Report on the Anthropological Section of the International Congress of Orientalists

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Mr. HYDE CLARKE read a Report on the Ethnological section of the Congress of Orientalists :

REPORT *on the* ANTHROPOLOGICAL SECTION *of the* INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS *of* ORIENTALISTS. By HYDE CLARKE, Delegate for the Anthropological Institute.

THE Congress of Orientalists, which was last year instituted at Paris, held its second meeting this autumn in London, and will have its third yearly meeting in St. Petersburg. The importance of the Association rendered it desirable that the Institute should be represented, and I acted on behalf of the Institute, with the sanction of the President, Professor Busk, and was supported by Mr. Brabrook, our Director, and Mr. Park Harrison, Member of the Council. In the desire to promote the objects of the Congress on the occasion of the meeting proposed to be held in the rooms of the Royal Society of Literature, an invitation to visit the collections of the Institute was addressed to the members, and a selection of Oriental skulls and other illustrative objects was arranged, chiefly under the direction of Mr. Park Harrison.

These measures, however, proved abortive in consequence of the want of ordinary organisation, which marked and marred the proceedings of the Congress. Thus, too, the Anthropological section proved a disappointment like all the others. Distinguished men were collected from all parts of the world, including many eminent members of this Institute, but the communication of their knowledge could not be obtained, nor was there any discussion. Although the Congress was, on paper, divided into six sections, yet, contrary to usage, each section held only one sitting, of which half the time or more was devoted to the address of the President, and the hour or three-quarters of an hour remaining was occupied by one speaker. Prof. Owen delivered a very valuable address on Egypt, the chief portions of which the members of this Institute had the advantage of hearing on the 9th of June, as well as of seeing the illustrations. As the members of allied scientific societies were not allowed in the customary way to sit on the committees of sections, no adequate preparation could be made for the section of Ethnology, and no defects could be remedied.

The result is the more to be regretted, as there was a good disposition to show hospitality to the members; the meetings were well attended, and the daily papers devoted long notices to the proceedings, so that an extent of popular interest was excited which might have been productive of much benefit. The number of subscribers, it is to be regretted, is so limited that the volume of Proceedings, to be published at some remote

date, is expected to be small, and will bear no comparison to the magnificent volume of 1873, produced by our French brethren, and to which they have the sagacity still to invite subscriptions.* By the narrowness of funds, another object of the Congress, in the permanent record of its proceedings, is frustrated. This will, to some extent, be remedied by the enterprise of our fellow-member, Mr. N. Trübner, who has already produced, as a part of the "Oriental Record," a very full account of the transactions.† He has likewise been active in arranging with Messrs. Maule, of Piccadilly, for the execution of a series of photographs of distinguished members of the Congress of Orientalists, which is already extensive, and includes several members of our Institute. By the help of Mr. Trübner's compact volume, I proceed to offer a few notes.

Prof. Oppert offered an explanation of his views on the Ethnology of the Medes. He is of opinion that the Medes were non-Aryan; that the language of the cuneiform called Accad is Median; and that the Persian names we have of Median kings are only Persian translations. "The two dynasties of Media and Persia were quite different in race and religion; the accession of Cyrus marks that of the Aryans and the Mazdeism" (Trübner, p. 7).

Our member, Sir Walter Elliot, presided over the section devoted to language in general, unscientifically named, by the Sanskrit sect of philologists, Turanian. Unwilling, like the other chiefs of sections, to absorb the small time allotted for the work of the section, Sir Walter delivered but few observations, reserving for the volume his view of the relation of the non-Aryan languages of the East.

The Rev. Isaac Taylor, in the Turanian section, gave a view of the relations of Etruscan and the Accad of Babylonia (p. 10). These were referred to by me in my paper, last session, "On the Early Culture of America," and the adoption of such view prepares the way for his retreat from the hypothesis of the Finnic classification of the Etruscans. It is well to observe that there are in Accad relations to Finnic. The failure of Dr. Corssen's attempt to make the Etruscan language Aryan will compel the philologists to pay more attention to the ethnological and mythological elements, and may result in modifying the influence of Aryan comparative mythology, establishing its antecedents as a development of prehistoric mythology.

Dr. Leitner read a paper on Dardistan (pp. 10-47). This is a subject which he had brought before the Institute last

* The subscription of ten shillings, for 1873, can still be paid to myself, as delegate.

