



The Inscriptions of Saris and Mount Olivet

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is a study where there can be no monopoly of knowledge on the part of any single observer. Many observers are necessary, and each may add something valuable to the general fund of information.

As to animals, I may mention that I secured a fine specimen of the ratel or honey badger, *Mellivora ratel*, which was taken between Mar Saba and the Dead Sea; also a pair of foxes, *Vulpes famelica*, small, delicate, with splendid brush. The most beautiful little creatures of the kind that I have ever seen. So far as I am aware these are both new to Palestine.

In his list of animals Dr. Tristram states of the coney, *Hyrax syriacus*, that it is "not known in Lebanon." A writer whose name does not appear, and who is unknown to me, in the "Edinburgh Review" for April, 1886, p. 326, speaks of the coney as "confined to the gorges of the Dead Sea and Arabia Petræa. It is rare in the rest of the country, and unknown in the Lebanon." The preface to Tristram's "Flora and Fauna" is dated in 1883, and the volume itself in 1884. But since 1876 I have had in my collection a fine large specimen of this animal, that was taken near the well-known Lebanon village of Abeih. Dr. Tristram's remark of the crocodile in the Zerka I would apply to this case of the coney: "An ounce of fact is worth a ton of theory."

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THE INSCRIPTIONS OF SARIS AND MOUNT OLIVET.

It is very desirable that exact squeezes should be taken of the inscriptions described by Mr. Hanauer, as found in a cave at Saris, since the characters are evidently old Phœnician, the first one being an *aleph*. The sculpture accompanying them, moreover, is in the same style as the "Proto-Phœnician" rock-sculptures I have visited near Tyre.¹

The inscription No. IV, given by Mr. Schick, which was found on the mosaic flooring at the Campo Santo on the Mount of Olives, reads: X[αῖρε] ε · μνήσθητι τῆς δούλης σου Ζάννας. "Farewell! remember thy servant Zanna." In Egypt the first letter of the proper name might be identified with the Coptic letter Η, and the name accordingly read Hanna, but this would not be possible in Syria.

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¹ Squeezes of this inscription have since been received by the Fund, and will be forwarded to Professor Sayce, who is now in Egypt.