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ON THE SPREAD OF JEWISH-CHRISTIAN RELIGIOUS IDEAS AMONG THE EGYPTIANS.¹

In the Proceedings of the Society of Biblical Archroology for 1883, attention is called to the importance of the papyrus discovered in Egypt as affording an explanation of the spread of religious conceptions of a Jewish-Christian character among the Egyptian races. Indications of the fact had already been observed in the demotic papyri, and in the meantime, a fragment of extreme antiquity was found in the collection of papyri belonging to the Archduke Renier, in which mention is made of the forewarning of Peter's fall given by our Lord. This fragment I discovered in May, 1884, in the midst of a heap of other papyri to which it was firmly adhering, for indeed it is nothing uncommon to find a quantity of papyrus or parchment sheets that have lain for a long time together compacted into a solid mass. Now these papyri were all belonging to the period of the Roman Empire, and some of them bear the date of the time of Alexander Severus. In consequence of the palæographic marks upon these sheets, it must be prominently and emphatically stated, that originally this fragment most probably formed part of a papyrus roll. This view is also supported by the circumstance that it is written in long narrow columns and not in backward-written horizontal lines. In the fourth century after Christ, however, writing was seldom performed in this columnar fashion that had prevailed in the construction of the earlier rolls. The style of writing which characterises the fragment also indicates the pagan period of the Roman Empire rather than that of the fourth century. Especially deserving of attention is the form in which in line 4 the letters $a \sigma$ of the word $\delta \iota a \sigma \kappa о \rho \pi \iota \sigma \theta \eta \sigma$. . . are written. The ter-

[^0]minal stroke of the $a$ is concluded thus-c, just like the ligature or cursive combination $a$, for $a s$, as it is used in the writing of the Roman period.' The contraction $\dot{\boldsymbol{\Pi}} \boldsymbol{\in} \dot{\boldsymbol{T}}$ for $\pi$ étpos is also very striking. The letters and the points are written in red ink. ${ }^{1}$

[^1]The magical papyri, or documents bearing upon magical arts, from which I have quoted in the note below, constitute the principal source for our consideration of the spread of religious conceptions of a Jewish-Christian kind. They had been drawn up during an age when there was a very remarkable favour shown to syncretism in regard to religious views and practices. Greek ideas and practices formed the basis of that system ; but a secondary constituent element appears in these Egyptian papyri in the form of a multitude of Egyptian notions and myths, frequently expressed in the Egyptian language, the native terms being simply transcribed into Greek characters. This is true also of demotic papyri of this class. In yet more remarkable profusion the Jewish and Jewish-Christian element makes its appearance, so that a lengthy Greek passage is completely dominated by such ideas, and even affords examples of what are usually called Hebraisms. These interesting passages I now give in parallel columns in the original and in an English translation.

[^2] бо́кццог．


 $\lambda \epsilon ́ \gamma \omega \nu \iota \omega \eta \lambda \omega \sigma \sigma \alpha \rho \theta \iota \omega \mu \iota \epsilon \mu \omega \rho \iota \theta \epsilon \omega-$ $\chi \iota \psi \iota \theta \quad \sigma \iota \theta \epsilon \mu \epsilon \omega \chi \quad \sigma \omega \theta \eta \quad \iota \omega \eta \quad \mu \iota \mu t-$

 кого⿱丷⿱一土㇒日。


 саךш．харбок．каі̀ лєрі́aттє то̀v


 $\sigma \epsilon \kappa a \tau a ̀ ~ \tau o v ̂ ~ @ \epsilon o v ̂ ~ \tau \omega ิ \nu ~ ' E \beta \rho a i \omega \nu ~ ' I ~ \eta-~$ $\sigma o \hat{v} \cdot \iota \alpha \beta a \cdot \iota u \eta \cdot \alpha \beta \rho a \omega \theta \cdot$ aïa $\cdot \theta \omega \theta$ ． $\epsilon \lambda \epsilon^{\cdot} \epsilon \lambda \omega^{\cdot}$ a ${ }^{\prime} \omega^{\cdot}$ єоиііі $\beta a \epsilon \chi^{*} a \beta a \rho-$












