

## NOTE ON AN ARAMÆAN INSCRIPTION FROM EGYPT

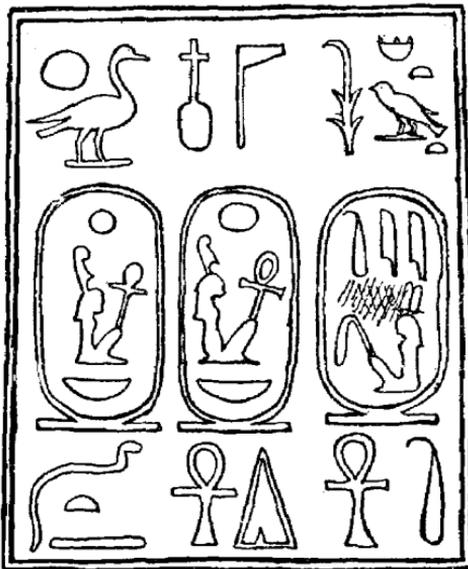
By PROFESSOR SAYCE.

I HAVE found the names of two Aramæans, written in the Aramæan form of the Phœnician alphabet, on a rock on the western bank of the Nile, about a mile to the north of the wady called Shut er-Rigâleh. One reads

𐤀 𐤒 𐤕 𐤀, אמרא, "Amrá," with the terminal *aleph* of

Aramaic; the other, 𐤕 𐤁 𐤒 𐤕 𐤕 𐤁, חנומנתן, "Khnum-nathan."

The interest of the last name lies in the fact that it is compounded with the name of the Egyptian god Khnum.



SKETCH OF THE INSCRIPTION ON ALABASTER VASE FOUND NEAR GAZA.

## NOTE ON AN ALABASTER VASE.

By P. LE PAGE RENOUF.

THE inscription upon the alabaster vase said to have been found in the neighbourhood of Gaza contains three royal Egyptian "rings," or, as others call them, "cartouches."

Two of them are identical<sup>1</sup> and contain the throne name of King Amenhotep III., of the eighteenth dynasty, , *Neb-madt-Râ*.

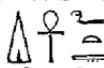
Above these two rings are the words , "good god, son of Râ."

Facing these rings is that of his queen, Tia, somewhat damaged,



so that it is not possible to see whether the vowel *i* is followed (as it generally is) by some other sign.

Over the queen's name is written her title, , "Royal Wife, the Great One." The latter adjective has sometimes, I think, been supposed to *imply* that there were other wives besides the "principal" one. This is not the case. The word is used not relatively but absolutely, and is sometimes followed by a noun dependent upon it, as in the case of the mother of Amenhotep III., Mântemua, , "Most Gracious." This king, certainly, had other wives besides Tia.

Under the king's names are the words , "giving life for ever," and they are apparently repeated under the queen's name, but the last signs here are too much injured to be deciphered with certainty. The whole may confidently be restored as in the plate.

## NARRATIVE OF A SECOND JOURNEY TO PALMYRA,

including an exploration of the Alpine regions of Lebanon and Anti-Lebanon, and the southern half of the Nusairî Chain.

By Rev. GEORGE E. POST, M.A., M.D., F.L.S.

(Continued from April "Quarterly Statement," p. 167.)

After a ramble on foot through the town we took our lunch under the shade of the poplar trees by the fountain above the gorge, and at 1 p.m. started for Yebrûd. Our road lay over the glaring chalk hills, at this season almost barren of vegetation, until we neared the entrance of the Yebrûd gorge. There, in a vineyard to the right of the road, we found fine specimens of *Daucus pulcherrimus*, Willd. (new for this region).

<sup>1</sup> Compare Lepsius, *Denken*, III., Pl. 82, *e* and *f*. In the latter place the ring of Tia is between two identical rings of the king.

From this point we had a fine effect of a pure white chalk hill of a conical shape, standing out in strong contrast to the green gardens and orchards of Yebrúd, and the grey limestone of the mountains which hem in the pass. The illusion of a snow-capped peak was perfect. The accompanying cut represents the appearance of the hills as seen from the rocky bluff which overlooks the fountain :—



The following cut represents this and an adjacent hill to the right, taken from the Mohammedan cemetery just south of the town. Even so close as this it would be difficult to avoid the illusion of hills covered with slightly-discoloured snow, were it not for the glare and heat of July



sunshine, and the threshing floors and heaps of grain half way up their side. Such chalk hills are quite numerous in the interior, and form striking features in the landscapes.

