

THE VANNIC LANGUAGE.

SEVERAL writers, following Dr. Sayce, have supposed that the language of the Vannic inscriptions in Armenia would be found to be the same as that of the Hittites. This seems to me unlikely, because the Vannic is an inflected tongue, whereas the Hittite is generally allowed to have been probably agglutinative.

Dr. Mordtmann supposes the Vannic to be an Aryan language, resembling Armenian, in which case it would not have any bearing on the Hittite. It appears to me probable that he is right, because out of the very few words of known sound as yet settled in Vannic a good proportion are similar to Armenian. Armenian is not a language in which phonetic decay has proceeded very far, as may be seen on comparing Armenian with other early Aryan languages. The Vannic also compares not only with Armenian, but with the monumental Persian, the Zend, and the Sanskrit, and the comparisons extend to pronouns and other parts of speech which are, as a rule, more constant than nouns and verbs. The following instances may be of value as showing what is meant, especially as regards terminations :—

Vannic—

- si*, nominative ; old Persian *-sa*.
- i*, genitive, sing. ; Armenian *-i*.
- n*, accusative, sing. ; Armenian *-n*.
- naie*, possessive ; Armenian *-an*.
- pari*, locative ; old Persian *-para*, "towards."
- ki*, participle ; the common Aryan *-ka*, adjectival.
- li*, gerund ; Armenian *-li*, gerund.
- ni*, third person pl. ; Armenian *-n*, third person pl.
- n*, for ordinals ; Armenian *-n*, ordinal.

Pronouns and particles seem to show the same :—

Vannic—

- ies*, "I" ; Armenian *Ēs*, "I."
- ini*, "this" ; Armenian *ain*.
- isti*, "this" ; Armenian *asti* ; Latin *Iste*.
- para*, "out of" ; old Persian *para*, "away."
- eha*, "this" ; old Persian *hauva*, "this."
- uda*, "that" ; old Persian *aita* ; Armenian *ta*.
- ui*, "and" ; Armenian *yev*, "and."
- ali*, "and" ; Armenian *aylyev*, "or."

The pronouns being among the most unvarying parts of speech, the comparison is of some value, but nouns and verbs may also be compared :—

Vannic—

- are*, "men"; Armenian *ayr*, "man."
alkhe, "inhabitants"; Armenian *elk*, "race."
Ardis, "light"; Aryan √AR, "burn"; Armenian *aryev*, "sun."
a, "sacrifice"; old Persian *aya*, "sacrifice."
asis, "house"; Sanskrit *vasas*, "house."
asi, "cavalry"; Sanskrit *asva*, "horse."
ehuri, "Lord"; Zend *ahura*; old Persian *aur*, "Lord."
esi, "Law"; Sanskrit *yos*; Latin *ius*, "Law."
ip, "inundation"; Sanskrit *ap*; old Persian *api*, "water."
kha, "to possess"; Aryan √GI, "to gain."
khar, "to cut"; Sanskrit *kri*; Greek *keiro*, "cut."
khin, "son"; Aryan √GAN, "to beget"; whence English *kin*.
Sal, "year"; Persian *Sal*, "year."
tumeni, "village"; old Persian *tauma*, "house"; Armenian *doun*.
paru, "to carry off"; Aryan √BHAR, "to carry."
Zadu, "to build"; Zend *Zad*, "a building."

The names of the Vannic kings do not, as has been asserted, present comparisons with Hittite names. On the contrary, in some cases they seem to be of an Aryan type—*e.g.*, Argestis. The thirty-three instances above given, together with the inflectional character of the Vannic, and the use of at least one preposition, *pari* (Greek *para*), seem to me to support Dr. Moritzmann's views as to the Vannic, and to agree with the statement of Herodotus, that the Armenians were of Phrygian origin—the Phrygians being pretty clearly Aryan. The Vannic texts, however, are not older than the 9th century, B.C., whereas the Hittite texts are older than perhaps the 17th century, B.C., or at least than the 14th century.

C. R. C.

 NOTE ON THE HOLY SEPULCHRE.

THE description of a Jewish tomb near the site of Calvary, published in 1881, seems to have been misunderstood. The Bishop of Cashel last year published a small pamphlet pointing to a tomb under the Rock of Jeremiah's Grotto as being that which was intended, and was told by a Greek that General Gordon believed this to be the true site. As far as I have heard, General Gordon had no special view on the subject, though he accepted the site which I proposed for Calvary in 1878.

The tomb to which the Bishop refers I visited when first partially excavated in 1873. It is fully described in the Jerusalem volume of the "Memoirs." I found on the east wall a Latin cross with A and Ω, one either side. I feel little doubt that it is a Crusading tomb connected with the adjoining Asnerie, which I then identified. The only Jewish tomb

as yet known in the vicinity is further west, on the other side of the road, as described in the same Memoir. I fear, from what I hear, that visitors are being misled by natives, who point to antiquities on their property as the places mentioned by explorers.

C. R. C.

NOTE ON "THE REMAINS OF OLD WALL OUTSIDE
THE PRESENT NORTH WALL OF JERUSALEM."

HERR SCHICK (in the *Quarterly Statement* for April, 1889, p. 63) describes remains of an ancient wall discovered beneath the surface along the line of the city wall north of Jerusalem, and west of the Damascus Gate, outside the present wall.

During the earlier years (from 1846 to about 1854) of our residence in Jerusalem, there was, exactly on the line traced by Herr Schick, a row of ancient stones above ground, not quite continuous, but at very short intervals, which we held to indicate the line of the ancient wall (probably the second of Josephus, perhaps at the part broken in Manasseh's reign). Some of these stones were large—about $3\frac{1}{2}$ feet high by 4 to 5 feet long. (I have not any measurements and write from memory.)

All were of the kind found in the older masonry of the city walls. Several had a shallow marginal draft, the margin of the largest blocks was deep and bold. Two or three very fine corner-stones lay at the west angle in the wall, marked red by Herr Schick. These stones were of hard, compact white limestone, without polish, but not much weathered. When Jerusalem became more visited, and when foreigners settled and began to erect large buildings, these venerable stones gradually disappeared, they were taken to be cut up and sold for use in modern buildings. The same fate befell the line of similar stones to the left of the path leading from the north-west corner of Jerusalem, in the direction of the ash-heaps north of the olive grove. We also were sorrowful witnesses of the gradual destruction of the beautiful sarcophagus (without lid) which lay outside the city wall, a little to the west of Herod's Gate. which the then authorities refused to have removed to a place of safety. This sarcophagus was carved out of a block of very hard white limestone, and was ornamented on its sides with wreaths of flowers in high relief. Bit by bit it disappeared, broken by idle lads in sheer mischief, and by relic hunters. It was of small size.

At the time of which I speak there were also fragments of ancient building-stones on either side, north and south, outside of the Damascus Gate (before the rubbish heaps there were made), which led us to think that here might be found two towers, perhaps the "Women's Towers" of Josephus.

Our then Prussian Consul, the learned Dr. G. E. Schultz, probably marked some of these remains on the map accompanying his "Vorlesung," but of this I cannot be sure, not having by me a copy thereof.

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