

INSCRIPTION AT EL GEBAL.

M. DE VOGÜÉ, French Ambassador at Constantinople, has recently made a communication to the Académie des Inscriptions et Belles Lettres, of which he is himself a member, on a Phœnician inscription found at Byblos, the Biblical Gebal. It contains fifteen lines, the sixth and the seventh of which are much damaged on the right-hand side, and many letters in other parts of the inscription are scarcely to be recognised. We are informed by M. J. Dérenbourg that the bas-relief represents the goddess Baaltis, in the shape and with the emblems of the Egyptian Isis, the king Yehumelekh in a Persian costume facing her, and offering her a cup which he holds in his hand. Since we know that the kings of Gebal are represented in Greek costume on other bas-reliefs, we may date the present inscription from the Persian time. As far as we are informed, the inscription does not contain historical facts, but important contributions to Phœnician grammar and lexicography, which we shall enumerate, partly according to the kind communication of M. Dérenbourg. 1. The pronoun א and ן in the inscription, such being a composition of the Hebrew ך of ןה and the Aramaic א and ן of רא and רן. 2. The ך occurring for the first time in Phœnician inscriptions as the possessive pronoun of the third person. 3. חיה, "to live," for חיה, root which we find in the name of Hava (Eve), and probably in the *avo* in the *Poenulus* of Plautus. 4. The root חרץ, in the sense of carving, and בןבן with the meaning of "grandson."—*Academy*, Feb. 5, 1875.