We took a dip in the icy pool at the throat of the pass, a refreshing sequel to a hot and dusty day. On the common by the side of the pool

we saw a worn-out horse, which had had a hoof wrenched off, and instead of being killed to put it out of misery, was turned out to graze and die when Allah wills. The barometer at Yebrúd at 5 p.m. was 25·8, height, 4,600 feet.

We declined several hospitable invitations to stay to dinner, and to put up for the night in Yebrúd, and pressed on toward en-Nebk, an hour away, from which place we hoped to telegraph our friends in Lebanon. We found the telegraph officer away at his dinner. We went to his house, and he politely received the despatch and money to pay for its transmission. It is, perhaps, needless to say that it never arrived. There being no one to hold him to account, he, of course, pocketed the money, and never troubled himself any more about the message.

As we turned to leave a soldier came up to say that the governor would like to see us at the seraglio. We fancied that he wanted some backshish, or to put some impediment in our way that would bring us late to camp, so we spurred our jaded horses into a gallop, and were soon beyond the reach of pursuit on our way to Deir-'Aṭṭyeh, which we reached at a quarter before eight o'clock.

As one of our muleteers had deserted us at Deir-el-'Ashaïr, we needed to find a man to accompany us on the desert to help in the varied services there required. After some difficulty we secured a man named Mûsa, who was to go on foot through the desert, and as far as we might choose thereafter. A more willing and faithful servant than he proved for the next sixteen days could not be found.

*Friday, July 18.*—Barometer at Deir-'Aṭṭyeh at 6½ a.m., 26·3; height, 4,000 feet. At our former visit we also made it 4,000 feet. It was nearly 8 o'clock before we were in the saddle, and fairly began our desert trip. The flora between 'Aṭṭyeh and el-Mahîn had almost entirely changed since the spring. *Delphinium oliganthum*, Boiss., *Mathiola Damascena*, Boiss. (in fruit; we had met it in flower in the same place in April), *Reaumuria Billardieri*, Jaub. et Sp., *Fagonia Olivieri*, D.C., *Achillæa fragrantissima*, Forsk., *Kochia latifolia*, Fresen., *Chenolea Arabica*, Boiss., *Salsola crassa*, M.B., *S. glauca*, M.B., *S. rigida*, Pall., var. *tenuifolia*, Boiss.

We arrived at el-Mahîn at 2¾ p.m. Barometer, 27·3; height, 2,950 feet. At our former visit we did not take its height. We only stopped to water our horses at the copious fountain, and then pressed on to Qaryetein. An hour before reaching it we came upon a pool filled with a reeking mass of dead locusts, a presage of what we were to encounter in the desert. The scanty vegetation of the plain of Qaryetein was also eaten by locusts. We obtained poor specimens of *Zygophyllum fabago*, L. At 6½ p.m. we reached Qaryetein, and again took up our quarters at the hospitable home of the teacher Shahîn. Barometer at 7 p.m., 27·8; height, 2,450 feet. The following day it was 27·9; height, 2,385 feet; mean, 2,367 feet. At our former visit we had made it 2,630 feet.

*Qaryetein, Saturday, July 19.*—The morning was spent in examining and labelling the collections of the past two weeks, and arranging for the

desert journey. We learned to our great disappointment that the locusts had filled up the pool at 'Ain-el-Wu'ûl, so that it would be impossible to explore as we had intended the mountains of that range, unless we could take with us a supply of water for three days, no easy thing with such a train as ours. We finally managed to explore the mountain due east from Qaryetein on the following Monday, and then to proceed on Tuesday to el-Jebâh, where the water is potable all the year round, and was undefiled by locusts. From el-Jebâh, by taking a camel-load of water, we could get through to 'Ain-el-Beïda in one day, and thence to Palmyra in six hours.

