A NEW HITTITE INSCRIPTION.

THE discovery of a new "Hittite" inscription was one of the more solid results of a short and too hurried journey in Asia Minor which I made with Mr. J. W. Crowfoot during July and August of last year, and its publication may not be inopportune at a moment when fresh interest has been aroused in this species of script by the discoveries of Mr. Arthur Evans in Crete.

After a rather abortive attempt to re-explore the obscure and rugged borderland between Lycaonia and Pamphylia, the net result of which was the discovery of just enough to make the topography of this dark corner even less intelligible than before, we turned towards Cappadocia, where we had hopes of finding at least some pre-Hellenic monuments. Years ago Professor Ramsay and Mr. Hogarth had heard a report of what was presumably a Hittite inscription near Nev-sheher (Soandos), a town two days' journey west of Caesareia Mazaca: important things were said to have turned up near the latter city since M. Chantre's visit: and we learnt also of the existence of hieroglyphic stones at Arapison (Zoropassos) on the Halys. At Nev-sheher we parted company for a time, Mr. Crowfoot going to Caesareia on what turned out to be a fruitless quest, while I descended into the valley of the Halys. At Arapison I had no luck, but another traveller may be more fortunate. Apparently there had been two Hittite stones in the town, which had been found at a neighbouring village and were held in private possession. Unfortunately one of them had recently been seized by the authorities for transport to Constantinople (that it has arrived there it would be rash to conclude); the other I believe is still in the town, but nothing would induce the owner to admit that he now possessed it: it had been taken from him, he said. So far fortune did not smile upon me, but further inquiries elicited the information that there was not far off a "written rock" with wonderful characters, inscribed on it, which more than one enlightened *hodja* had failed to interpret. My hopes rose and we rode away towards Tuz Keui to see it. Slowly and laboriously we dragged our horses and ourselves up a projecting rocky ridge to find on the summit a wretched Christian graffito! With unspeakable mortification we trudged down to Tuz Keui amid a blinding dust-storm, which made the misery of that day complete. Next morning we fared better. Still another written rock was reported at a village two hours away on the opposite side of the Halys, and with chastened expectations we set out to examine it. About 6 miles or 10 kilometres N.N.W. of Tuz Keui, on the brow of the ridge which slopes gently up from the river, lies the little village of Karaburna on the direct road from Nev-sheher viâ

A

HITTITE INSCRIPTION FROM KARABUINA.

B

Arapison to Kir-sheher (Mocissos). Just beyond the village the road runs by the base of a hill, rising to the height of 380 feet above it, which bears clear traces of an ancient fortress. Round the summit of this hill runs a wall of sheer rock, unbroken except to some extent on the west side and more especially on the north, where there are considerable remains of a wall built of irregular, rough stones laid on each other, with smaller stones filling up the interstices. On the east side, below what was apparently the gateway, there is an underground passage, now blocked up, which possibly led down to a well, like the underground staircases at Amasia and Karalar (in Galatia), which lead down to a water-supply in the heart of the mountain (*J.H.S.* 1899, p. 55 f.); and on a shelf of rock on the left of the gateway our inscription is engraved. A glance at the map is sufficient to show the importance of the situation of this fortress, which commands the direct road between Pteria (Boghaz Keui), Tyana (Kizli Hissar), and the Cilician Gates. Near the line of this road there are doubtless other remains of the "Hittite" period to be found: only the other day we heard a report of a new inscription not far from Bulgar Ma'den.

Our inscription (which is incised, not cut in relief) must be of a comparatively late date, but it is of no small interest as showing a very advanced stage in the development towards purely linear forms. It is evidently written *boustrophedon*. The surface of the rock was not carefully smoothed (hence it is not possible to obtain a good impression) and the engraver seems to have gone to work without a proper calculation of the space required, so that part (*B*) of the lowest band had to be engraved, for want of room, outside the limit of the upper bands. It should follow at the left-hand end of the lowest band, but in the illustration is placed below, owing to exigencies of space. The inscription is not in as good a state of preservation as could be wished: the symbols were to a large extent covered over with an encrustation of lichen, which had to be removed before they could be deciphered, and in one or two parts they are so much worn away as to be altogether illegible. I first made a careful copy, then took a squeeze, and afterwards revised and improved the copy. The impression turned out better than I had ventured to hope, and I have made the drawing directly from it, using the copy to help out or to confirm the reading. The scale of the illustration is about $\frac{2}{15}$ of the original. I am indebted to Mr. A. E. Cowley of the Bodleian Library for carefully comparing my drawing with the impression and suggesting some important improvements.

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