Approved Method of Pibeches for Cases of Possession．

Take unripe green olives，with the plants mastigia and lotome－ tra．Boil them in an unstained hollow vessel，repeating mean－ while the charm：Jôêl Ôssar－ thiômi emôri theốchipsoith si－ themeôch sôthe iôê mimipsôthi－ ôph phersôthi aeêoiouô iôô eô－ chariphtha．Go out from this man，etc．

An amulet for the same pur－ pose．Write upon a tin－plate： iaêô abra ôchthiôch phtha me－ sentiniaô pheôch iaêô charsok， and bind it around the neck of the afflicted one．Every demon regards this as a disgrace，and fears it．Then，placing thyself opposite him，exorcise him，us－ ing the following formulary of exorcism：I adjure thee by Je－ sus the God of the Jews；iaba iaê abraôth aia thôth ele elô aêô eouiii baech abarmas iabaran abelbel lôna abra maroia bra－ kiôn．Thou who dwellest in the fire，appearing in the midst of the field（in thunder and light－ ning ？），or in the snow，and in the clouds，cause thine angel， Tannêtis，who will not be frus－ trated，to go down and drive away from this creature of God， whom God created in his holy Paradise，the demon that has wrapped himself around him． Epi ammon ipsintanchô．For－ mulary：I adjure thee labra ia－ kuth ablanathanalba akramm，

入óरos• aw $\theta$ ．«a $\theta a \quad \beta a \theta \rho a \cdot \chi^{\alpha} \chi^{\theta a-}$ $\beta \rho a \theta a \cdot \chi a \mu v \nu \quad \zeta \epsilon \lambda . \alpha \beta \rho \omega \omega \theta \cdot \sigma v$






 $\pi a ̂ v ~ \pi \nu \epsilon \bar{\mu} \mu a$ ठаццóviov $\lambda a \lambda \hat{\eta} \sigma a \iota$













入oүov̂vтa тov̂s картoùs aủrท̂s òv єن̉入oүєî $\pi \hat{a} \sigma a$ évovávios $\delta \dot{v} v a \mu c s$

 סávŋs тотацòs $\dot{\alpha} \nu \epsilon \chi \dot{\omega} \rho \eta \sigma \epsilon \nu$ єís $\tau \grave{\alpha}$

Formulary：aôth iatha bathra chachthabratha chamyn zel a－ brôôth thou art Abrasilôth alle－ luia lôsai iaêl．I adjure thee by him who pointed out the way to Israel in a pillar of fire by night and in a cloud by day（Exod． xiii．21），and saved Israel from the counsels of Pharaol，and sent upon Pharaoh the ten plagues because he would not hearken unto Israel（Exod．vii．）． I adjure thee，thou evil spirit， whosoever thou art，to speak， whatsoever language thou hast； for I adjure thee by the seal which Solomon impressed on the tongue of Jeremiah that he might speak（Jer．i． 9 ？）．Speak thou，then，whatsoever speech thou hast，whether it be one of heaven，or of the air，or of the earth，or of the region under the earth，or of the lower world， insular，or continental，or quite by itself．Speak whatever sort of sound thou canst stutter out； for I adjure thee by God，who brings the light，the unsubdu－ able，who knows the heart of every creature，who created mankind out of the earth，who gathers together and condenses the clouds from the unseen re－ gions，who refreshes the earth with rain，who blesses its fruits， whom all the heavenly hosts of angels and archangels praise． I adjure thee by the mighty God Sabaôth，by whom the river Jordan was made to stand still （Josh．iii．15），by whom the




 тробта́үрать орккіگш бє то̀v т $\omega \nu$



 $\sigma \epsilon \tau \grave{\nu} \boldsymbol{\pi \epsilon \rho \ell \theta \epsilon ́ v \tau a ~ \check { \rho } \rho \eta ~ \tau \hat { \eta } \theta a \lambda \alpha ́ \sigma \sigma \eta}$