On Saturday afternoon we went out to Mar Liân. In the gardens around it we found *Trifolium fragiferum*, L., *Convolvulus pilosellæfolius*, Desv. (a plant of the Lower Euphrates Valley, but found by myself in the Jordan Valley near the Dead Sea), *Zygophyllum fabago*, L., *Suaeda* sp., *Centaurea Postii*, Boiss., *Atriplex Tataricum*, L., var. *virgatum*, Boiss., *Prosopis Stephania*, Willd. On the banks of the ditch outside the gardens *Gypsophila hygrophila*, Post (a new species), and *Juncus pyramidatus*, Loh.

In the water of the ditch we found a species of fish, kindly named for me by Professor Lortet, of Lyons, as *Cyprinodon dispar*, Rüppel. We found the same species in the water of Ras-el-'Ain.

*Qaryetein, Sunday, July 20.*—I preached in the morning to a small audience on the temptations of Christ. The day was a welcome and needed rest after our severe fatigues and exposure to the midsummer sun.

*Monday, July 21.*—We started in the morning with Mûsa to take care of our horses, and an attendant mounted on a donkey to take some water-skins, and our former guard Khâlid as a guide. We first passed Ras-el-'Ain, where we filled our water-skins, and then struck south for an isolated range somewhat lower than the Jebel-el-Bâridi. On our way through the rolling plain we collected *Reaumuria Billardieri*, Jaub. et Sp., *Glaucium Arabicum*, Fres., *Ajuga chia* Poir., *Suaeda fruticosa*, L., *Argyrolobium crotalariaoides*, Jaub. et Sp., *Bungea trifida*, Vahl.

At 2 p.m. we reached the top. Barometer, 25·8; height, 4,600 feet. We collected on the mountain and at its base *Alcea rufescens*, Boiss., *Dianthus deserti*, Post (a new species, of which specimens were also found by the author in the Judean wilderness), *Astragalus trifoliolatus*, Boiss., *Postia lanuginosa* D.C., *Verbascum Karyeteini*, Post (a new species), *Scrophularia variegata*, M.B. (new for the desert), *Tenacium pruinatum*, Boiss. (new for the desert), *Eremostachys macrophylla*, Montb. et Auch., *Allium* sp., *Stipa* sp., *Rhamnus Palæstina*, Boiss. (the only shrub on this range).

The view from the summit was grand. The boundless rolling plain to the south appeared of a pale green, owing to the scanty salsolaceous vegetation, which even at that season furnishes some pasturage to camels. Range after range of hills, similar to the one on which we were, stretched away in échelon to the south-west towards Damascus, while far away toward the west towered the broken profile of northern Anti-Lebanon.

Two hours to the south of us was a solitary encampment of Bedawin. To the north was the plain over which we had just come, interspersed with low chalk hills, and behind them the green oasis of Qaryetein, back of which was the range of Bil'ás, trending northward toward Aleppo. To the east was the range of Jebel-el-Báridi, and beyond it Jebel-'Ain-el-Wu'íl, and far away to the north-east el-Jebel-el-Abiad. Between the latter two ranges was the broad plain through which passes the high road between Qaryetein and Palmyra.

On all the adjacent ranges of hills we could see the dark, olive-green spots which denoted the presence of bushes of *Rhamnus Palæstina*, Boiss., the only shrub of these woodless hills.

A stiff wind was blowing all the afternoon, making it difficult at times to keep our horses on their course. When we had taken in as much as our time allowed of the strange, barren landscape, we turned our faces toward Qaryetein, which we reached late in the afternoon, laden with a rich booty of new and rare species. Fayyád Agha called to see us in the evening.

*Qaryetein, Tuesday, July 22.*—We spent the early morning in final preparations for our desert journey, and in a last call on the Agha, who gave us his warmest wishes for our pleasure trip. We left at 10½ a.m. The barometer was at 27.9.

