GRAFFITH ROBERTS.

The Century, London: Nov. 12, 1870.

"M. Moris Clooney," to George, Griffith Roberts dedicated his "Arrathraus Griotsegogal", was evidently Dr. Maurice (or Morris) Clooney, one of the Elizabethan Catholic exiles. He was nominated to the see of Bangor by Queen Mary just before her death; escaped to Flondors 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 sector 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 the papal cause. On the return of the court to Rouen about 1580, so 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 vice-general. This may explain why Griffith Roberts, one of the exiles, published his "Arrathraus Griotsegogal at Milay.

T. F. KNOX.

CAPT. CAMERON ON AN INDIO-MEDITERRANEAN RAILWAY.

Trieste: Nov. 9, 1879.

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

It is not without study that I advocated Tyros as the Levantine port of the coming line. Careful observation convinced me that, despite Beaufort and the Annals, the geography of the coast, the harbour may easily be cleared for sufficient accommodation. The gallant explorer could hardly have followed, as I did, the course of the Kisimiyah, or Litriti, 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 scarcely supply the necessary water for the locomotive," it would tap the very richest land in Syria. As for the statement that it would pass through the luxurious Buka's (Capt. Cameron's Bubdy), run by Ba'labak-Helopolis, follow the once glorious valley-plain of the Orontes, leaving Palmira a little to the east, and finally reaching the Mediterranean. 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 loss of influence very serious for the whole empire.

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

RICHARD F. BURTON.

THE WEIGHT OF CARCHARISM.

British Museum: Nov. 15, 1879.

Prof. Sayce has lately shown (ACADEMY, August 16 and October 18) that the Hittites, and probably by them the ancient kings of the 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 sea 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 maces of silver according to the standard of Carchemish which Neriglissar, in the presence of the king of Sippar, authorized, that to the keeper of the crown, from the city of Dur-Sargun, lends out at five shekels of silver per month interest.

Then follow the date, which corresponds with the year B.C. 607, 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 documents, with the name of the shekel 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 grammes (Brodzinski, Massen- und Gewichtswesen, p. 100).

Before the time of Croesus, King of Lydia, we have no evidence that silver was coined in Asia Minor. The Lydia silver money, attributed by numismatists to that monarch, follows this so-called Babylonian silver standard, fifty silver staters of Croesus, each weighing 173 grammes (11.2 grammes), making one Babylonian silver mina.

Nevertheless, that this Babylonian 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 Phrygo-Thracian mining tribes, who must have brought it over with them from Asia Minor. The Phrygian, or the Phrygianus, or the Phrygianus, when they separated from their brethren of the same stock who remained behind. More than this, I believe that the weight of silver used in the Troad at the period of the burial of the treasure discovered by Dr. Schliemann. It is in those treasure six wedge, bars, or bars of silver about seven or eight inches long by about two inches in breadth. These weigh respectively 171, 173, 174, 183, and 190 metric grammes. The heaviest and best preserved appears to have gained slightly by oxidation and incrustation at one end to the amount of about forty or fifty grammes. This original weight to have been about 187 grammes or 2,389 grains troy, what else can this be but precisely the third part of the Babylonian silver mina of 8,656 grains troy?

Dr. Schliemann calls his wedges Homerice talents, but, be this as it may, they are certainly third parts of the Babylonian silver mina of from 8,645 to 8,656 grammes. If my conclusion that the curation of the mina of Carchemish with the mina in use in the Troad about the fourteenth century B.C. is accepted, may it not prove suggestive when considered in connexion with the Egyptian text (the poem of Pentaur), in which the people of IIion, Pedasos, Dardanos, Mygna, and Lycia are mentioned as allies of the Hekia (Hittites) in their wars with Ramess II.

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 that silver mina found its way by land to Lydia, Phrygia, and Asia Minor. The Homerice or the Babylonian silver standard must have extended over the Phrygianus and the Phrygianus, and 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 Carchemish, Pamphylia, Lydia, Phrygia, and the Troad, etc., and that this name was given to silver bars of about 8,656 grammes, derived from the other heavier silver mina of about 11.225 grammes used in Phoenicia. Among the Hittites and the people of Asia Minor it may have been known as the Babylonian mina, possibly by which the Greeks called it (Herod., iii., 90-91), or this may have been a later designation. The earliest coined money on this standard is that of Gyges, King of Lydia, and Croesus appears to have been the first to strike silver coins on the same standard, and, as town or 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 Ionia, 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 "silver stater" of the Phrygianus, the coin of the Gordion mint, issued before the Persian invasions. Little by little this shekel of the weight of Croesus (weight, 173 grains) appears to have superseded along the western coast of Asia Minor the shekel (weight, 524 grains) of the Phoenician mina of 11,225 grains, but in Cilicia and Cyprus it holds its own against its rival down to the age of Alexander the Great.

BARCLAY V. HEAD.

FUTURE EXPLORATIONS IN EGYPT.

[From the Zephyr.] Nov. 17, 1879.

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

* ACADEMY, November 5, 1879