 тòv $\sigma v \nu \sigma \epsilon i ́ o v \tau a ~ \tau o u ̀ s ~ \tau \epsilon ́ ध \sigma \epsilon \rho a s ~ a v e ́-~-~$
 ขоє $\delta \delta \hat{\eta} \theta a \lambda a \sigma \sigma о \epsilon \delta \hat{\eta} \nu \in \phi \epsilon \lambda о \epsilon \delta \delta \bar{\eta} \cdot \phi \omega-$

 $\sigma \tau o \nu \pi \hat{v} \rho \delta_{\iota}$ à $\pi a \nu \tau o ̀ s ~ a i ̂ \omega v o s ~ \pi \rho o \sigma$ -








 тòv таралацßа́vорта тòv ó $\rho \kappa \iota \sigma \mu$ òv

Red Sea was made to withdraw before Israel, and that they might pass over (Exod, xiv. 21). I adjure thee by him who sent down the hundred and forty tongues and distributed them according to his own pleasure (Acts ii. 2). I adjure thee by him who destroyed the mighty giants with his lightnings, by him whom heaven of heavens celebrates, whom the hosts of the Cherubim praise. I adjure thee by him who put limits to the sea, a wall of sand, and commanded the waves not to overflow it. As the deep hears him, so also, evil spirit, must thou hear him, whosoever thou art. For I adjure thee by the light. bringer who cannot be resisted, who, by the sacred wons, sends forth the four winds upon the heavens, upon the sea, and upon the clouds. I adjure thee by him who is enthroned in the holy Jerusalem, before whom through all ages the eternal fire burns, by his sacred name Iaeo Barrenuzoun. Formulary: Before whom the Gehenna fire flickers and who is surrounded by flames of fire, who breaks iron asunder and causes every mountain to shake to its foundation. I adjure thee, evil spirit, whosoever thou art, by him who looks upon the earth and who has called all things into existence out of nothing. I adjure thee who hast come under a solemn obligation not
 $\tau \alpha \gamma \dot{\eta} \sigma \epsilon \tau \alpha \iota \sigma$ о $\pi \hat{\alpha} \nu \pi \nu \epsilon \bar{v} \mu \alpha$ каі $\delta \alpha \iota-$
 $\phi v ́ \sigma a$ ă à $\pi o ̀ \tau \hat{\omega} \nu$ ä $\kappa \rho \omega \nu(\tau \hat{\omega} \nu) \pi o \delta \omega \nu$



 poîs ảv $\delta \rho \alpha \dot{\sigma} \tau v$.
to eat swine＇s flesh，and every spirit and demons of every sort shall be subject unto thee．

Sound out the exorcism as loudly as thou canst，blowing it forth upon the person from his feet to his face，and it will drive out the demon．Keep this exor－ cism pure，for it is a Hebrew one，and is kept by pure men （that is，it is used by the Es－ senes）．

In the Gospel according to Mark（ch．xv．17）and in that of Luke（ch．x．17），and also in other passages of the New Testament，references are made to this kind of exorcism of demons by the name of Jesus Christ．But the long pas－ sage that we have just quoted is not the only one in the papyrus where devils are in the name of Jesus commanded to go forth．Here is a second example ：－
 баípovas．

 vas édaías каì öँ $\pi \iota \sigma \theta \epsilon \nu$ aưrov̂ $\sigma \tau \alpha-$
 abpadam xaipe mnoyti ì ticak XAIPE TNOYte $\bar{N}$ ЇaкаВ їнсоүс п ХРНстос $\quad$ TI aГIOC $\bar{N}$ пneyma
 e日caxoyn N̄ Icacdi ena law caBaje mapetetenoom chBic abod amo tov̂ $\delta \epsilon \hat{v a}$ Matetennoyce maï $\Pi$ aka日aproc $\bar{N} \operatorname{~} \triangle a I M \omega N \pi$ cadanac $\epsilon \theta н і ̈ \theta \theta$ ．$\dot{\epsilon} \xi$ оркі它 $\sigma \boldsymbol{\sigma}$
 тov̂ тov̂ $\oplus \epsilon o v ̂ ~ \sigma \alpha \beta a \rho \beta a \theta \iota \omega \theta ~ \sigma \alpha \beta a \rho-$ $\beta a \theta \iota o v \theta \sigma_{\sigma} \beta \alpha_{\rho} \beta \alpha \rho \beta \alpha \theta \iota \omega \nu \eta \theta \sigma \alpha \beta a \rho-$


