Note on the Name "Mediterranean," as Applied to Part of the Human Race; Together with the Proposal of a New Term in its Place

Author(s): F. Jeffrey Bell

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bound to say I have no reason to distrust our workmen, indeed, I do not believe that they were made by them, they might have been made by a visitor upon a Sunday, when the tools were left in the pit, and covered up again. I certainly saw a portion of the scoring over the entrance to a gallery in No. 2 escarp shaft, uncovered by myself on the Monday morning. The face of the chalk was covered with a yellow coating of oxide of iron, and the flint flake with which the marks were made had scraped off the yellow coating, leaving the marks white. All the marks had been made with the same flint and with the same edge or point of it, the inequalities of the flint having been impressed on the grooves, and they were the same in all the grooves. We tried the experiment on an exposed face of the chalk with a flint, and found that the whole scoring need not have taken longer to make than about as many seconds as there were lines. Other marks on the entrance to the adjoining gallery had, however, to me more the appearance of antiquity, and may have been, as Mr. Harrison suggests, marks made by the excavators to denote the number of flints obtained out of it, or for some other similar purpose. Indeed, I am far from dogmatising with respect to any of them; the evidence is, I think, unreliable, and my position with regard to them may be described as *agnostic*. I think, however, that we are much indebted to Mr. Harrison for having brought the subject before us and for the able manner in which the view of their genuineness has been argued by him; and I hope that, whether genuine or not, some of the most likely ones may be recorded by means of woodcuts, so that in case of any future discovery of similar marks, now that our attention has been drawn to the subject, we may have them at hand for comparison.

Mr. PARK HARRISON, in reply, said that it was not easy to get down into Mr. Willett's pit (originally 20 feet deep) until stepping-places were made by himself in the chalk. Single letters and characters having been found in Sussex on British coins of pre-Roman date would lead one to think it probable that they were known previously; and if so, it is reasonable to suppose that they may have been cut by the priests on so tempting a material as chalk, either as charms or monograms of deities, long before the very advanced art of *coining* was acquired. There is nothing to indicate the number of centuries during which the Druids in Gaul practised writing before Cæsar recorded the fact.

The following paper was taken as read :

NOTE on the name "MEDITERRANEAN," as applied to part of the HUMAN RACE; together with the PROPOSAL of a NEW TERM in its place. By F. JEFFREY BELL, Exhibitioner of Magdalen College, Oxford.

FOLLOWING up a suggestion, half playful indeed, as I think, on the part of Professor Rolleston, made to me at the conclusion of his lectures on Ethnology, delivered in the University

Museum, at Oxford, in Michaelmas Term, 1875, I have considered the name Mediterranean, applied to some of the races of man, principally by German anthropologists. Dr. Rolleston's reference to the term reminded me of an objection which I had long felt, namely, that the epithet Mediterranean in no way did justice to the very laborious investigations of philologists, on the distribution of the Aryan languages throughout the world; and on going further into the question, put in the manner I have already indicated, I have come to certain conclusions on the matter, which I think may as well be put before those who are studying anthropology, through the medium of the Institute. I may, perhaps, be allowed to apologise for certain lacunæ and deficiencies, due to the fact of my being in *statu pupillari*; and I shall also, throughout the paper, assume the unity of the origin of the human race, not so much, indeed, because the arguments of the "polygenists" are difficult to answer, as because it would lead to a longer paper than I at present feel justified in writing, and because of no large experience in the varieties of the human race.* I may, however, be allowed to fortify myself, by a quotation from an article in the new edition of the "Encyclopædia Britannica," signed by the well-known initials E. B. T.: "On the whole, it may be stated that the doctrine of the unity of mankind now stands on a firmer basis than in previous ages."

The first objection which I shall raise ought of itself to be sufficient to convince us that we have no right to apply the term Mediterranean to the Aryan and Semitic races, together with the Caucasians and Basques, as is now so commonly done; and which was, as I understand, first used in this sense by Friedrich Müller, in the report of the voyage of the Novara (Reise der öst: Fregatte Novara, Anthrop. Theil Abth. 3. Wien 1868): it is this, that the name Mediterranean has been already appropriated, and that by the very famous philologist, Ewald† I cannot better describe for what races than by quoting Prof. Max Müller,‡ whom I must thank for directing me to the article, from which this quotation is taken: "The race speaking these languages inhabited the large central circle surrounded by Semitic, South Indian, Chinese, Turko-Tartaric, and Basque languages." So that it is

* I do not think that I shall be considered presumptuous in speaking thus of the polygenists; at any rate, not by those who have read Prof. Hæckel's "Schöpfungsgeschichte," where he speaks of the *twelve* species and *thirty-six* races of man; with which one might compare his remarks on species, Ann. Nat. Hist. June, 1873, p. 424.

