1871); by the *Quarterly Journal of Science*, and by various others of minor importance.

And the literature on the discovery of the stone is also gaining size. The controversy will be found in the *Athenæum* (May 7, 1870), of which a copy was kindly forwarded to me by the editor; in the *Quarterly Statements of the Palestine Exploration Fund* (No. 5 of 1870, and No. 3 of August, 1871); and in the speech of Sir Henry Rawlinson at the annual meeting of the Royal Geographical Society, for May, 1871. And in presence of the statement put forth by Dr. H. Petermann in the *Zeitschrift der Deutschen Morgenländischen Gesellschaft* (Part 4, for 1870), and of the sentences concluding the report addressed by the North German Consulate at Jerusalem to the Chancellor of the Union (April 29, 1870), it is time that the whole case should be stated dispassionately and impartially. We read with some surprise,—“The ordinary rules of discretion would seem to have demanded that nobody should have interfered with the transaction until it had been regularly brought to a conclusion or broken off.” It will be seen that the rules of discretion were repeatedly violated by those who advance the charge, and that the transaction, having been avowedly broken off, had come to a conclusion.

The relic was found at Diban, or Dhiban, the Moabitish Diban, a capital city in the days of Mesa. I can understand why M. Clermont Ganneau, Prof. E. H. Palmer, and Dr. Ginsburg write this evidently dual word Dhiban (ذيبان), but it is hard to see why the latter should also adopt Dibhân (p. 29), as well as Dibân (p. 10). It may be simply a clerical slip, as in line 3 of the stele we read Karaha, and in lines 21, 24, 25, Karcha; whereas in the original the words are identical. The relic lay at the feet of and between two monticules, still cumbered with extensive ruins. Prof. E. H. Palmer heard them called "two hâris," properly meaning a ploughman, but here applied to these hillocks, and throughout the country to every eminence surmounted by ruined sites. Thus he was enabled cleverly to explain the name of Moab's ancient capital, Kir Haraseth, now Karak, meaning the "city of the hill" *par excellence*. The memorial escaped the notice of Irby and Mangles, in 1809; but in later days it had probably been heard of at Jerusalem. At last it was shown to the Rev. F. A. Klein, a "Prussian gentleman," not "travelling for his pleasure in Palestine." A professional matter took him from Jerusalem, and as he was *en route* from Salt to Karak, on August 19, dawned the great discovery of the year 1868, an *annus mirabilis* in the history of Palestine exploration. Mr. Klein is French-born, employed and salaried by the English mission, and full of Prussian sympathies. His own statement reads as follows (letter to G. Grove, Esq., published in the *Pall Mall Gazette*, April 19, 1870, and republished in No. 6, *Quarterly Statement of the Palestine Exploration Fund*):—"On my return to Jerusalem, I showed

* His distinguished brother has not, I believe, published any study upon the Moabite Stone, except in the *Athenæum*, No. 2209.

my sketch and parts of the inscription to Dr. Petermann, of Berlin, who . . . immediately took the necessary steps to acquire the Moabite monument for the Berlin Museum." He thus showed himself, in a cosmopolitan sense, very much below Capt. Warren, who frankly and honourably stated that it was to him a matter of utter indifference whether the relic, provided that it was secured intact for the civilized world, adorned the museum of Berlin, of Paris, or of London.

Evidently, as is owned by his friends, the discoverer did not understand the value of the find, or, instead of sketching and measuring the slab, and copying a few characters, he would, even at the cost of a little delay and personal inconvenience, have made a transcript of the whole inscription. And I am convinced that he might have done more. In such cases the best plan is to say at once, "I want that stone," and, without other formalities, to bargain down "friends and protectors" for the hire of camels: this distracts their attention, and thus they will often allow a valuable *antika* to be taken away and repaid by a few pounds of gunpowder. The Shaykh Ahmad bin Tarif expressed the true Bedawi feeling when he said to Messrs. Tyrwhitt Drake and Palmer:—"If you Franks had come down here twelve months ago, and offered us a pound or two, you might have taken all the stones you chose, the Dhibán one included; but now you have taught us the worth of written stones, and the Arabs are awake to their importance at last." His Grace the Archbishop of York must have suspected something of the kind when he stated, at the annual general meeting of the Palestine Exploration Fund (May 16, 1870), "I may say, had Capt. Warren been on the spot, or if Mr. Klein had adopted a different mode of operation, a more satisfactory result would have been obtained."