Effectual Means for Driving out a Devil．

Formula to be uttered over the head of the sick：（before him lay an olive branch，and placing thyself behind him， say ：）Hail，spirit of Abraham； hail spirit of Isaac，hail spirit of Jacob，Jesus the Anointed， the Holy，drive forth the devil from this man，till this unclean spirit of Satan shall flee before thee．I adjure thee， O demon， whoever thou art，by the God Sabarbathiôth Sabarbathiuth Sabarbarbathiônêth Sabarbar－ baphai．Depart，$O$ demon， whoever thou art，at once，at


 rots каì $\pi а \rho а \delta i ́ \delta \omega \mu \iota \sigma \epsilon \epsilon i s ~ \tau o ̀ ~ \mu \epsilon ́ \lambda a \nu$ $\chi^{a ́ o s} \dot{\epsilon} \nu \tau \alpha i ̂ s \dot{a} \pi \omega \lambda i ́ a \iota s$.
once, without delay. Come out, O demon, for I shall fetter thee with adamantine fetters that will not loose, and I shall give thee over to utter destruction in black chaos.

Since the adjurations which were expressed in the Egyptian language were derived from demotic originals, we must conclude that this exorcism in the name of Jesus Christ had also been present previously in the demotic papyri.

Another passage, which presupposes acquaintance with Hebrew religious ideas, runs as follows:-




 тоv̂ Фатрш Обороуvшфрıs тои̂то
 $\pi а \rho a \delta \iota \delta o ́ \mu \epsilon \nu о \nu$ тоîs т $\rho о ф \dot{\eta} \tau \alpha \iota s$ ' $\mathrm{I} \sigma$. $\rho a \grave{\lambda} \lambda$ є่ $\pi \alpha ́ к о v \sigma о \nu ~ \mu о v ~ A \rho \beta a \theta ı \alpha \omega ~$ $\rho \epsilon \beta \epsilon \tau a \theta \epsilon \lambda \epsilon \beta \epsilon \rho \sigma \eta \theta a \beta$. $\beta \lambda a \theta a$ $a \lambda \beta \epsilon \tau \in \beta \in \nu \phi \iota \chi \iota \tau \alpha \gamma о \eta \iota \beta$. . . $\theta \iota a \omega$

 etc.
 $\kappa а \lambda \alpha \hat{v} \mu a \iota \sigma \epsilon \tau \grave{\partial} \nu \delta v \nu \alpha ́ \sigma \tau \eta \nu \tau \hat{\omega} \nu \theta \epsilon \hat{\omega} \nu$


 Z $\alpha a \lambda a \eta \rho \iota \phi \phi о v$ каì $\sigma v \mu \eta े ~ \pi а \rho а к о и ́-~$



I am [says the soothsayer], Moses thy prophet, to whom thou hast confided thy mysteries, in which Israel should take part. Thou hast pointed out the dry and the wet and all sustenance. Hear me: I am the angel of Phaprô Ossoronnôphris. This is thy true name, which has been given over to the prophets of Israel. Hear me : Arbathiaô reibet athelebersêth ab(lanathanalba) ebenphi chitagoê ib . . . thiaô. Hear me, and cast those demons out. I call on thee, etc.

Listen to my voice. I cry unto thee, thom ruler of the gods, loud-thundering Zeus, Zeas the Sovereign Ruler, Adônai, Lord, Iaôouee. I am he who calls upon thee in the Syrian tongue under the name of the great god Zaalaêriphphou; and thon, who art called in the He brew tongue Ablanathanalba Abrasilôa, let not my voice re-
 ${ }_{\iota} \epsilon \omega \nu \epsilon \beta$ vov $\sigma a \beta \iota \theta$ ap $\beta \omega \theta$ ap $\beta a \theta \iota a \omega$



