NOTES BY MAJOR CONDER.  25

II.

TARKU.

On the Hittite bilingual the first word is Tarku T₂, according to Mr. Pinches' decipherment.¹ This I have already compared with the Turkic tarkhan (Uigur), targar (Tchuwash), to which I may now add the Mongolian darga or dargo, "chief," and the Cossack turughna having the same meaning.

The corresponding Hittite sign is the head of a goat or deer, or similar horned animal, which, it is agreed, should have the same sound. In cuneiform we find the ideogram for deer to be MM, originally perhaps a deer's head, which is syllabically represented by MM, da-ra in Akkadian, and in Assyrian by MM, tu-ra-ku. Probably this word still survives in the Hungarian zerge, "antelope," and perhaps it may be connected with the Mongolian turguñ, meaning "swift."

I find, however, that Dr. Hommel ("Zeitschrift fur Keilschriftforschung," 1, 2), gives the sound daragh, as well as dara, for the Akkadian of the ideogram, and regards the Assyrian turakhu as a loan word of Akkadian origin.² I find, moreover (1, 4), that he has already, in 1884, compared the Hittite Tarku with the Cossack turughna, though he does not mention the Turkic and Mongol words.

I have already mentioned that the same word occurs in the Etruscan Tarquin, known in inscriptions as Tarchi, Tarchu, Tarchnas, Taronal, in proper names (Dennis, "Etruria," 1st edition, vol. ii, p. 41).

It will surely be allowed that the Akkadian word for deer, darag, gives a close approximation to the word for "chief" used in so many Altaic languages, so that the deer's head in Akkadian may stand for "chief."

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1 Preceded by Y, showing it to be a man's name.

2 The head on the Hittite bilingual is usually taken for a goat. In Greek we have τραγός for "goat," perhaps not an Aryan word, the common Aryan word being represented by the Sanskrit agá. It is also worth notice that in Hungarian Türkölni and Türközní mean "to butt" like a goat (Bizonfy's "Dictionary"). It occurs also in Estonian toarkan, "to thrust," torgin, "to pierce," Finnic turkin, turkkän. It seems, therefore, not improbable that the radical meaning of these words is "that which pierces with its horns," hence stag, goat, &c. Mr. Ball has proposed to compare the Greek ὅρνας, a gazelle.