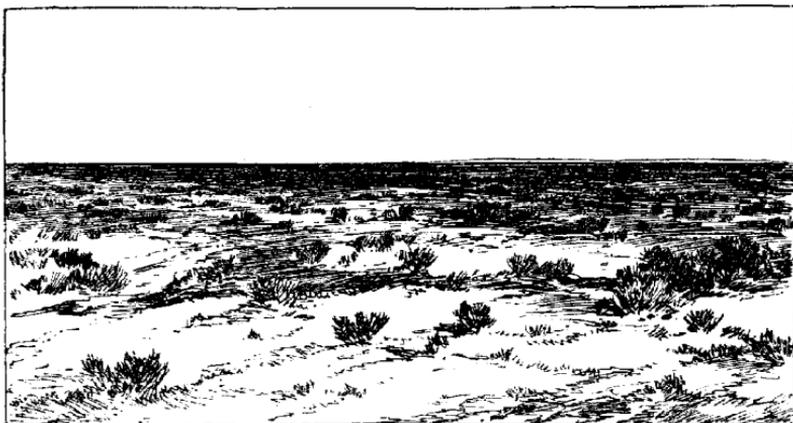
At 3 p.m. we arrived at *el-Ghundhur*, at which place we had parted from our guards three months before. Barometer, 27.7; height, 2,450 feet. Half an hour up the hill brought us to the hot-air bath of *Abu Rabah*. On the way we passed specimens of *Ephedra alca*, C. A. M., in fruit, the stalks being badly eaten by camels. There is an extensive ruin of a khan around the site of the bath. One vaulted hall is still standing. There must have been accommodation for hundreds of guests in the palmy days of the khan. The bath itself is a small vaulted chamber, in the partially paved floor of which is a blowhole, about 10 inches in diameter. I hung my thermometer in the hole, and after leaving it for several minutes it read 140° F. The air is somewhat charged with steam, and very slightly with sulphur. We heated our afternoon tea by hanging the bottle in the hole. We had no means of measuring the depth of the vent. The force of the blast is considerable. The barometer outside the blowhole at 4 p.m. read 27.55; height, 2,600 feet.

We turned our horses' heads again to the southward, and at 6 p.m. reached *el-Jebáh*. The barometer stood at 28; height, 2,150 feet. The same three old men were still there, not now watching the growing grain, but threshing out their small harvest. The water flowed still, nearly as in the spring.

The camel which we had brought to carry our water took fright at Mr. Day's pith hat, and started off at a full run into the desert. In vain the owner called him and ran after him. Two of the guardians joined in the chase, but the camel only galloped the faster. Seeing that he was likely to be lost entirely we saddled our three horses and set out in pursuit. After an exciting chase of half-an-hour we succeeded in turning

him toward the tent, when, seeing no further hope of escape, he quietly resigned himself to his keeper, and suffered himself to be led back to camp.

Wednesday, July 23.—As we had a long day before us we were in the saddle at a quarter to five in the morning. We rode along the foot of the hills which form the Bifâs range. During the morning we collected *Elyropus laevis*, Trin., *Ferula Blanchei*, Boiss. (with ripe fruits), *Bromus Danthoniae*, Trin., *Salsola rigida*, Pall., var. *tenuifolia*, Boiss., *Salsola glauca*, M.B., *S. crassa*, M.B., *S. canescens*, Moq., *Chenolea Arabica*, Boiss., *Phelipea ramosa*, Cass., *Hyoscyamus albus*, L., var. *desertorum*, Asch., *Gymnarrhena micrantha*, Desf. Dry stalks of *Artemisia Herba-alba*, L., and *Poa bulbosa*, L., are everywhere. The accompanying cut gives the aspect of the desert plain, with its sparse salsolaceous vegetation.



Toward noon we passed *Qaşr-el-Kheir*, about two hours to our right. A large caravan of traders was moving parallel to us all the morning on the regular road between Qaryetein and Palmyra. We afterwards met them at el-Beida. For several hours after noon we were passing a large caravan of friendly Arabs, about an hour to our left, on their way from el-Jebel-el-Abiad to el-Jebâh to celebrate the feast of the sacrifice (*ed-dohîyeh*) by the water. It was a large tribe, with all its flocks and belongings.

In the afternoon, as we neared el-Beida, we passed numerous heaps of *Ushnân*, the soda ash obtained by burning the *Arthrocnemum glaucum*, Del., which is one of the most abundant of the plants of this part of the desert. Two hours before reaching el-Beida we passed a ruined khan, an hour or more to our left.