But Mr. Klein went his ways—mistake No. 1. Arrived at Jerusalem, this "agent of the English mission" thought proper to neglect the claims of the country which gave him birth, and of that which gave him bread. As has been seen, he reported the find only to the Prussian official, who, of course, finds it natural that "a German preacher should lay his discovery before a German Consulate." There are those who view the matter differently.

Consultations, telegraphs and correspondence delayed, with a tardiness characteristically Teutonic, all movement, till the latter part of September, 1868, when Dr. Petermann sent "a teacher named Bahnam," the able assistant of Mr. Klein, "with a letter addressed by the reverend gentleman to Shaykh Findi el Faiz, the wrong man, an Arab completely under Turkish influence. This was mistake No. 2, and thus the Bedawin learned the value of their treasure, whilst no attempt to obtain a copy of the whole inscription was taken by way of precautionary measure. Had this been done, and had a cast made from a photograph been shown to the Arabs, they would again have parted with the monument for a *lira* or two. The next delay was of nearly six months; in March, 1869, a second Christian, Saba Kawar, of Salt, was despatched upon the same errand. It is generally believed that the "young clever Arab" applied to Shaykh Goblan (Kabalán), of the Adwán, instead of going directly to the tribe that owned the monument. This was not, as stated in the 'Recovery of Jerusalem' (p. 498), the Benú Hamidah, a small clan living to the north and north-west of the Dead Sea, but the wild Benú Humaydah, the Beni Hamide of Mr. Klein, and the Beni Hamedy of the North German Consulate at Jerusalem. The two are, of course, not confounded by Prof. E. H. Palmer (p. 321, No. 6, Palestine Exploration Fund), who attributes to their opposition "the lamentable destruction of the celebrated monument of Meshá." However, this was mistake No. 3, which by-the-by can hardly have been accidental on the part of so "clever" a "young Arab." At any rate Mr. Saba Kawar returned with a demand for 1,000 instead of 100 napoleons, made by the Bedawin non-owners, reporting at the same time that the Ishmaelites had buried the stone, and "treated it as being the shrine of an evil

spirit, whose power would vanish with the taking of a squeeze." This tale is fit only for telling to the stolid Frank, and even Goldsmith's Mr. Burchell would have answered it with a "Fudge!"

Dr. Petermann now saw "no means of acquiring the stone but through the medium of the Turkish Government." Mistake No. 4, and crowning error! The Benú Humaydah, who appear to be veritable descendants from the ancient Moabites, and who deserve especial study, are the most savage and intractable tribe of the Belka. They roam freely about this fine region, which the Romans termed, from the nature of its climate, "Palestina Tertia sive Salutaris, and of which the Arabs say, in their rhyming style,

Misl el Belka ma laltaka.
Nought to be found like Belka ground.

The region extends southwards from the Jebel Ajlun (Mt. Gilead) and the Northern Zerka, or Jabbok river, to Moabitis Proper. This Araboth Moab was originally occupied by the Emin, Anakim, and Horim (Deut. ii. 10-12); subsequently, the northern portion, namely, above the Arnon, was seized by the Amorites (Numbers xxi. 13-26); and, lastly, before the death of Moses, it was allotted, together with Bashan, farther north, to the small tribes, Reuben, Gad, and half Manasseh (Joshua i. 12 and 13, 15-29). Bounded on the north by the Wady Mujib, the ancient Arnon river, a "frontier of Moab," which divided it from the Amorite country, it extended southwards to a parallel of latitude projected from the lower extremity of the Dead Sea, which was the border of the Edomites. To this Moabitis Proper the Moabites were relegated, and about its centre was built their capital, Kir Hāraseth, the modern Karak, a name found in the *תְּרַבְרָתָא* of the Chaldean Talmud, the Charax Omanorum (Ammon) of the Romans; in the *χαράκωβα* (i. e. Karak Moab, baldness or bald place of Moab), in Ptolemy, and in the Rabbath Moab of Eusebius. In 1812 it was explored by Burckhardt, who there noticed two peculiarities: the men were forbidden, under pain of infamy, to sell Samn, or clarified butter; and to sleep under the same blanket with their wives.