† Ausfuhr Lehrbuch des Hebraischen Sprache, p. 17 (Göttingen 1870), where the note says that its author has used the term, in this sense, for thirty years.

‡ Encyclopædia Britannica. Art. Aryan.

clear that Müller's "Mediterranean Races" includes the Mediterranean of Ewald (Aryan of many authors), *plus* the Semites, Basques, many Caucasian races, and those called Hamitic. This is surely not justifiable. Zoologists, at any rate, do not allow the same generic names to be used in systematic zoology, however far apart in the scale the animals bearing them may be;* and anthropology, which, indeed, can hardly live without philology, is surely not justified in allowing such proceedings. Putting aside this question of nomenclature, although, in truth, it ought not to be set aside, let us pass on to consider how far the name is justifiable, by the facts of the case.

The term Mediterranean might be understood to denote the races living around the sea so called, or the races living in the centre of the earth; the latter seems to be the more usual interpretation. The advantage of it, considered on the former understanding, is, that it draws our attention to the well-known fact, that the so-called Hamitic races (the Dyssemmites of many modern authors) are really connected by very close ties with the true Semites;† that is, that the nations living in the North of Africa, and bordering on the Mediterranean, are so closely allied to the Semites that the whole group might be fairly called Syro-Arabian, as has already been suggested indeed.‡ One very great objection is that it seems, in any fair sense, to leave out of notice those Indian races which are, without doubt, members of the Aryan stock, and are, as clearly, closely allied to many very distinct European races. The term, indeed, to my mind, seems to slight the excellent labours of those philologists who have demonstrated, with such admirable clearness, the primitively common origin of the Teuton, the Kelt, the Slav, the Iranian, and the "Indian." Foolish and wrong is it, at any time, to slight honest and excellent work; but most foolish of all is it for the anthropologist to slight the philologist, to whose labours he owes so much, and to whom, in all probability, he will owe so much more.

Next, with regard to geographical position—and it is only fair to deal with the latitude—they can hardly be called the middle-land races, who do not live south of the Equator (I am, of course, not speaking of modern colonists, but criticising the

* As may be instanced by the amœboid *Pelomyxa*, discovered by Dr. Greef at Bonn (allied to the unfortunate *Bathybius*, as was supposed); Dr. Greef first called it *Pelobius*, which name has long been given to an insect: it would surely be more easy to mistake two members of the genus *homo* than a protozoon and an insect!

† Cf. Farrar's Families of Speech, chap. iii. *Ibid.* p. 111.

‡ Compare, also, Fr. Müller (Reise der Novara, &c., p. 193): "Ursprünglich scheinen die hamatischen und Semitischen Sprachen eine Einheit gebildet zu haben."

word in the sense in which it is used by Prof. Hæckel, in his map of the races of man,* which represents the distribution of the fifteenth century). And again, the Turks, whom no man will allow to be of this Mediterranean race, unless some coming anthropologist shall give the name yet another meaning, live on the borders of the Mediterranean Sea, and did live there even in the fifteenth century. These objections might, perhaps, be sufficient for rejecting the term Mediterranean, as used by Fr. Müller; but it is further right to suggest some other term in its place. It may be that what will follow may afford some justification for directing the attention of the Institute to the matter of a name; and as it will, I think, be allowed that scientific names are only the expressions of scientific knowledge, it may be well to call attention to the following very important point. Important as it is, it must, I fear, be dealt with somewhat shortly, owing to my lamentable ignorance of philology. Much assistance can, as I believe, and as I have already said, be given to anthropology by philology; and it is mostly for the purpose of again drawing the attention of philologists to this matter, that I insert what follows; this, namely, is the problem—Are we justified in placing the Basques, and some of the Caucasian races, with the Aryans, or even with the “Mediterraneanese?”

I will first deal with the Caucasians; little seems to be known of them. Prof. Max Müller tells me that the dialects of the tribes now scattered in the Caucasus are neither Aryan nor Semitic, with the exception of Ossitic and Armenian, both of which are Aryan. The famous Klaproth relates, in his travels, that it was possible to pass through the mountains of the Caucasus (and here it is that most of the non-Aryan tribes are found) by knowing the language of the Tartars. Here are his exact words: “In und am Kaukasus wohnen verschiedene Tatarische Stämme, die *Dialecte einer Sprache* reden, mit deren Hülfe man dies ganze gebirge durchreisen kann.”† And it appears that the Tartars he speaks of in this passage speak a language in no way related to the Aryan. Mr. Hyde Clarke, in a paper presented to the British Association in 1872, of which I am sorry to say that I have not been able to find more than an abstract, says, very truly, that the Caucasus is “a place of passage,” not “a centre of population,” for the world.