We reached el-Beida at a quarter before seven, after fourteen hours in the saddle. The day had been very hot, and only late in the afternoon were there a few clouds to mitigate the intense power of the sun's rays. The horses were almost frantic from the flies, which buzzed about them

in swarms. The barometer at el-Beïda stood at 28·54 on our arrival; height, 1,600 feet.

The water at el-Beïda was slightly tainted with locusts, but not so much so as to be unfit for use. We found it inferior, however, to that of el-Jebâh. We offered the soldiers the same sum for the use of their bucket that we had paid before; they declined to let us use it at any price. Afterwards, when we produced one of our own, and proceeded to draw water, they relented and asked for a backshish. We gave them a small one by way of heaping coals of fire upon their heads.

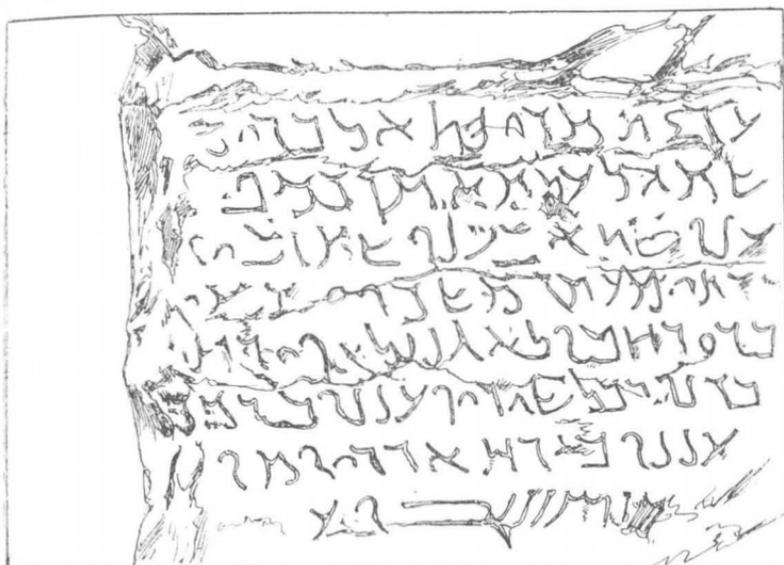
*Thursday, July 24.*—At a very early hour in the morning a marauding party of fifteen horsemen and twenty-five cameleers passed a short distance to the west of the station, and entered the range of mountains to the south of the plain. We were under some apprehensions lest they might waylay us and rob us half-way between el-Beïda and Palmyra. We saw no more of them, however. We afterwards learned that they were a party which had gone on a *ghazu* and failed, losing some of their number and carrying away no spoil.



CUT (1).

We left el-Beïda at five minutes before eight in the morning. About half-an-hour away we came upon a sandy patch, with clumps of *Tamarix tetragyna*, Ehr., and *Crozophora verbascifolia*, Willd., var. *elata*, Post (new for the desert). Just beyond this patch we found *Delphinium flavum*, D. C. (new for this region), *Acantholepis Orientalis*, Less., and *Halimocnemis pilosa*, Moq. As we rose over a swell in the plain we saw camels with riders looming up before us, and at first thought of the *ghazu*, but we soon found that they belonged to the regular caravan between Palmyra and Qaryetein, and passed them with exchange of salaams.

Three hours from el-Beïda we came upon a dry salt marsh filled with clumps of *Tamarix tetragyna*, Ehr., and *Lycium Barbarum*, L., with abundance



CUT (2).



CUT (3).

of *Halocharis sulphurea*, Bge., in the intervals. In the centre of this marsh were the three altar-like structures, or bases of columns, alluded

to in the narrative of our former journey. The two perfect ones are about 6 feet in height. No remains of the fragmentary one are to be seen in the immediate neighbourhood.

Cut (1) is a view of the north and east faces of the westerly of the two altars, the one by which is the horse. The Palmyrene inscription is to the *left* of the north face, near the bottom of the shaft, and above it one line of Greek, and below it two, as appears in Prof. Porter's copy on a subsequent page.

Cut (2) is the photograph of this Palmyrene inscription. Both the Greek and the Palmyrene are the same on both of the altars.