The Benú Humaydah had just suffered from the "Belka Expedition," led in person by Rashid Pasha, then Wali, or Governor-General of Syria; and, perfectly knowing what a "dragonnade" meant, they were in paroxysms of terror at the idea of another raid. The Prussian Consul was grossly deceived by Ali Pasha, the late Grand Vizier, who, true to his well-known policy of thwarting and cozening Europeans, addressed a Vizierial letter, worthless as was the wont of such instruments, to the Pasha of Jerusalem, well aware at the time that it should have been sent to the Governor-General of Syria, for transmission to Mohammed Said, then Pasha of Nablus. Nor was Rashid Pasha inferior to his patron, Ali Pasha: he asserted falsely, as usual, that he "could do nothing in the matter, since the exhibition of the stone to strangers" (only one stranger had ever seen it!) "was a source of income to the Beni Hamedy, the loss of which might, not improbably, cause a *new revolt*." We are assured that the Governor-General was "completely deceived upon this point." No! such men are deceivers; the deceived were the gentlemen of the North German Consulate, especially the Chancellor, Dr. Meyer. Those who well know that Mohammed Said, of Nablus, was a mere creature of Rashid Pasha, cannot read without admiration,—"Der Pascha von Nablus, in December, durch einen von uns ausgewirkten Firman vom Wali zu Damascus beordert, den Stein in unsere Hände zu schaffen—für 100 nap. d'or—forderte der Beni Hamedy auf, den Stein herauszugeben."

Meanwhile, in the spring of 1869,—matters are not precipitated at Jerusalem,—the Rev. Dr. Barclay, then chief of the English mission to the Jews, having heard Mr. Klein report the discovery, suggested that time for action was come to Capt. Warren, R.E., who had been informed of the discovery by a man of Karak, only a few weeks after Mr. Klein had left Diban, and to M. Ganneau, who was notably "the first to recognize the immense importance of the monument." The

former, knowing that the Prussians had obtained a Firman from the authorities, and were still acting in the matter, declined to interfere until he could see the field clear. However, in the following June (1869), before leaving for the Libanus (July), he called, with Dr. Barclay, upon Mr. Klein, when a long conversation took place: the reverend "discoverer" was offered all manner of assistance, in the shape of squeeze-paper, instruments, and so forth, but he declared himself quite able to look after the matter single-handed. About that time Dr. Petermann left Jerusalem, after personally assuring M. Ganneau that the whole affair had fallen through. In his own published statement we read, "It was not until after my departure, and when the Prussian Consulate took no further interest in the matter, . . . that the matter came to the ears of M. Ganneau." These words make it abundantly evident that the "ordinary rules of discretion" should not have been invoked in an extraordinary case, and that the field had been left clear for M. Ganneau. The latter has been freely condemned by Dr. Ginsburg for his "unwise measures," and for "hasty and precipitate action." On the other hand, Mr. Klein (March 23, 1870) "cannot too highly praise the zeal, energy, and tact of M. Ganneau and Capt. Warren"; whilst Capt. Warren (No. 5, Palestine Exploration Fund) attributes the success of the squeezes to the *entente cordiale* between himself and M. Ganneau, recording with pleasure his acknowledgment of his fellow-labourer's honourable and upright conduct in this delicate matter, as far as he had been concerned in it.