To pass on to the Basques, whose origin has for a long time been the subject of dispute. Humboldt had entered very fully into the question; lately, as is natural, French anthropologists

* Frontispiece, vol. ii. English ed., 1875.

† Reise in der Kaukasus, &c., in 1807-8, von Julius von Klaproth 7^{er} Abschnitt. Tatarische Sprachen: Bd. ii. p. 271. Halle and Berlin, 1814.

have devoted much attention to the matter ; a very full history of the controversy carried on by the Anthropological Society of Paris will be found in M. Bladé's very valuable book,* from which I shall quote largely in what follows. Two distinct views have been taken, and admirably supported ; between them I shall not pretend to arbitrate, but shall point out their bearings merely on the question as to how far the Basques can claim to be Aryans.

1. M. Paul Broca asserts that the Basques are dolichocephalic ; but their dolichocephaly differs from that of the other races of Europe : " Au lieu de présenter une dolichocéphalie frontale, ils présentent une dolichocéphalie occipitale, due à la fois au développement exagéré des lobes postérieurs du cerveau, et au peu de développement de sa région antérieure." By the conformation of the cranium, they closely resemble the negroes, save as regards their orthognathism. " Mais je me hâte d'ajouter que les Basques se distinguent à leur tour de toutes les races d'Afrique, même des plus orthognathes, par la petitesse de leur mâchoire supérieure, par le peu de développement de leurs bosses cérébelleuses, et par l'atrophie relative de leur protubérance occipitale ; ces caractères, d'ailleurs, différencient aussi les Basques des races d'Europe."

2. M. Pruner-Bey strongly opposes the conclusions, and indeed premisses of M. Broca ; he asserts strongly the brachycephaly of the Basque skull, and gives good reasons for thinking that M. Broca's skulls were dolichocephalic, on account of the crossings with other races, which, as both anthropologists allow, obtains largely to-day. M. Pruner-Bey not only asserts that the Basques cannot be descended from the Aryans, but is confident that they belong to the Mongoloid stock.

And that this is not altogether absurd, the investigations of Prince Lucien Bonaparte,† who has discovered some very striking analogies between the Basque and Finnic languages, and of M. H. de Charencey,‡ go to prove. And although there is no relation whatever, as far as modern ethnologists can see, between the "Iberians" of Spain and the "Iberians" of the Caucasus, and although the name Iberian is purely a geographical, and not an ethnographical term, as even Humboldt§ was compelled to allow—" Der name der Iberer ist nicht bloss ein ethnographischer, sondern grossentheils ein geographischer"—yet it is strange that the Greeks should have called both races

* *Études sur l'origine des Basques*, par M. J. F. Bladé. Paris, 1869.

† Prince Louis-Lucien Bonaparte. *Langue basque et langues finnoises*. Londres, 1862.

‡ Quoted by Bladé, p. 85 and onwards.

§ "Untersuchungen über die Urbewohner Hispaniens," p. 141. Bd. ii. *Gesammelte Werke*. Berlin, 1841.

Iberians; and the more remarkable, since in the Caucasus so large a portion is inhabited by "Allophyllian races," as may easily be seen by reference to the Philological Map of Europe, in Mr. Farrar's "Families of Speech."

If I now just add, that philologists find a close relationship between the Basque language and those of the aborigines of America—both are "Polysynthetic"—I think I shall have shown, although, indeed, it has been shown over and over again, that neither anthropologists nor philologists are entitled to put, in any close connection, the Aryans and the Basques. Nor is there any proof of the relationship of the Basques with the Semites. Of the early wide distribution of the Basques, or their kin, over Europe, I need not speak. If, then, the Basques and the non-Aryan-speaking Caucasian races are to be excluded from the group Mediterranean, there is left in it only the Aryans and Semites of the philologists; for them, as I have already shown in the earlier part of my paper, the name Mediterranean cannot be justly used. Here, perhaps, I might conclude, following manifold examples, for the easier, because destructive, portion of my task is done; the more difficult remains, to grapple with the constructive; and here the question is, what name can be given to the two large groups of races, naturally connected together, the Aryans and the Semites of philologists? Are they, or are they not, more closely allied to one another than to any other races known to the ethnologist? Philology distinctly says that they are, in the person of one of its most gifted and laborious students;* ethnology has never separated them. Granting then this, it remains now only to find them a common name.

To this question let us now address ourselves:—

1. No name which regards their intellectual qualities can be found; progressive many Semites are not, as has been eloquently said,† "Had the Semite alone appeared, man might have been sunk in Oriental stagnation—noble, indeed, in his moral bearings, but too simply quiescent and introspective—without science, without inventiveness, without inquiry, without intellectual breath and catholicity, without that physical energy and those 'wrestling thews' that throw the world." Surely the possession of these form the very conditions of progress. Among these two races alone, indeed, is the missionary spirit to be found, but it is not common to them all. Nor are they alone progressive, the Chinese were once so, and the friends of humanity are gladdened, in these days, to see this very spirit in the Japanese.