Cut (4).

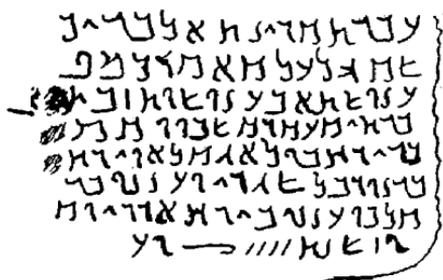
Cut (3) shows the north and east faces of the easterly altar. The Palmyrene inscription is to the *left* of the north face, between the lines of Greek as on the other altar, but near the top of the shaft.

Cut (4) shows this inscription. As there are trifling differences in the clearness of different parts of the two inscriptions, the one serves to help in deciphering the other. The following is Professor Porter's note on the inscriptions :—

[Bilingual inscription (Greek and Palmyrene) on the large square pillars in the desert about 2½ or 3 hours to the *west* of *Palmyra* on the road to *El Beidha*.

The Greek is in three lines, one in large letters across the top, and two in smaller letters beneath the Palmyrene, which is on the left side of the pillar in each case, thus :—

ΔΙΟΥΨΙΣΤΩΚΑΙΕΠΗΚΩΗΠΟΛΙΣΕΥΧΗΝ



ΕΤΟΥΣΕΚΥΔΥΣΤΡΟΥΑΚΕΠΙΑΡΓΥΡΤΑΜΙΩΝΖΕΒΕΙ  
 [ΔΟΥΘΑΙΜΟΑΜΕΔΟΥΚΑΙΜΟ  
 ΚΙΜΟΥΙΑΡΙΒΩΛΕΟΥΣΚΑΙΙΑΡΑΙΟΥΝΟΥΡΒΗΛΟΥΚΑΙ  
 [ΑΝΑΝΙΔΟΣΜΑΛ(Ι)ΚΟΥ

Both Greek and Palmyrene are to be found in De Vogüé, "Inscriptions Sémitiques de Syrie Centrale" (No. 124, a, b). He mentions *three* pillars or altars as having the same inscription. We found only two. His reading of the Palmyrene differs from the above only in one word, the last in the second line. He reads (ב)סס, *tributum, census*. The reading above as taken from a photograph is כספ, *silver*, which gives a better meaning and more nearly corresponds to the Greek *αργυραμιων, treasurers*, or overseers or masters of the finances.

The proper names do not correspond in the two languages, the Palmyrene in four cases adding a second name to that of the father as given in the Greek. De Vogüé translates in each case as though the word for son (בר) stood between, which may be correct; but may we not suppose that we have here the use of a surname or family name which may have been originally the name of an individual ancestor? The two copies of the Palmyrene differ in the orthography of the name corresponding to *ananidos* in the Greek. In one it is עננר, and in the other ענני. This is noticed in De Vogüé. The Palmyrene in Arabic characters stands thus:—

In Hebrew thus:—

عبدت مديننا لبريك  
 سمه لعلمنا من كصف  
 عنوستا بعنوسوت زبي(دا)  
 برثيمعمد مسكو و عة(يمو)  
 بيرحبول اغملا ويرح(ي)  
 بر نوربل سغري وعننو بر  
 ملكو عننو بيرح ادر يوم  
 ٢١ سنة ٤٢٥

עבדת מדינתא לבריק  
 שמח לעלמא מן כספ  
 ענושתא בענושות זבי(דא)  
 בר תימעמד משכו ומק(ימו)  
 בר ירחבול אגמלא וירחי  
 בר נורבל שגרי ועננו בר  
 מלכו עננו בירח אדר יומ  
 21 שנת 425

We may translate as follows :—

The city (Palmyra) has erected (or dedicated) (this) to him whose name is for ever blessed, from the money of the Treasury under the administration of the treasurers Zebeida, son of Thaimo-'Amed Maskû, and Moqîmû, son of Yarhibûl Agmalâ, and Yarhi, son of Nûrbel Sagrî, and 'Ananî (or 'Ananû), son of Malkû Anani ; in the month of March, the 21st day, in the year 425 (114 A.D.)]

*(To be continued in October " Quarterly Statement.")*

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