

RESOLVED,—That the thanks of the Academy be given to Mr. Nugent.

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The Secretary announced to the meeting, that the Commissioners for the Improvement of the Shannon had forwarded a further donation of antiquities found in the bed of that river to the Museum; together with a section and plans of the small tower at Clonmacnoise.

RESOLVED,—That the thanks of the Academy be given to the Commissioners.

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Dr. Allman exhibited a remarkable form of *Saxifraga Leucanthemifolia*, presenting the retrograde metamorphosis of flowers into bulbs, which were thickly scattered over the inflorescence, occupying the position of the leafy tufts described by Robert Brown in his *Saxifraga Foliosa*.

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Rev. Samuel Butcher read a paper by the Rev. Edward Hincks, D. D., “On Persepolitan Writing.”

In this paper various rectifications of the received mode of reading the first kind of Persepolitan writing were proposed; and an alphabet, or rather a combined alphabet and syllabary for the second was given, differing in some important respects from that of Westergaard.

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Academy, are all human, and consist of the ribs, vertebræ, and the ends of the long bones, together with pieces of the skull, and some joints of the fingers of a full-grown person, and also several bones of a very young child, none of which had been subject to the action of fire. But among the parcel forwarded to me by Mr. Nugent, are several fragments of incinerated human bones. Either these latter were portions of the same bodies burned, or they belonged to an individual sacrificed to the manes of the person whose grave this was; and I am inclined to think the latter is the more probable, from the circumstances in which similar remains have been discovered in other localities. There were no urns, weapons, or ornaments of any description discovered in connexion with this tumulus; but Mr. Nugent states, that in the field where it was opened, small stone chambers, or *kistvaens*, have at various times been dug up, and in one of these a long, flat, and narrow skull was some time since discovered.”

W. R. W.

The changes proposed with respect to the first kind were these :

1. The vowel *a* might be inserted after any primary letter, before a vowel, either as a distinct syllable, or as a *guna* to the vowel, as well as before a consonant.

2. *W* after *u*, and *y* after *i*, are in general, both in the middle and at the end of words, absolutely mute. When not so, they are to be sounded as *a*, which they implicitly contain.

3. Secondary consonants, which are only used before particular vowels, are to be sounded in the same manner as the corresponding primary ones ; and if a secondary consonant exist proper to any vowel, and the corresponding primary consonant appears to precede that vowel, an *a* is always to be supplied. If a secondary consonant be used without its proper vowel after it, that vowel must be supplied ; *r* is here considered as a vowel. Thus the combination of the letters which Lassen calls *m̄i* would be *mi* ; while his *mi* would be *me*, for *mai*. His *fr* would be *pr* ; while his *pr* would be *par*.

4. Besides his mistake in giving values to the secondary consonants generally, different from those of their corresponding primary ones, Lassen has erroneously considered the secondary consonant corresponding to *d* before *i* to correspond to *k'*, i. e. *ch* ; and he has given to three primary consonants the values *d*, *z*, and *z'*, i. e. *zh* ; the true values of which Dr. Hincks maintains were *z*, *zh*, and *j*, or *dzh*.

The second Persepolitan alphabet, it is here maintained, consisted of characters representing nine elementary sounds : viz., four vowels, *a*, *i*, *u*, and *er*, and five consonants *p*, *k*, *t*, *s*, and *n* : and various combinations of these nine elements. In most cases, two or more characters, phonetically equivalent, represented the same element or combination.

Westergaard supposes a much larger proportion of the characters to represent elementary sounds than Dr. Hincks ; and he supposes that an *a* might be inserted, as in the first

kind of writing. Dr. Hincks maintains that every vowel is expressed at least once; but that both vowels and consonants might be expressed twice, at the end of one character and at the beginning of the next.

In addition to the correction made in Westergaard's alphabet by the addition of vowels to the consonants, which he supposed the complete representations of certain characters, and by the substitution of different vowels for those which he used, entirely new values are given by Dr. Hincks to five characters which Westergaard had improperly valued, and to five more which he had not valued at all.

Specimens of the inscriptions in this kind of writing, as read and translated, were added. The language was said to agree with the Indo-Germanic languages in having inflections; but to have inflections completely different from those of all these languages.

In a postscript to the paper it was stated, that the Babylonian and Assyrian alphabets were both of the same nature as this; so far as that some of the characters represented syllables and some elementary sounds; that the same sound was represented by two or more characters; that no vowel was omitted; and that vowels and consonants were habitually represented twice, when only to be sounded once. The number of elementary sounds in the Babylonian, or third kind of Persepolitan writing, was greater than in the second kind, as was the number of characters in use. Both the Babylonian and Assyrian had something in common with the second Persepolitan language; but they had also affinities with the Semitic languages.

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Rev. T. R. Robinson made some observations on Dr. Hincks's paper, referring to researches on the same subject by Mr. Norris and Colonel Rawlinson.

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Rev. S. Butcher read the third part of Dr. Hincks's paper on Egyptian hieroglyphics.