

## THE HITTITE PRINCE'S LETTER.

By MAJOR CONDER, R.E.

THE original text of this letter, having been published by Dr. Winckler, was under discussion last month between Mr. G. Bertin and myself. The death of this excellent Akkadian scholar has just occurred, and is a great loss to the study of the antiquities of Western Asia. Writing to me during his last illness, he says.

"I do not think that there can be any doubt about the language of this letter of Tarkondara; being neither Semitic nor Aryan nor Egyptian, it must, therefore, be Turanian."

To this conclusion, also, Mr. T. G. Pinches has been carried by the forms of the verbs, and this places the study of the Hittite language on a firm basis, showing its connection with Akkadian, and so with the still extant Archaic dialect of Turkestan and Mongolia.

## CORRECTION.

ON p. 71 of the January *Quarterly Statement*, 1891, I have made two mistakes. In the fourth line from the bottom read A.D. for B.C., and in the last line for "the lxx," read "the Hebrew of the Old Testament."

C. R. C.

## NOTES ON THE QUARTERLY STATEMENT.

By MAJOR CONDER, R.E.

JANUARY, 1891. P. 13. The note bearing my initials must be corrected, I had not seen the copy of the inscription, which is not the Syriac text to which I referred.

P. 77. If it be the case that "no Semitic scholar either challenged or contradicted" the idea that Mr. T. Ballhatchet was a Phœnician, it was probably because the assertion was not worth contradicting. Dr. Max Müller long ago exploded the fallacy of supposing Phœnician names to be recognisable in Devonshire or Cornwall. We do not even know that the Phœnicians ever landed in England, and no Phœnician texts are known nearer home than Marseilles or Spain.

P. 84. Dr. Chaplin's Mask, from Er Ram, is mentioned in the "Memoirs," vol. iii, p. 438, and was shown to me by Dr. Chaplin. I have a sketch of it in my MS. notes. It can never have been used as a real mask, being so very thick; perhaps, however, it was fastened on to another stone. It seems to me that it might be of any date, from the 12th century, A.D., backwards.