 $\dot{\alpha} \nu \alpha \gamma \kappa \omega \hat{\nu} \mu а \sigma \kappa є \lambda \lambda_{\iota} \mu а \sigma \kappa \epsilon \lambda \lambda \omega$ ．



 $\boldsymbol{\sigma} \phi \rho o v \theta$ ．

фидактйрıov $\pi \rho o ̀ s ~ \delta a ı \mu \nu \nu \imath \zeta о \mu \epsilon ́-~$ vous ．．．
$\pi a i ̂ \delta a \quad \sigma \tau \hat{\eta} \sigma o \nu$ ката⿱т兀крр̀ то仑̂
 aủrov̂ $\sigma \tau a ̀ s ~ a v \kappa ~ \beta a \rho \beta a \rho \iota \omega \theta$ $\beta a \rho \beta a-$
 $\epsilon \lambda \omega a l \sigma a \beta a \omega \theta$ ．



 трш каì тò̀ ѐтакодонӨóтєроу каì
 $\beta a \omega \theta$ a $\begin{aligned} & \text { wral．}\end{aligned}$





 ${ }^{\alpha \beta \rho a \sigma \alpha \xi}$ ．


main unheard．For I am Sil－ thachouch Lailam Baasalôth Iaô Ieô Nebouth Sabiotharbôth Ar－ bathiaô Iaôth Sabaôth Patourê Zagourê Barouch Adônai Elôai Iabraam．

I adjure thee in the Hebrew tongue，or by the most compel－ ling of all compelling influences， Maskellimaskellô．

Amulet to protect from Deno－ niacal Possession ．．．

Let a boy，standing before the sun，and placing thyself behind him，repeat this formula：I am Barbariôth，Barbariôth am I ．．．Adônai Elôai Sabaôth．

I exorcise you in the name of Iaô and of Sabaôth and of Adônai．
I exorcise thee， 0 myrrh，by the three names：Anochô，Abra－ sax，Trô，and by the yet more effective and powerful exorcism Kormeiôth Iaô Sabaôth Adônai．

As I have always adjured thee，I adjure thee now，Adônai Barbariaô Zagourê Arsamôsi Alaous Kaisalaôs．I adjure thee，thou who didst give life to man！Hear，hear， O great God，Adônai．
I adjure thee，Lâo，Adônai， Abrasax．

Do for me this and that thing， for I adjure thee by Ia $0 \hat{0}$ ，by the
 $\theta \epsilon o \hat{v}$ इoupı̀̀ $\lambda$ $\theta \epsilon o \hat{v}$ Гaß $\alpha \stackrel{\eta}{\lambda} \theta \epsilon \hat{v}$ Рафаэ̀入 $\theta \epsilon o \hat{v}$＇A $\beta \rho a \sigma a \xi$ $\theta \epsilon o \hat{v} a \beta \lambda \alpha-$ va日ava入 $\beta$ а акра $\mu \mu а \chi а \rho!. ~$






 вабна харакш сакш $\beta$ саш фарфа－ рךї єts $\delta \epsilon \tau о є \tau \epsilon \rho о \nu \mu \epsilon \rho о \varsigma$ ，etc．

кри́фıє каi трєбßútaтє ахапа адшขає $\beta а \sigma \mu а$ Харакш єакш $\beta$ เаш
 бочдарта $\mu а р \beta a$ кар $\beta a \quad \mu \epsilon \nu а \beta \omega \theta$ пиа．
 $\tau o \hat{v} \mu$ èv $\delta \in \xi \in \iota o v ̂ ~ \epsilon \lambda \omega$ тov̂ $\delta \grave{\epsilon}$ äd $\lambda \lambda o v$ $\epsilon \lambda$ walos．


