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A New Decipherment of the Hittite Hieroglyphs *A new Decipherment of the Hittite Hieroglyphs.* By R. Campbell Thompson, M.A., F.S.A. Reprinted from *Archaeologia*. Vol. Ixiv.

H. R. Hall

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On the same page Dr. Verrall thinks that 'his (Dryden's) recent reading of the Third Book of Lucan's *Pharsalia*, where the successive ships are said to drive the sea's surface forward and back with their oars (iii. 550 ff.) has obviously suggested the hyperbolic language of stanza 177 :

So vast the navy now at anchor rides
That underneath it the press'd waters fail,
And with its weight it shoulders off the tides.

The resemblance between the two passages seems to me of the slightest.

Line 2 undoubtedly, l. 3 also in all probability, came from Statius' description of the fleet of Agamemnon (*Ach.* i. 443 sqq.) :

feruent portus et operta carinis
stagna suasque hiemes classis promota suosque
attollit fluctus : ipsum iam puppibus aequor
deficit.

The phrase 'shoulders off the tides' seems to me finer than anything in the original.

WALTER C. SUMMERS.

Sheffield, September, 1914.

REVIEWS

A NEW DECIPHERMENT OF THE HITTITE HIEROGLYPHS.

A new Decipherment of the Hittite Hieroglyphs. By R. CAMPBELL THOMPSON, M.A., F.S.A. Reprinted from *Archæologia*. Vol. lxiv.

THE Hittite hieroglyphs still seem to defy our efforts at decipherment. Apart from the early and ill-conceived attempt of Conder, who called them 'Altaic,' and considered that the language they expressed was Mongolian (for no particular reason, so far as one can see), the Hittite symbols have been 'deciphered' in accordance with three systems—that of Jensen, that of Sayce, and now that of Mr. Thompson. Dr. Jensen had his *parti pris*, like Conder : the Hittites had to be Aryans. German writers are always very Aryan in sentiment : they have racial prejudices which are unknown to the British scientific man, who cares nothing whether he himself or the people he is writing about are 'Aryans' or not. The Germans care about it very much. Mr. Thompson is rather Aryophil too : his trend is distinctly towards an Indo-European character for the language of the Hittite hieroglyphs. Professor Sayce would not, I think, claim the Hittites as Indo-Europeans. After all, it is much more probable that they belonged to the non-Aryan chain of peoples that probably extended from Italy (Etruscans), through Greece and Crete (Minoans),

and Western Asia Minor (Carians and Lycians), to the Caucasus, where Georgian and kindred tongues still maintain themselves. We know that there were Aryans in Western Asia at the time of the Hittite Empire ; the Mitannians, the nearest eastern neighbours of the Hittites in North Mesopotamia, were, though probably not Aryans themselves, certainly ruled by an Aryan aristocracy, which bore the name *Arya* (*Harie*), and worshipped the gods Indra and Varuna and the Nasatya-twins. This was in the fifteenth century, B.C., and these Aryans were then as yet not differentiated into *H*-men and *S*-men, into Iranians and Hindus. We know, too, that chieftains of this Aryan stock had already filtered down southwards into Southern Palestine, where they seized lordships for themselves, and took a considerable part in the series of commotions and revolts against Egyptian authority that accompanied the attempt of the great Hittite king Shubbiluliuma to extend his empire southward at the expense of that of the mad pharaoh Akhenaten. And at the same time it would appear that the Israelites were entering Palestine from the south, adding their quatum to the general welter. So there were then Aryans even in Palestine, in Mesopotamia, and no doubt north of the Black Sea and in Greece north of the Isthmus. But we have no proof or

probability of any in Asia Minor till the Phrygians came in over the Hellespont from Thrace. King Dushratta of Mitanni was an Aryan, but his enemy Shubbuliuma probably was not. At any rate neither his name nor many other Hittite names have any Indo-European appearance. Does such a name as Khilpsil look Aryan, even if the termination *-is* (Khilpsilis was the nominative) does? When we do find an Aryan-looking name, such as Javajasa, this is more probably to be assigned to a Mitannian Aryan chief in Hittite service than to a real Hittite. The genuinely Hittite names show curious resemblances in form to the certainly non-Aryan Etruscan. I have no space for further details, but the probabilities are against an Aryan character for Hittite. And one does not see that Mr. Thompson has brought forward any evidence to shake this opinion, which is not affected by the claim of some scholars (upon which Mr. Thompson rests his belief) that the Arzawa Hittite, written in cuneiform, is Aryan, or as Mr. Thompson calls it 'Indogermanic.' Why not 'Indoceltic' or 'Indoslavic'? The Celts and Slavs probably speak purer 'Aryan' than any Teutons; whether German, English, or Scandinavian.

As to Mr. Thompson's method of decipherment it is impossible to give a definite opinion. It is ingenious and seems plausible, till one is suddenly brought up by what looks very like a *non-sequitur*. Then one wonders if this

is simply due to one's own stupidity, but is not convinced. Mr. Thompson's translations are all so remarkably 'pat.' They seem to make most of the inscriptions refer to alliances, and to little else. The date assigned to them by their decipherer is later than that usually regarded as probable. He would refer those of Carchemish to no earlier period than the ninth and eighth centuries, and believes that they deal mostly with the relations between the Hittites, Syrians, and Assyrians in the time of the Assyrian Shalmaneser II. and the Syrian Benhadad, of Irkhulina of Hamath, and of Panammu of Sam'al, all of whom he finds mentioned in the inscriptions. We shall cordially congratulate Mr. Thompson if he proves to be right, and we hope he will. But of course his work has to be very carefully checked and examined before any other worker can give a confident opinion as to its validity or non-validity. A criticism by Professor Sayce would be very much to the point, and we hope it will be forthcoming. After a moderately careful examination a student of near eastern matters who has not specially studied Hittite can only say that Mr. Thompson's system is ingenious and may prove to be partly correct, but strikes one as being illogical here and there, and as producing results that are rather too 'pat.' Congratulations on the work and commendation of the labour involved in it go without saying.

H. R. HALL.

TEUBNER TEXTS.

Sexti Empirici Opera recensuit H. MUTSCHMANN. Vol. I. and II. Pp. xxviii + 210. Teubner, 1912. M. 3.60 and M. 9.

Procli Diadochi in Platonis Cratylum Commentaria edidit G. PASQUALI. Pp. xiii + 149. Teubner, 1908.

Procli Diadochi Lycii Institutio Physica edidit A. RITZENFELD. Pp. xvi + 78. Teubner, 1912. M. 1.80.

Diadochus De Perfectione Spirituali edidit J. E. WEIS-LIEBERSDORF. Pp. vi + 165. Teubner, 1912. M. 3.20.

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