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CRITICAL NOTE

THE NAME FOR DIVES

The striking reading of Bodmer Papyrus (P⁷⁵), which I discussed in *JBL*, 81 (1962), pp. 399–402, viz., the proper name *νευης* (16 19) for *ὁ πλούσιος* in Luke's parable, makes particularly tantalizing an erasure on the papyrus two verses later, which I had not noticed in the facsimile but which was called to my attention in Kurt Aland's collation in *NTS*, 10 (1964), p. 10. The second mention of the rich man is given *τῆς παραπέζης τοῦ πλουσίου* as in other mss, but the last word (not the last two as in Aland) covers an erasure. Every one of its eight letters is upon the erased surface and its initial *π* is written more broad than is usual in this handwriting. It seems likely that the underwriting, the erasing, and the overwriting were all done in turn by the original scribe of about A.D. 200. In the light of the unusual expression for the same person two verses earlier, one would like to know what the scribe first wrote here, under these eight letters. Was it the same eight letters, then erased and then rewritten? or was it an attempted genitive or an indeclinable form of *νευης*? or of a longer word like Nineveh? The editor, Professor R. Kasser of Geneva, has kindly replied to my inquiry to the effect that the original does not show to the naked eye any lines or parts of the underlying letters, any more than does the facsimile. What about infrared light?

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