 $\iota \sigma \tau \rho a \eta \lambda$ ．
 ．．кат̀̀ $\tau \hat{\omega} \nu$ á $\gamma i \omega \nu$ ỏvоаáт $\tau \nu \tau \omega \hat{\nu}$
 $\tau o \hat{\imath} \iota a \omega \sigma \alpha \beta \alpha \omega \theta$ ap $\beta a \theta a \iota \omega$ $\sigma \epsilon \sigma \epsilon \nu$－ $\gamma \varepsilon \nu \beta a \rho \phi a \rho a \gamma \gamma \eta s \quad a \beta \lambda a v a \theta a v a \lambda \beta a$ акраддахацарь．
 $\delta v v a ́ \mu o v s ~ \mu \epsilon \gamma a \lambda o \delta o ́ \xi \xi_{o v s} \mu \epsilon \gamma a \sigma \theta \epsilon v \epsilon i s$ àjíous aủróx $\theta$ ovas $\pi$ apéópovs тoù $\mu \epsilon \gamma$ ádov $\theta \epsilon o \hat{v}$ ．．a $\omega \theta$ a $a \alpha \omega \theta$ $\beta a-$


God Sabaôth，by the God Ado－ nai，by the God Michael，by the God Suriel，by the God Gabriel， by the God Raphael，by the God Abrasax，by the God Ablana－ thanalba akrammachari．
And Michael，throned in glory， thou hast power over the seven streams，over the earth，and over the Prince of Darkness，whom men call the great serpent，etc．

Write under Eros these names：Achapa Adônai basma charako，Jacôb，iaôê Pharparei ： on the other side，etc．

Thou hidden and most ancient One，Achapa Adônai basma cha－ rakô Iacôb iaô charonêr aronêr lailam semesilam soumarta mar－ ba karba menabôth êiia．

Write upon thy right heel， Elô，and upon thy left，Elôaios．

Write on a golden plate the following：There is but one Thuriel Michael Gabriel Uriel Misael Israel Istrael．

I adjure thee holy light，sa－ cred gleam，by the sacred names， which I have named and now will name，by Iaô Sabaôth Ar－ bathiaô，Sesengenbarpharangês Ablanathanalba Akrammacha－ mari．

I call upon you，ye saints， powerful，restful，mighty，holy fellow－citizens by right of birth with the great God ．．．aôth Abaôth Basum Isak Sabaôth Iaô Tacôp．
 alw $\alpha \omega \omega$ ф $\nu \epsilon \omega$ s $\sigma \phi \iota \nu \tau \eta s \alpha_{\rho} \beta \alpha \theta_{l} a \omega$
 $\rho а \rho а \eta \lambda$ а $\beta \rho а \beta \rho а \chi^{\alpha}$ бороор $\boldsymbol{\epsilon} \rho \phi \epsilon \rho-$


 $\chi^{\alpha} \gamma \gamma \epsilon \lambda \epsilon$.

Vienna.

Self-created eternal God, eiôê Iaô aiô aiô phneôs sphintếs arbathiaô iaô iaê iôa aioôn nôr gonthiaôr raraêl abrabracha soroormerphergar marbaphriouirinx iaô Sabaôth Maskellimaskellô. Formula.

Help me, Michael, archangel over the angels.
K. Wessely.

# the epistle to the CoLOSSIANS. 

xx .
the garments of the renewed soul.


#### Abstract

"Put on therefore, as God's elect, holy and beloved, a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering; forbearing one another, and forgiving each other, if any man have a complaint against any; even as the Lord forgave you, so also do ye: and above all these things put on love, which is the bond of perfectness."-Col. iii. 12-14 (Rev. Ver.).

We need not repeat what has been already said as to the logic of the inference, You have put off the " old man," therefore put off the vices which belong to him. Here we have the same argument in reference to the "new man" who is to be "put on" because he has been put on. This "therefore" rests the exhortation both on that thought, and on the nearer words, "Christ is all and in all." Because the new nature has been assumed in the very act of conversion, therefore array your souls in vesture corresponding. Because Christ is all and in all, therefore clothe yourselves with all brotherly graces, corresponding to the great unity into which all Christians are brought by their common possession of Christ. The whole field of Christian morality is not traversed here, but only so much of it as concerns the social duties which result from that unity.


