

MONDAY, 26TH JUNE, 1854.

THOMAS ROMNEY ROBINSON, D. D., PRESIDENT,
in the Chair.

HIS EXCELLENCY THE EARL OF ST. GERMAN, LORD LIEUTENANT OF IRELAND, attended the meeting.

The President communicated an outline of the second part of his paper on the properties of electro-magnets.

The Rev. Dr. Todd exhibited a large collection of gold ornaments recently found in the county of Clare, and made some remarks on the gold ornaments of the ancient Celts, Gauls, and Danes.

The Secretary read a paper by the Rev. Edward Hincks, D. D., on the personal pronouns of the Assyrian and other languages, especially Hebrew :—

“ According to the views maintained in this paper, the so-called pronouns of the Hebrew-Assyrian family of languages, belonging to the first and second persons, are of very different classes.

“ Some of them consist of a verbal root *an*, to which the real pronouns are attached ; which real pronouns are radically the same as the corresponding pronouns of the Indo-European languages. Thus, the Assyrian *anáku*, Hebrew *anoki*, Arabic *aná*, and Coptic *anok*, is literally ‘Here I am.’ Of the same nature are the Assyrian and Hebrew *atta*, of which the primitive form *anta* is preserved in Arabic ; and the feminine and plural forms of the second person.

“ Other so-called pronouns consist of a noun with a possessive affix attached to it. Such is the second Hebrew form

of the pronoun of the first person *ani*, literally ‘my person.’ In this instance the noun has a masculine form. More frequently however, the *t* of the feminine gender is added, and also the *u* which forms the nominative case in Assyrian. Of this nature are the Assyrian *áttua* for *ántua*, and the plural *áttunú*; and also the Coptic *antok*, *antov*, *antos*, *antóten*, &c.

“The form *anakhnu* is supposed to consist of the verbal root, a noun, and the possessive affix for ‘our.’ It is literally ‘Here is our company.’

“The pronouns of the third person are used also for the remote demonstrative; the person spoken of being supposed to be away, while the speaker and the person spoken to are present to one another. The Assyrian forms of these pronouns resemble the Gothic and Sanskrit, as the Hebrew and Arabic forms resemble the Greek and the Zend.

“It is observed that the Assyrian pronouns *anáku* and *attá* have the precise forms of the corresponding persons of a tense of the verb, which denotes state, or permanent or habitual action. The forms of this tense belonging to the third person, on the contrary, do not terminate with the pronouns of that person, or in the same manner with them.”

The Rev. Chas. Graves, D. D., read a paper on the principles which regulate the interchange of symbols in certain symbolic equations.

Sir W. R. Hamilton read a paper on some extensions of quaternions :—

“Besides some general remarks on associative polynomes, and on some extensions of the modular property, Sir W. R. Hamilton remarked that if, in the quadriminomial expression

$$Q = w + ix + ky + lz,$$

the laws of the symbols ix be determined by the following formula of vector-multiplication,