† Trübner & Co., Ludgate Hill. Price 3s. 6d.

session. The Congress had drawn together a distinguished body of Chinese scholars, but with small result. Those eminent authorities, M. Leon de Rosny (p. 52), founder and last year's President of the Congress, and the Rev. Joseph Edkins (p. 9), entered their names to deal with the important subject of the origin of Chinese writing, on which short papers are published by them (p. 120). The discussion of this matter would have thrown light on the general origin of writing in Egypt, Babylonia, and China, all of which have features in common.

A casual conversation on the origin of the tones in Chinese abruptly closed. When it is observed that in Egyptian, some Caucasian, and other languages, there are also cases of several syllables being expressed by one idea, it is seen that in Caucasia differentiation is obtained by minute distinctions of vowels. According to Schiefner, the tones in Chinese serve the same purpose, even if they be not closely related in sound, while they have connections in gesture, which are derived from the branch of gesture-language dealt with by Mr. Tylor.

In the same Turanian section the Rev. Samuel Beal gave a paper on "Buddhism" (p. 12), and Professor Stenzler (p. 22) on "Expiation." The way in which the various doctrines, particularly that of Nirvana, are modified by the various nationalities, and which likewise received no full discussion, is an important phenomenon in comparative mythology, equivalent to what takes place with Christianity and Islam in a direct ethnological relationship.

In the Semitic section a paper of much interest and research was read by Brugsch Bey on the "Lake passed by the Israelites in their Exodus" (p. 28). In a work about to appear on Egyptian topographical names, and which includes 1,000, no less than 300 have double names. These are generally supposed to be Semitic, and that the shepherd kings were Semitic. Looking to the fact that Thebes and other names are not Semitic, but, as I have shown, Sumerian, it is likely that further confirmation will be obtained of the arguments of Professor Owen, delivered before the Institute, and renewed before the Congress, that there was in Lower Egypt a large and influential non-Egyptian population of Turanian character.

Mr. Grant Duff, M.P., presided over the Archæological section, and read an inaugural essay (p. 36) on the published Government reports.

In this section I was allowed to read a note on the "Connection of the Ancient River-Names of India with those of Etruria and Peru" (p. 39), in which I added some observations to those made before the Institute last session.

The Ethnological section was the last and unluckiest, being

snuffed out by the general meeting. Here (p. 42) Professor Owen read his discourse.

Dr. Forbes Watson had a short time for describing his proposition for the establishment of an Indian Institute in connection with the India Library and Museum (p. 46), which, among other subjects, will practically deal with Natural History, Ethnography, Sociology, Mythology, &c. This important proposal was well received.

Mr. Frederick Drew read a short paper on the "Castes of the Dards" (p. 53).

The special anthropological paper, that of Dr. Dobson, on the interesting topic of the "Andamans and Andamanese," was not read, but has since been transferred to this Institute.

The following report was taken as read:—

REPORT on the STOCKHOLM MEETING of the INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS of ANTHROPOLOGY and PREHISTORIC ARCHÆOLOGY.
By H. H. HOWORTH.

THE International Congress of Anthropology and Archæology, which was held last August at Stockholm, was in every way a remarkable success; successful in attracting a very numerous body of distinguished men from various parts of Europe and America, successful in the very valuable papers that were read and the discussions which followed, and more especially successful in the admirable arrangements that were made for the entertainment and comfort of the visitors. The credit for these arrangements was largely due to the indefatigable zeal and energy of M. Hans Hildebrand, who is so widely known as an archæologist, and of his companion, M. Montelius, whose works on the "Prehistoric Antiquities of Sweden" are equally admirable for their accuracy and the beauty of their illustrations.

Sweden is proverbial for its hospitality, and the influx of those who were interested in the stone- and bronze-folk, so dear to every Scandinavian soul, seems to have warmed even this proverbial hospitality into unwonted glow. The weather was very fine, and therefore the city, which is so often styled the Northern Venice, looked most charming. We were able to explore its environs with ease in the little gondola-like steamers which are the omnibuses of the Malar Lake, the lake of 1,200 islands.

The meetings were held in the old House of Peers. That stately body is now disestablished as a power in the State, but it still retains its palace for grand coremonials. The grand