But Herr von Alten, successor to Dr. Petermann, did take "further interest in the matter," and, as has been seen, made matters worse with Rashid Pasha. Between July and November 1869 Capt. Warren sought health for himself and his party in the Libanus. M. Ganneau, after waiting patiently for a whole year, offered to advance 200 Majidis out of a total of 400* to Shaykh Id el Faiz, if the latter would put the stone into his hands. At length he obtained two squeezes of the inscription, *in situ*, the first by "Yaquob Caravacca" in the shape of seven *lambeaux fripés et chiffonnés*; the second in November, 1869,† a valuable work in four sheets, by an Arab, Shaykh Jemil, whom he had taught to use the brush; and the third in January, 1870, showing the two large, and sundry small fragments. These three, put together, form "l'unique représentation de l'ensemble du monument." The German Consular report is hardly correct when it asserts that M. Ganneau and Capt. Warren "obtained, through an Arab, a squeeze of the two chief portions, as well as of some of the smaller pieces": they obtained much more. And Dr. Ginsburg neglects the most important item when he declares (p. 11)—"The materials from which the restoration was effected are: 1. A squeeze of the whole stone, as it was first discovered, in very bad condition; 2. Two very excellent squeezes of the two large fragments, which represent about half of the entire surface; 3. Capt. Warren's second squeeze of the larger fragments; 4. M. Ganneau's rubbings of the lower fragments, obtained independently, which supplement each other; and 5. A number of small pieces of the stone itself."

Then came the catastrophe. The wild Benú Humaydah knowing, doubtless, that the "delivery of the stone to the German Consulate had been ordered by the Turkish Government," and finding that the Mudir (*sous-préfet*) of Salt was about to put pressure upon them, in agonies of fear made a bonfire round and below the precious relic, threw cold water upon it, and broke it to pieces with boulders. According to Capt. Warren, "the bits were distributed among the different families to place in the granaries and act as blessings upon the corn, for they say that without the stone (or its equivalent in hard cash) a blight will fall upon their crops."

* It would be interesting to know how Dr. Ginsburg discovered that 200 "Medshidjis" (Majidis) are "about 375." Usually the Majidi is worth a fraction under twenty-three piastres, or less than five francs.

† I am somewhat doubtful about this second squeeze.

All local authorities agree in describing the Benû Humaydah as almost pure Bedawin, whose "granaries" are mud-coated baskets, whilst their villages number more tents than huts. At once, however, they destroyed or buried every other fragment of antiquity in their neighbourhood. The later travellers report that the surrounding tribes—men whom Semitic cupidity has driven mad about "written stones"—have led them long walks and rides out of the path, occasionally entailing a night in the open, without other rations but a dry crust and the tainted contents of a water-skin, in order to see a bit of frieze, a scrap of key pattern, a broken Ionic capital, or, at best, a fragment of Nabathean inscription.

The Franco-Prussian war tended not a little to embitter antiquarian rivalry in the matter of the Moabite Stone. Dr. Ginsburg, whilst freely owning that the young French *savant* has performed his task in a most scholarly, careful, and conscientious manner, charges him—it appears hardly just—with "precipitate and hasty action," and with jealousy and want of candour in not mentioning the "real or original discoverer" of the stone. Were I Mr. Klein, I should certainly decline the honour of being mentioned. Later in the same year, the German Consulate at Jerusalem virtually charged the French Drogman-Chancellor with indiscretion. The latter, on the other hand, complains (No. 5, Palestine Exploration Fund) of a "regrettable omission" on the part of Mr. Deutsch, who, after using his labours, had not referred to them.

Very unsatisfactory is the present state of our knowledge concerning the stone itself. The reductions of the fac-similes published by M. Ganneau, Dr. Ginsburg, and others, give 34 lines, of which 6 only are perfect, each averaging 10 words, or 30 characters. This would give us a grand total of 340 words or 1,122 letters. Of the latter, which M. Ganneau reduces (why?) to "about a thousand," he has obtained from his 20 fragments—two of them large and 18 small—613 characters, namely 358, and 150 from the first and second sizes, 38 from the biggest of the little pieces, and one from the smallest. Capt. Warren has 56 from 18 fragments, part of the broken stone having been placed in his hand by a Bedawi *employé* as he was returning from the Libanus to Jerusalem (November, 1869). Thus a total of 669 characters has been preserved out of a total in round numbers of 1,100. The other 430 are not, however, lost: the "*déplorables lacunes*" of 35 entire words, 15 half words, and 18 letters, or a little less than one-seventh, can be restored by M. Ganneau, whose four-sheet squeeze, though somewhat injured, is still exceedingly valuable. The best plan would be to make from a perfect estampage a fac-simile plaster-cast of the stele, coloured like nature, and upon it to photograph and to incise the inscription.

