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CORRESPONDENCE.

GRIFFITH ROBERTS.

The Oratory, London: Nov. 12, 1879.

"M. Morys Clynoc," to whom Griffith Roberts dedicated his *Athrawaeth Gristnogawl*, was evidently Dr. Maurice (or Morris) Clenock, one of the Elizabethan Catholic exiles. He was nominated to the see of Bangor by Queen Mary just before her death; escaped to Flanders at the change of religion under Elizabeth; travelled in company with Dr. Goldwell, Bishop of St. Asaph, to Rome (1560); was there made warden of the English hospital (1565) and first rector of the newly founded English college (1578). This office he held but a short time, owing to the commotion excited among the English students by his alleged favouritism of his countrymen, the Welsh. He retired to Rouen about 1580, where soon after he took shipping for Spain, and was drowned at sea. St. Charles Borromeo, Archbishop of Milan, showed great kindness to the Elizabethan Catholic exiles. Dr. Owen Lewis, afterwards Bishop of Cassano, was employed by him as vicar-general. This may explain why Griffith Roberts, one of the exiles, published his *Athrawaeth Gristnogawl* at Milan.

T. F. KNOX.

CAPT. CAMERON ON AN INDO-MEDITERRANEAN RAILWAY.

Trieste: Nov. 8, 1879.

Kindly allow me a few lines upon Capt. Cameron's valuable paper, "Indo-Mediterranean Railway," in *Macmillan* of September 1879.

It is not without study that I advocated Tyre as the Levantine port of the coming line. Careful observation convinced me that, despite Beaufort and other hydrographical authorities, the harbour may easily be cleared for sufficient accommodation. The gallant explorer could hardly have followed, as I did, the course of the Kásimiyyah, or Litráni, River, which falls into the sea some four miles north of the old city. So far from the line "leading in the interior through an unproductive country, which would scarce supply the necessary water for the locomotive," it would tap the very richest lands in Syria. The map shows you that it would pass through the luxuriant Buká'a (Capt. Cameron's *Bukeiá*), run by Ba'albak-Heliopolis, follow the once glorious valley-plain of the Orontes, leaving Palmyra a little to the east, and, finally, reach Aleppo.

I have only one objection to the Tripoli line. Instead of traversing the whole length of *Syria felix*, it taps only a section. Thus it would be useless to the southern country, and the less likely to pay.

Our protectorate in Asia Minor gives new life to plans and projects for the Mediterraneo-Indian Railway. But it is a question of funds, and we must not neglect the grand old lines, the main arteries of traffic, and the first "Overland" known to history.

RICHARD F. BURTON.

THE WEIGHT OF CARCHEMISH.

British Museum: Nov. 15, 1879.

Prof. Sayce has lately shown (ACADEMY, August 16 and October 18) that the Hittites, and not the Lydians, were the mediators by land between Assyria in the east and Asia Minor in the west, and that about B.C. 1200 the Hittite empire extended from the Upper Euphrates on the one hand, as far as the Aegean on the other.

It may not, perhaps, be without interest to enquire whether any additional light can be thrown upon this obscure period of history from the kindred studies of metrology and numismatics.

On an Assyrian tablet in the British Museum is the following cuneiform inscription:—

"Four manehs of silver according to the standard of Carchemish which Neriglissar, in the presence of Nebo-sum-iddin, son of Nebo-rahim-baladhi, the keeper of the Crown, from the city of Dur-Sargon, lends out at five shekels of silver per month interest."

Then follow the date, which corresponds with the year B.C. 667, and the names of the witnesses. (*Records of the Past*, vol. i., p. 138, tablet iii.)

Now, is it possible to identify the *Mina of Carchemish*, mentioned here and on many other tablets, with any one of the various minae derived more or less directly from Babylon? I think that there is certainly good reason to suppose that this mina of Carchemish is identical with the Babylonian silver mina of about 8,656 grains troy (561 grammes) (Brandis, *Münz-Mass- und Gewichtswesen*, p. 100).

Before the time of Croesus, King of Lydia, we have no evidence that silver was coined in Asia Minor. The Lydian silver money, attributed by numismatists to that monarch, follows this so-called Babylonic silver standard, fifty silver staters of Croesus, each weighing 173 grains (11·2 grammes), making one Babylonic silver mina of 8,656 grains.

