

Cyprus. It is noticeable that, like the name of the weight itself, all the numerical ciphers denote characters involving the vowel *o*, **⊥** being *o*, **Λ** *ko*, and **+** *lo*. The only exception is **√**, which would be *sa*, if we are not to regard the sign as a form of **Λ**.

The name of the weight is found on Cypriote coins. On one weighing 2·52 gr., and representing, perhaps, the quarter-stater, we have simply *ro* (see de Luynes *Numismatique et Inscriptions Cypriotes*, II, Nos. 10, 16); on another we have *ro-se*, i.e., *rōs*, with *ba-si*, i.e. *βασι*[*λεῖος*], on both sides. This last coin weighs 9·81 gr. (see de Luynes, VI, No. 2), and the form *rōs* prevents us from supposing that *ro* is an abbreviation of the Greek *ροπή* or *ρόμβος*.

In the *Quarterly Statement* for January, 1893, p. 31, I have published a Cypriote inscription of two lines on a weight found under the pavement of Robinson's arch at Jerusalem, and now in the Museum of the Fund. The last character of the line on the front might tempt us to regard it as written in the linear characters of Krete, discovered by Dr. A. J. Evans since my paper was printed, rather than in those of the Cypriote syllabary. But, apart from the fact that the object cannot go back to the age when the Kretan characters were in use, the inscription on the back removes all doubt on the subject. We now know from the excavations at Tell es-Zakariya, Tell Ta'annek, and other places that in the post-Solomonic period Cypriote pottery found an important mart in Palestine, and that intercourse between Cyprus and that country must have been close and frequent. Hence there is no difficulty in understanding how weights with Cypriote inscriptions should come to be met with in Palestine.

NOTE ON PROFESSOR SAYCE'S COMMUNICATION.

Having been favoured with a proof of the foregoing article, I beg leave to offer the following remarks upon it:—

1. So far from identifying **8** with *ov*, I expressly said that such an identification was untenable (*ante*, p. 210, line 14), and directed my whole argument against an interpretation based on such an identification.

2. The difference between the facsimiles of the sixth weight (not the *last*, but the *last but one*) in *Excavations at Jerusalem*, and in the

list on p. 209, lies (1) in the omission of g , a mere misprint for which I disclaim responsibility, and (2) in the inversion of the characters. The latter I now regard as an error, and in the conclusion of the current report from Gezer (which I posted to the Fund office a few days before receiving the proof of Professor Sayce's observations) I have corrected it.

3. The Palestinian weights display the following numerical symbols:— I , II , V or J , L . Of these, as I understand from the foregoing remarks of Professor Sayce, only the first two have been found *as numerals* in Cypriote. Of the Cypriote numerals cited above, or implied by Professor Sayce I , II , + , IIII , A , IIII III , only the first two, and doubtfully the third,¹ occur on Palestinian weights. Thus the only certainly common signs are I , II , for 1, 2; and there is at least one difference, Cypriote IIII (which I presume is 4) corresponding to Palestinian V . The identity of the two numerical systems cannot be maintained on the grounds of the similarity: one stroke means *one*, and two strokes *two*, to Australians, Hottentots, Egyptians, Assyrians, Romans, and Red Indians.

4. A coin bearing *ro* (assumed to be the name of a weight), unqualified by any numerical or fractional symbol, must necessarily weigh "one *ro*." The coin so inscribed weighs 2.52 grammes. Another of 9.81 grammes would fairly represent, on this theory, four times that standard, allowing for wear. But it seems that this second coin is "one *rôs*," and also that *ro* is merely an abbreviation for *rôs*. A weight found at Gezer of 11.3 grammes is somewhere between four and five times the first coin. But again, according to Professor Sayce, this weight is expressly inscribed "one *ro*." Surely there are limits even to the bewildering elasticity of Oriental weight and currency standards!

R. A. S. MACALISTER.

Postscript.

After posting the foregoing note I found another weight of the series, which possesses some importance in connection with the discussion on the meaning of the symbols.

¹ I have suggested $\frac{3}{4}$ as a *possible* value for + , on metrological grounds, but I am by no means convinced that the character is, in Palestine, a numeral at all. It does not occur associated with g .

It was discovered in the Maccabean stratum, and thus fixes the date of the series, previously uncertain, as post-exilic. The symbols are represented in the accompanying figure, which was drawn with



Inscription on Weight.

the aid of the camera lucida so as to secure rigid accuracy. The weight is 91.47 grammes, so that, like the Jerusalem weight, it represents eight times the standard.

Evidently the numerical character is meant to be ∇ , not \perp ; and it is probable that the Jerusalem weight was also intended to be inscribed ∇ , but the graver slipped. But the weight of four times the standard from Jerusalem is also inscribed ∇ ; this would be difficult to explain were it not for the Zakariya weights of the same amount. These show that the symbols for 4 and 8 on the Palestinian cypher system must have been respectively \perp and \lrcorner , both of which characters approximate to ∇ when carelessly cut. This new discovery makes the Cypriote analogies rather more remote.

Another point must be noticed. As I understand, the Cypriote syllabic sign *ro* is flat-topped, thus: X . The standard-sign of the weight is almost always carefully angled, thus: X . This point may be trivial, but it may also be worth calling attention to.

R. A. S. M.

THE IMMOVABLE EAST.

(Continued from p. 264.)

By PHILIP G. BALDENSPERGER, Esq.

THE FELLAHİN.

THE "gate" (*fatah*), or store-room, the dark part of the house, is for the straw, a great deal of which is needed for the winter—wheat or barley *tibn* for donkeys, and vetch or lentile *tibn* for camels and cows. Wood for fuel is also stored there, as also the pack-saddles