* Prof. Max Müller, "Science of Language," i. 380.

† Rev. F. W. Farrar, "Families of Speech," p. 186.

2. Westerly drifting many are, but they have also gone eastward; and the Turks, as Mr. Howorth has shown, are also so.*

3. Their physical characters are hardly distinctive; they shade into nearly every other group of the human race.

4. Language, then, alone remains, and this does seem to be absolutely distinctive; the areas of the Semitic and the Aryan languages are distinctly marked.

I propose, therefore, the name Aryo-Semitic for the group; in addition to the reasons produced by the above "exhaustive treatment," I would give the following:—

1. No characteristic of man stands out so prominently as language; as Häckel† says, "The highest authorities in comparative philology justly see in the development of human speech the most important process which distinguishes man from his animal ancestors"; and again (p. 307), "Comparative philology seems especially to be becoming an authority in this matter"—that is, the classification of the races of man. It is quite in accordance with the principles of classification to use as a distinctive name, one which expresses variations in character common to, and distinctive of, a group.

2. There is much truth in Schleicher's remark that there are as many primitive languages as races; it has been shown that the Aryan and Semitic languages had a common origin, and, therefore, on Schleicher's principle the races were also primitively one.

3. The highest authorities in philology use the term Aryan for all the members of the Græco-Italo-Keltic, Sclavo-Letto-Teutonic, Indic, and Iranian families, and do not, as Häckel and others, confine it to the two latter.

4. Names of classes and families must not do more than represent our knowledge at a given time; all our knowledge of the distinctive characters of the Aryans and Semites has been gained by philology.

5. We thus cut off all chances of error as to the Basque and Caucasian races. Many anthropologists insist on physical characters to the exclusion of philological, but such a course is suicidal for the anthropologist; while he too often finds only remnants vague, uncertain, and without any history, the philologist, in the majority of facts which he discovers, has means of comparison and monuments, which have lasted through ages unchanged and untarnished.

Many philologists, indeed, insist on the necessity of classifying languages and blood relationships in a different manner;

* Journ. Ethnol. Soc., ii. p. 472. Cf. also M. Muller, op. cit. i. p. 346.

† Op. cit. ii. p. 301.

but just as truth elsewhere is one, so, surely, is it in the case of man; small sections of families may here and there change their language, but the cases are exceptional, and often, thanks to the labours of the philologist, also explicable.

NOVEMBER 14TH, 1876.

Colonel LANE FOX, F.R.S., *President, in the Chair.*

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed.

Two new members were announced.

The list of presents to the Library was announced, and thanks ordered to be returned to the donors for the same.

FOR THE LIBRARY.

- From the CLUB.—Proceedings of the Berwickshire Naturalists' Field Club, Sept., 1875.
- From the SOCIETY.—Proceedings of the Society of Antiquaries of London. Vol. VI. Nos. 5 and 6.
- From the SOCIETY.—Proceedings of the Philosophical Society of Glasgow. Vol. X. No. 1.
- From the SOCIETY.—Proceedings of the Boston Society of Natural History. Vol. XVII. Nos. 1—4; Occasional Papers of do.; Memoirs, do.
- From the AUTHOR.—Report upon Geographical Exploration, &c., U. S. America. By Lieut. G. M. Wheeler.
- From the INSTITUTE.—The Canadian Institute. Vol. XV. No. 11.
- From the EDITOR.—Materiaux pour l'Histoire de l'Homme, June to Sept., 1876.
- From the SOCIETY.—Proceedings of the Royal Society. Vol. XXIV. No. 170.; Vol. XXV. Nos. 171—3.
- From the ASSOCIATION.—The Journal of Royal Historical and Archæological Association of Ireland. Vol. III. No. 24.
- From the EDITOR.—Archiv für Anthropologie. Newr. Band. Erstes Viertel. 1876.
- From the INSTITUTE.—Transactions of the New Zealand Institute. Vols. 1, 2, 3, 4, 7, and 8.
- From the AUTHOR.—Report of the U. S. Geological Survey of Territories. Vols. IX. and X. 4to. By Professor F. V. Hayden. Bulletin, do. Vol. XI. No. 4.
- From the INSTITUTE.—Proceedings of the Royal Colonial Institute. Vol. VII.
- From the INSTITUTION.—Journal of the Royal United Service Institution. Vol. XIX. No. 84. Vol. XX. Nos. 86 and 87.
- From the ASSOCIATION.—Journal of the East India Association. Vol. IX. No. 5.
- From the SOCIETY.—Proceedings of the Royal Geographical Society. Vol. XX. No. 6.