[^0]:    ${ }^{1}$ Dr. Wessely who, as our readers know from the paper by Prof. Stokes (Expositor, third series, vol. i. p. 334, etc.), is engaged in the deciphering of the Fayûm MSS., has kindly sent us his article.-Ed. Expositor:

[^1]:    ${ }^{1}$ Now certainly in private documents of that period we find abbreviations freely used, and, indeed, in the Ptolemean age we meet with a regular system of contractions. Compare, for example, the Vienna Papyrus, No. 26, in the Wiener Studicn, 1881.
    The historical progress in the art of abbreviation may be briefly indicated as follows:-

    1. Among the earliest methods of abbreviation is the plan, a purely arbitrary one, of not writing out the word in full, without indicating in any way or by any sign that there is a contraction ; as, for example, $A \Theta H, A \Theta H N$, etc. This might be called contraction in the most exact sense of the word. (See Gardthausen, 244.)
    2. A more ambitious attempt is made in a style of contraction which we find prevailing especially in the Ptolemean period. The abbreviated word is written out till we come to a letter, chosen again in quite an arbitrary manner, but at the end of the abbreviation a characteristic letter is supersoribed; as, for example, $\kappa \epsilon \chi \rho^{\eta}$ for $\kappa \epsilon \chi \rho \eta \mu a \tau \iota \kappa a$; $\delta \iota \sigma \sigma \pi^{\lambda}$ for $\delta \iota \sigma \sigma \pi \delta \lambda \epsilon \omega s$, or the characteristic letter is subscribed, as in $\underset{\sim}{\text { for }}$ for $\beta$ ós.
    3. In the period of the Roman Empire the employment of contraction marks in the form of strokes, straight or crooked, was generally introduced.
    4. From the time of Diocletian there was an inclination to employ abbreviations in such a way as would render it easier for the reader to find out the grammatical ending. This led also to the so-called plural abbreviation, which consists in the doubling of the final consonant; ns, for example, עou $\alpha$ for voul $\sigma \mu \mathrm{a} \tau \mathrm{ta}$. A further consequence of this endeavour was the so-called sacral
     'I $\eta \sigma o$ ûs. From what has been said, it is evident that IHC for 'I $\eta \sigma o u ̂ s ~ i s ~ m u c h ~$ older than IC for'I $\eta \sigma o$ ôs; so that IHC in later times would no longer be un. derstood. In the same way, XP or $\mathbb{R}^{\mathbf{~ f o r ~ C h r i s t ~ i s ~ o l d e r ~ t h a n ~} \overline{X C} \text {. }}$

    Generally in each successive period the abbreviation used in the preceding period would still continue in use.

    We turn back now to the abbreviated word $\dot{1} \in \dot{T}$. It has not hitherto been investigated, and it is in respect of form absolutely singular ; indeed the very materials for estimating the significance of the two dots have not previously been in existence. All the more pleasing is it for me to have now at hand, for the purposes of my investigation, in an unpublished papyrus the means of explaining the origin and significance of those orthographical points. In the following citations from uncial papyri belonging to the very earliest years of the fourth century, which moreover derived from sources undoubtedly $a$ hundred years older, I produce passages from documents referring to magical arts which are preserved in Paris and London, previously laid by me before the public in my Lettres à M. Revillout (Paris: Ernest Leroux).

[^2]:    The simple point is used for such purposes and in such circumstances as the following:-
    (1) It is used just like the two dots over the $i$ and the $i$ at the beginning of words and over diphthongs, rarely in the middle of the word. vimvov 2488.
    
    
     3064. Bious A 256.
    (2) The point is used to indicate the beginning of the word, or, in the case of words joined together, the beginning of the root-word or of the syllables. It represents also the light breathing or the aspirate, and is used as an aspirate even in the middle of words. $\pi \alpha \nu \theta \dot{\cos \alpha к о v \sigma \tau a s} 1369 . \quad \epsilon \pi^{*}$ airntapıo 2378.
    
     єкат $\hat{\nu}$ 2826. $\dot{\epsilon} \nu 66$. єi 1513. 1514. 1515. $\delta \iota \dot{\eta} \nu \epsilon \kappa \omega$ 1219. í for 8 A 216.
    
    
    3. The point is also used to show that a contraction has been made, as in the
    

    It is evident, then, from what has been said, that the papyrus must ve assigned to the period before Constantine.