Nevertheless, that this Babylonic silver mina was in use throughout Asia Minor long before the age of Croesus for weighing bullion silver may, I think, be inferred, not only because the earliest silver coins of nearly the whole of Asia Minor are regulated by it, but from the fact that it was also in use among the Phrygio-Thracian mining tribes, who must have brought it over with them from Asia, together with the worship of the Phrygian Bacchus, when they separated from their brethren of the same stock who remained behind. More than this, I believe that there is proof positive that this weight was used in the Troad at the period of the burial of the treasure discovered by Dr. Schliemann. There are in that treasure six wedges, or bars, of silver about seven or eight inches long by about two inches in breadth. These weigh respectively 171, 173, 173, 174, 183, and 190 metric grammes. The heaviest and best preserved appears to have gained slightly by oxydisation and incrustation at one end to the amount of about forty or fifty grains troy. Supposing its original weight to have been about 187 grammes, or 2,885·4 grains troy, what else can this be but precisely the third part of the Babylonian silver mina of 8,656 grains?

That these bars or wedges are thirds and not halves or fourths is, to my mind, a strong point in favour of their being fractions of the Babylonian mina, the shekels of this standard being very generally divided by three, while those of the Phoenician standard are halved and quartered (Brandis, *l.c.*, p. 48).

Dr. Schliemann calls his wedges Homeric talents, but, be this as it may, they are certainly thirds of the Babylonic silver mina of from 8,645 to 8,656 grains. If my proposed identification of the mina of Carchemish with the mina in use in the Troad about the fourteenth century B.C. be accepted, may it not prove suggestive when considered in connexion with the Egyptian text (the poem of Pentaur), in which the people of Ilion, Pedasos, Dardanos, Mysia, and Lycia are mentioned as allies of the Kheta (Hittites) in their wars with Ramses II. about the same period?

Prof. Sayce is doubtless right as to the extent of the Hittite power in Asia Minor, and it must have been through that people that this silver mina found its way by land to Lydia, Phrygia, and the Troad. Carchemish, the Hittite capital, situate on the Euphrates at the point where it approaches nearest to the Gulf of Issus and the Amanian Gates, commanded the only road into Cilicia and thence into the central plain of Asia Minor. Carchemish may therefore be taken as the starting point of the silver mina in question. When, therefore, we find a particular silver mina specified in Assyrian documents as the mina of Carchemish, I think we shall not be wrong in concluding that this is the weight which the Hittites used in their commercial transactions with the peoples of Cilicia, Pamphylia, Lydia, Phrygia, and the Troad, &c., and that this name was given it in Assyria to distinguish it from the other heavier silver mina of about 11,225 grains used in Phoenicia. Among the Hittites and the people of Asia Minor it may have been known as the Babylonian mina, as this is the name by which the Greeks called it (Herod., iii., 90-94), or this may have been a later designation. The earliest coined money on this standard is the Lydian electrum of the time of Gyges. Croesus appears to have been the first to strike silver coins on the same standard, and, as town after town begins to coin money, we perceive that from the Gulf of Issus in the east to Phaselis in the west, as well as in Lydia and here and there in Ionia, in Cyprus, and perhaps even in Crete, the earliest coins are staters of 173 grains or fractions of such staters. In Thrace, too, its early use is indicated by the weight of the rude coins of the Pangaean district issued before the Persian invasions. Little by little this shekel of the weight of Carchemish (weight, 173 grains) appears to have been superseded along the western coast of Asia Minor as well as in Thrace by the shekel (weight, 224 grains) of the Phoenician mina of 11,225 grains, but in Cilicia and Cyprus it held its own against its rival down to the age of Alexander the Great.

BARCLAY V. HEAD.

FUTURE EXPLORATIONS IN EGYPT.

Westbury-on-Trym: Nov. 17, 1879.

In my notice* of Mariette-Bey's *Mémoire*, read before the Académie des Inscriptions et Belles-Lettres, I ventured—not without diffi-

* ACADEMY, November 8, 1879