Curious to say, however, we are still doubtful about the number of lines, about the size, and about the shape of the stele's lower part. Mr. Klein's sketch rounds off the bottom on both sides. M. Ganneau, from his squeezes, makes it square, and in this he is followed by Capt. Warren. Prof. Rawlinson holds fast by the square, Dr. Ginsburg adopts the round, and, whilst he offers a "fac-simile of the original inscription," he has not, I believe, seen certain portions of it. In May, 1871, M. Ganneau assured me that he had found in it the word "Davidah" as well as "Ariah," words which nowhere appear in the copies hitherto published. Possibly Mr. Klein supplies the explanations (*Pall Mall Gazette*, April 19, 1870): "in the lower corner there are not so many words missing as would be the case if it were square at the bottom." Moreover, all the rubbings of the smaller fragments have not yet, I believe, been published. And again, whilst M. Ganneau, measuring his squeezes, makes the stone 1 metre high by 0.60 broad by about 0.60 thick, Mr. Klein, from actual measurement of the stone, proposes 1.13 by 0.70 by 0.35. Evidently in the latter there is room for a 35th line. Surely it is full time that this mystery should now be cleared up.

Meanwhile, all who do not exclaim with M. l'Abbé Vertot, *mon siege est fait*, must fervently hope that we shall not lose the opportunity of securing for England a memorial of such importance. During the next few years many will set out to search for other Moabite stones; the find is uncertain, but the stele of Mesa is a positive gain to all critical students of Early-Hebrew history. M. Ganneau is ready to part with it; but there are complications with M. de Vogüé; moreover, having, as he says, cohabited with it for so many years, he makes a point of setting it up and of publishing the whole inscription himself. Hence the remark in your pages—"While the public at large have got some vague idea that, after all, the Moabite Stone may have been only a myth, the exhaustive labours of the learned on Moab and all that concerns it (together with a few new readings and suggestions) have ceased; and, worst of all, M. Ganneau's staunchest defender (Prof. Schlottmann) and upholder against those few who prefer the *text au naturel* to that periodically furnished forth with the latest corrections by M. Ganneau." I venture to suggest that by disposing of his treasure he will consult its safety, and he may secure the wherewithal to continue his interesting excavations. My best wishes are with him that he may hit upon another *trouvaille* as valuable if possible as the Moabite Stone.

RICHARD F. BURTON.

P.S.—Since these lines were penned I have heard from the Holy Land that the Rev. Dr. Tristram, Dr. Ginsburg, and party landed there on the last day of the last year. They expected hard work before they could even hope for success; and they found it harder than they expected. The people of Karak imprisoned them, and demanded a ransom of 500 napoleons, reduced, I am told, to 50 napoleons. We are assured by Messrs. Tyrwhitt Drake and Palmer, that there does not exist another Moabite Stone above ground. But the ruined and buried cities of the trans-Jordanic region, showing vestiges far more venerable than those actually existing at Jerusalem, may be expected to yield, under systematic excavation, a peculiarly abundant harvest. The first discovery must always be looked upon as a distinct promise of future revelation. We are assured by the highest authority now living that the Assyrians, like the Portuguese in their golden age, were in the habit of erecting "*padrões*," that the Phœnicians inscribed their sarcophagi, and that even the Jews, perhaps, set up trophies for themselves. With him, we find the "inference inevitable, that this was the general custom amongst the Semitic nations inhabiting the country between the Mediterranean and Syria, and that, if we are to examine the countries adjoining Palestine and Syria, the country of the Ammonites and the country of the Moabites, we shall find similar monuments."

The first *fiasco* took the shape of the "Medaba Stone," which was announced (Nov. 30), with some pomp and circumstance, in the *Times*, and which, despite the endorsement of M. Shapira,—he should have known better,—was at once detected by Mr. Deutsch. The affair will do good, by putting the unlearned on their guard, and by making them suspect the "highest authorities" when the price of "Moabite Stones" is applied to Nabathean inscriptions. The second is the Karak affair, which is bringing Dr. Ginsburg home, and which has caused a little campaign in the Holy Land. What may be the third it is hard to say, unless a little more *savoir faire* and prudence be used.

PROFESSOR MORSE.

SAMUEL FINLEY BREESE MORSE has passed away from amongst us; he died on Tuesday evening, the 2nd of April, at the ripe age of eighty-one. Prof. Morse's name will be for ever so closely associated with the development of the electric telegraph, that we feel it our duty to give some notice, though it be a brief one of his life. He was the son of the Rev. Jedediah Morse, well known as a geographer, and was born in Charlestown, Massachusetts, on the 27th of April, 1791. Samuel Morse was educated at Yale College, but, having determined to become a painter he came to England

in 1811, formed a friendship with Leslie, whose portrait he painted, and in 1813 he exhibited at the Royal Academy a colossal picture of 'The Dying Hercules.' He returned to America and endeavoured to establish himself as a portrait painter, but without much success, until in 1822 he settled in New York, and painted for the corporation a full-length portrait of Lafayette, who was then on a visit to the United States. We find Mr. Morse again in England in 1829, remaining here until 1832, when he returned to his own country. His companion on this voyage was Prof. Jackson, the eminent American chemist and geologist, who was then returning from Paris, where the question of the time occupied in the passage of the electric current through a good conducting wire was occupying the attention of scientific men. From Dr. Jackson Mr. Morse appears to have first learnt that the passage of the electric fluid was absolutely instantaneous, and it occurred to him that it might be used for conveying intelligence from one place to another. The friends of Prof. Morse claim for him, that during the voyage he had written out the general plan of his telegraphic arrangement. In 1835 he certainly placed in the New York University a model of his "Recording Electric Telegraph," and in 1837 he filed his caveat at the Patent Office in Washington. It was not, however, until 1840 that the patent was perfected, and then Prof. Morse set about getting his telegraph used. Four years, however, passed away before he succeeded, the first electric telegraph completed in the United States being the line between Washington and Baltimore, which began to work in 1844. Since that time the recording electric telegraph of Morse has been adopted over the whole country, and at the time of his death there were not less than twenty thousand miles of electric wires, stretching over the States between the Atlantic and the Pacific Oceans.

Mr. Morse's first telegraph was a chemical one, the electric current being used to decompose the acetate or carbonate of lead, or turmeric paper moistened with a solution of sulphate of soda. He, however, gave up this arrangement, and adopted the electro-magnetic system instead. This was, however, in his hands, a rather ponderous affair, his electro-magnet weighing 158 pounds, and the instrument was not sufficiently delicate for long distances. Experience enabled Mr. Morse to simplify his arrangements, and his "Simple Morse Circuit" was thought to be so complete, that in 1857 the French Administration of Telegraphs adopted the Morse instrument before all others. The "Morse Code," the "Morse's Transmitting Plate," his "Embossing," and Morse's telegraph worked by induction currents, are sufficient to show how completely the American artist has connected his name with the system of employing electricity to pass as the messenger from man to man, over earth and under the sea.

SOCIETIES.

ROYAL.—April 11.—The Earl of Rosse, V.P., in the chair.—The following papers were read: 'Contributions to the History of the Opium Alkaloids, Part V., On the Polymerides of Codeia,' by Dr. C. R. A. Wright, 'Researches on Solar Physics, III.,' by Messrs. W. De La Rue, E. Stewart, and B. Loewy,—and 'The Action of Oxygen on Copper Nitrate in a state of Tension,' by Dr. Gladstone and Mr. A. Tribe.

GEOLOGICAL.—April 10.—His Grace the Duke of Argyll, K.T., President, in the chair.—The following communication was read: 'Notice of some of the Secondary Effects of the Earthquake of the 10th of January, 1869, in Cachar,' communicated by Dr. Oldham, of Calcutta, with remarks by Mr. R. Mallet.

ASIATIC.—April 15.—Sir T. E. Colebrooke, Bart., President, in the chair.—Ráo Sahib Vishvanáth Náráyan Mandlik and Mr. J. S. Knight were elected Non-resident Members.—A plaster cast of a memorial bust of the late scholar, Sir